



## **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 October 26, 2018 – 10:00 a.m.**

A regular monthly meeting of the Nebraska State Fair Board was held on Friday, October 26, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. Public notice of this meeting was published in the October 15 & 16, 2018, issues of the Grand Island Independent newspaper and posted to the Nebraska Public meeting calendar website from October 12, 2018-October 31, 2018.

Roll call was read with the following members present: Stan Brodine; Bob Haag; Harry Hoch, Treasurer; Chris Kircher, President; Jeff Kliment; Kathleen Lodi; Doug Lukassen; Chuck Rolf, Secretary; Kirk Shane, Vice President; Steve Wehrbein and Kent Zeller. Others in attendance were: Lori Cox, Executive Director; Laura Hurley, Executive Assistant; Bill Angell, Director of Livestock Division; Kelly O'Brien, Livestock/Domestics Manager; Greg Harder, Aksarben Stock Show Director; Chelsey Jungck, Chief of Events & Entertainment; Jamie Parr, Chief of Sales; Patrick Kopke, Chief of Finance & Administration; Gretchen Kirchmann, Strategic Development; Scott Yound, Director of Operations; Lindsey Koepke, 1868 Foundation Executive Director; Karlyn Anderson, Gates Team Lead; Kayla Crowder, Special Events Coordinator; Jonna Whiting, Special Events Coordinator; Janna Kuklis, Deputy of Sales; Deb Irvine, Receptionist; Steve White, NTV; Shannon Heckt, KHAS; Don Adams, Production Advisor; Carla Warnike, volunteer; Vikki Devel, volunteer.

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 July 13, 2018**

There being no corrections:

**Motion made by Lukassen to approve the minutes of July 13, 2018 as printed.**

**Brodine seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Executive Director's Report**

Cox reported on attending the City Council Study Session. Three major subjects were identified; livestock, infrastructure, and concerts. Substantial media coverage followed this meeting. On October 11, 2018 the first annual Sponsor Summit was held with 54 sponsors attending and was very positively received. Cox noted the rebuild of the NSF staff has been successful.

Harder was invited to report on Aksarben Stock Show. The show has exceeded goals in entries, sponsorships and the Purple Ribbon Auction. The show will include 14 states in 2019 while becoming a junior show format accepting ages 4-19.

#### **Financial Report and Budget 2019**

Kopke asked for Board approval of the BKD Audit.

**Motion made by Rolf to approve the Audit.**

**Hoch seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

Kopke reported total current assets of \$2,959,167; total current liabilities \$1,222,250; total current operating revenues \$4,112,166; total current operating expenses \$6,618,624.

**Motion made by Rolf to approve the Financial Report.**

**Hoch seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

Kopke presented the 2019 Budget, with draft form presented at the June, 2018 Board meeting. Cox noted that 2018 actuals now support this final draft. Kircher thanked Kopke for his hard work on the budget process. He commented this was the first time in a long time when they had received numbers that were a true reflection of the business.

**2019 Fair Hours**

Cox started discussion on changing fair hours, noting that labor, morning audit, and daily reporting would benefit from a later open time. Livestock gates would continue to be open 24 hours daily. The options could be to open later daily; or open later Monday – Thursday, and remain at 9am open on Friday-Sunday. Parr commented that vendors/concessionaires appreciate the later start time which helps with deliveries and recovery from potential bad weather. Kircher remarked that this has been an ongoing conversation. Kopke will collect the hourly gate readings. Jungck also remarked that these time changes will impact her programming. Parr appreciated having this conversation as her vendors/concessionaires want this flexibility.

**Gate Prices**

Cox listed the current gate pricing. She suggested adding a daily senior rate, which could be tied to a sponsorship. Work is being explored to restructure the \$2 & \$3 days into presale opportunities. Hoch suggested we offer a three-, five- and 11-day pass.

**Board Meeting Frequency**

Kircher opened the floor for discussion of bypassing some of the monthly Board meetings. Lukassen asked that, should this proceed, the executive committee should keep the Board updated of news between meetings. The Board bylaws would need to be amended and sufficient time to publish meeting dates.

**Committee Reports**

a. Facility Planning

Rolf reported that Yound suggested concrete work in two places on campus. A conversation with partners is needed regarding cleaning the facilities. Yound asked for permission to eliminate some unnecessary items.

b. Finance

Hoch reiterated what Kopke already reported, continuing to look for ways to cut costs.

c. Public Affairs and Outreach

Lukassen reported they promoting NSF banners at the county fairs would be a good re-creation of a project from the past. Suggestion was made to circulate 150 purple ribbons across

Nebraska for people to take photos with and post. Work is being done to redesign the interstate billboards.

d. Livestock

Shane reported there were no serious issues. They recently met with superintendents and came back with a good amount of feedback.

e. Events

Wehrbein reported there have been a number of ideas generated from their meetings regarding the 150<sup>th</sup> celebration. Their next meeting will be Nov. 14.

f. Executive

Kircher reported they had a productive meeting with the Chamber executive board. They were able to provide much needed clarification on the direction the Fair is taking. Both sides will be improving lines of communication in the future.

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

December 14 – Board Meeting, time/location TBD

**Other Business**

No other business.

**Executive Session – Personnel**

Kircher asked for a motion to go into executive session.

**Motion made by Kliment to go into executive session.**

**Haag seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

**Adjourn**

**Motion made by Lukassen to adjourn.**

**Haag seconded the motion. Upon voice vote, motion passed unanimously.**

**Time adjourned: 1:20 p.m.**