



NEBRASKA STATE FAIR BOARD

Nebraska State Fair*501 E Fonner Park Rd, Ste 200*PO Box 1387*Grand Island, NE*68803-1387*308-382-1620

MEETING MINUTES April 13, 2018 – 1:00 p.m.

A regular monthly meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was held on Friday, April 13, 2018, at 1:00 p.m. Public notice of this meeting was published in the April 2 & 3, 2018, issues of the Grand Island Independent newspaper and posted to the Nebraska Public meeting calendar website from March 30 – April 13, 2018.

Roll call was read with the following members present: Stan Brodine; Bob Haag, via phone; Harry Hoch, Treasurer; Chris Kircher, President; Jeff Kliment; Kathleen Lodl; Doug Lukassen, via phone; Chuck Rolf, Secretary; Beth Smith; Steve Wehrbein and Kent Zeller. Others in attendance were: Lori Cox, Executive Director; Kelly O'Brien, Executive Assistant; Chelsey Jungck, Chief of Events & Entertainment Director; Jamie Parr, Director of Sales; Patrick Kopke, Chief of Financial & Administration; Jace Robinson, Marketing Director; Scott Yound, Director of Operations; Deb Irvine, Receptionist; Kayla Crowder, Program & Special Events Coordinator; Lindsey Koepke, 1868 Foundation Executive Director and Robert Pore, Independent.

Kircher announced the meeting had been properly advertised as an open meeting and informed those in attendance of the posting location of the Open Meetings Act.

Minutes of March 9, 2018

There being no corrections:

**Motion made by Rolf to approve the minutes of March 9, 2018 as printed.
Hoch seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

Introduction of new hires

Cox introduced Deb Irvine, Receptionist and Patrick Kopke, Chief of Finance & Administration.

February Financial Report

Cox reported total current assets of \$2,449,250.69; payables at \$156,660.93; total direct revenue at \$362,385.24 and direct expenses \$601,054.51.

**Motion made by Wehrbein to approve the February Financial Report.
Brodine seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Director's Report

Cox encapsulated all things that have happened in the last three months. Some open positions have been filled. Jungck has two open positions.

Volunteer Coordinator Kim Pederson is planning departure from the volunteer program position due to lack of health insurance at the Grand Island Chamber of Commerce. A consideration is being made to bring this position in-house to save relationships with the volunteers.

Lodl asked if we would still have a volunteer relationship with the Chamber. Cindy Johnson, executive director from the Chamber, had previously stated she expected this day to come. Cox is exploring this in-house option financially.

Yound, Jungck & Cox attended the Spring Managers Conference in Minneapolis, MN including a tour of the Minnesota State Fair.

Swanson Russell was selected as Agency of Record for marketing the 2018 State Fair. Cox stated this agency brings a dynamic approach from the eastern region of Nebraska. One-third of the employees have a farm background.

Regarding the 150th Birthday Party in 2019, Cox & Angell had a positive conference call with a group interesting in and specializing in these anniversaries. They will present a formal proposal.

Committee Reports

a. Facility Planning

Rolf reported there was nothing to report from today's meeting.

Koepke said last fall Parr secured a grant for 70 total plantings – one-half in trees and one-half in shrubs. The Foundation saw this as an opportunity to do a memorial tree for \$1,000 gift.

Rolf stated the State Fair needs more opportunities to plant trees. There is an opportunity to memorialize a few past board members.

b. Finance

Hoch reported Kircher said we Zeller is a new member of the Finance Committee. With regard to new hire Kopke, discussion included channeling energies over the next 30-90 days. Kopke will work with current agency Douglas Bookkeeping to transition services in-house. Cash flow analysis is expected. BKB arrives the week of April 30 for the 2017 Audit. RFPs are being considered for various accounts we typically farm out.

Hoch also reported that the Nebraska Building note will be restructured under a lesser interest rate, and Cox will need to sign the new note.

Motion by Hoch that Cox is authorized to sign the renewal note at Five Points Bank.

Rolf seconded the motion.

Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

c. Public Affairs and Outreach

Lukassen was off site and had nothing to report.

d. Livestock Committee

No livestock committee meeting took place.

e. Events

Wehrbein reported:

- More historical information to be added to the kiosks in the Nebraska Building.
- Opening Ceremony during the State Fair includes filling in speakers.
- The committee is looking for Grand Marshalls suggestions.
- Board Reunion will be August 24.
- Wehrbien will be on Up With People steering committee.
- NE Lottery will be our guest at the next board meeting/ lunch.

f. Executive

Kircher noted that Cox updated the committee on personnel changes/hiring. He briefly mentioned progress with the Aksarben Stock Show was promising with more information to come.

Strategic Outlook

Cox presented a brief workshop on the white board focusing on programming and capital planning. She will present a summary to the Board prior to the May Board meeting.

Future Nebraska State Fair Board Meeting Dates, Locations and Other Events

- a. May 1 – Volunteer Recognition – Pinnacle Bank Expo Center
- b. May 10 – 1868 Foundation - Annual Meeting of the Trustees, Riverside Golf Course
- c. May 11 – Board Meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board Room
- d. June 8 – Board Meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board Room
- e. July 13 – Board Meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board Room
- f. August 11 – 1868 Foundation – Blue Ribbon Roll Out – Heartland Event Center
- g. August 24 thru September 3 – 149th Nebraska State Fair
- h. October 12 – Board Meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board Room
- i. November 9 – Board Meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board Room
- j. December 6 – NSF Board, Foundation Board & Staff Christmas Dinner
- k. December 7 – Board Meeting, Nebraska State Fair Board Room

1868 Foundation Update

Koepke reported on the Foundation’s recent board meeting. Focus is on statewide expansion of efforts. They are working with Don Dunn to host a State Fair and 1868 Foundation Engagement Event in Lincoln.

GO BIG GIVE is a 24 hour online giving event to be held May 3. The Foundation is hosting an event at Kinkaiders. Koepke also reminded everyone of the Annual Meeting of the Trustees on May 10.

The new license plate press release will go out next week.

Other Business

Kircher reminded all of the invitation to meet with the Fonner Park Board directly after the meeting at the race meet. State Fair and the Foundation are each sponsoring their annual blanket race.

Kircher presented adding an executive session.

Motion made by Hoch to enter into executive session for the purposes of discussion of upcoming events.

Wehrbein seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Time: 2:27 p.m.

Motion made by Brodine to exit executive session.

Wehrbein seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Time: 2:50 p.m.

No action taken.

Adjourn

Motion made by Hoch to adjourn.

Kliment seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.

Time adjourned: 2:51 p.m.