

## Country Fair Meeting Minutes February 8, 2006 meeting

Present: Robin & Jim Miotke, Tara & Barney Sheridan, Lucy & Dale Clouse, Larry Henderson, Jeri Delys, Roger Christopher, Audrey Peterson, Charlie Deschamps, Joey Hennes, Buck Smith, Tracy Charles, Scot Meader, Lori Zeiser, Colleen Terrazas, Lisa Mills communicated via phone.

Barney Sheridan, Chair, called the meeting to order at noon.

### 1. National Guard Tent

Barney Sheridan reported that he is 70% sure that a tent the size we need can be routed to Missoula. If we can use the National Guard Tent this year, it buys us time on the purchase of a tent. If the National Guard cannot guarantee a tent for the fair, we will proceed with a tent purchase.

### 2. Big Sky Tent & Awning

Tara Sheridan reported that twelve years ago Big Sky Tent & Awning would find and order tents for people to rent. They no longer provide that service.

### 3. Finalize Country Fair Layout

- ▶ Jed at the County Extension Office will create an aerial print of the fairgrounds. We will then add pieces of paper to the aerial identifying the various barns, show rings, Mountain West Coop and Quality Supply areas. **Everyone is asked to bring the exact measurements needed for their particular area.** Look at your area as brand new — don't necessarily follow what's always been done.

For example, Jeri Ball, Llama Barn Superintendent, will provide the measurements needed for the llama barn & the overflow llamas that will be outside the llama barn. All other superintendents are to do the same.

- ▶ Scot Meader confirmed that Reed agrees that the light poles are the perimeter of the Country Fair.
- ▶ Scot Meader and Charlie Deschamps are meeting with the City on Thursday, February 9 @ 9:00 am regarding access onto South Avenue.
- ▶ Lynn Hash, Open Class Goat Superintendent, has concerns about moving the goat show to Sunday. Lynn would like the goat show to remain on Tuesday,

and have the grand & reserve winners remain on the fairgrounds all week, which would equal 35-50 pens of open class goats. It was asked if the open class goat show could take place prior to the fair like dog and horse do now, and then display some open class goats at the fair.

- ▶ Open class beef want to stay on the fairgrounds until Thursday night.
- ▶ What about offering the opportunity to hold demonstrations during the fair rather than penning animals all week?
- ▶ A new idea was offered for the Charlie Russell Riders — the old wash rack! The old wash rack is 190 x 24 and is not used. Sixteen horses could fit in that area. Perhaps with the Charlie Russell Riders in the old wash rack area, the open class goats could use the Butler Building.
- ▶ What is the priority for the Country Fair? Do 4-H/FFA exhibits take precedence over open class?

According to Buck Smith, it is this committee's responsibility to make recommendations to the Fair Board over space issues. It is the Fair Board who will make the final decisions. We will come up with our "Master Plan" and present it to the Fair Board.

- ▶ It looks like there is quite a bit of horse trailers coming and going during the week. We will need to enforce traffic rules.
- ▶ After we finalize the layout, we will address the schedule.
- ▶ Once our Master Plan is completed, Barney Sheridan will present it to the Fair Board at their February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### 4. **Fundraiser**

- Barney Sheridan reported that the radio station personnel are concerned that we may not be as successful with our radio fundraising efforts as we had hoped.
- Due to other events being handled by the radio stations, Barney Sheridan said we will not hold the fundraiser until May.

- At the fundraising committee meeting on Monday, February 13, we will discuss jump-starting donations through a letter campaign and face-to-face visits with certain individuals and business in the Missoula community.
- A suggestion to identify sponsors is as follows:
  - Purple ribbon sponsor - \$10,000 or more
  - Blue ribbon sponsor - \$(to be decided)
  - Red ribbon sponsor - \$(to be decided)
- There are many creative fundraising ideas out there . . . bring them to the table.
- Jerry Marks is working on setting up an account for the Country Fair Committee that maintains a nonprofit status.
- Lisa Mills was asked about securing grants. Lisa said most grants need to be looking at a year in advance. There may be some small grants out there that could fund bringing presenters to a show ring.

Our next meeting is **Thursday, February 16, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm** in building 35 on the fairgrounds. Scot Meader said pizza will be provided. **Remember to show up with detailed specifications for your area on the fairgrounds.**

The Country Fair Fundraising Subcommittee will meet **Monday, February 13 @ noon** in the small conference room at the Extension Office.

Minutes submitted by Colleen Terrazas