

**Country Fair Committee Meeting**  
**February 16, 2005**

The Fair Office graciously provided pizza and drinks for our meeting.

Present: Tara & Barney Sheridan, Jim, Robin & Nick Miotke, Jeri Delys, John Warehime, Lori Zeiser, Kim Marr, Tracy Charles, Joey Hennes, Tim Furey, Scot Meader, Dale Clouse, Andrea Holland, Bob Rummell, Lisa Mills, Colleen Terrazas

Eunice Misbe and Toni Hinton, Fair Staff, attended briefly.

Barney Sheridan called the meeting to order.

1. **Country Fair Funds**

Lisa Mills explained that a "Country Fair Trust Fund" has been recommended by Jerry Marks to be created separate from the County's Fair or Extension budgets, as suggested to Jerry by Dale Bickell, Chief Financial Officer, with the County of Missoula. All donations to this account would be tax deductible. Extension is willing do the processing of the purchasing, but will need to outline an expenditure approval and communications process with the Country Fair committee as well as the Fair Board and Extension Chair via a memorandum of understanding.

Prior to forming the "Country Fair Trust Fund," a memorandum of understanding will be drafted and signed by the Board of County Commissioners, the Fair Board and the County Extension Office Chair.

However, donors still have the option of donating directly to 4-H, FFA, or the Fair and those organizations can help directly with the Country Fair as they elect to by their governing bodies.

We will need to vote on the Trust fund plan next week.

2. **New Country Fair Layout**

The new layout recommended by the 4-H Livestock Committee was presented to the Country Fair Committee. A new map will be distributed to all committee members soon. The layout had to be reconfigured because of the potential liability involved with housing beef and dairy under a tent. Beef and Dairy will go on the ice rink and the sheep, 4-H goats and petting zoo will move to the tents. We are looking at two tents tied together, but with a wide open entry between the tents.

3. **Pedestrian Situation on Russell Street**

Concern over the safety of youth crossing the street was addressed previously.

Scot Meader met with City Engineers. The decision was made to:

- Place orange cones on Russell Street from Pruy's to the church notifying drivers to "slow down"

- Cut a new gate in the fence on Russell Street so pedestrians are crossing at an intersection
- Close off the usual Russell Street gate used in the past
- Since 4-H families show up at 6:00 am to feed animals, Scot will check with the Kiwanis group about opening the gate at 6:00 am. Robin Miotke promised a free breakfast at the 4-H café for the Kiwanian handling that gate shift.

4. **Exit gate onto South Avenue**

Scot Meader met with City Engineers regarding cutting in a new gate toward the western end of the fence along South Avenue. The City Engineers approved this flow of traffic, stating that all vehicles exiting that gate must turn right. New curbing, etc. will follow.

*Jim Miotke moved that newly presented layout along with gate improvements be accepted. Tara Sheridan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.*

5. **Items that will be addressed at future meetings:**

- Space needs for all open class livestock
- Schedules for open class livestock shows
- Space for taking photos of youth with their animals
- Slippage on cement
- Uniform roping off of cattle from the public
- Scheduling of demonstrations

6. **Country Fair relationship to Fair Board**

Barney Sheridan stated that the Country Fair Committee is responsible for developing the Country Fair concept, designing the space provided to us by the Fair Board, and executing the creation of the Country Fair. Any policy or rule changes we would like must be submitted in the form of a recommendation to the Fair Board.

Barney stated that he will attend the Fair Board meeting on February 28, will outline the Country Fair Master Plan, and will advise the Fair Board of any rule or policy change recommendations we come up with. Our next meeting is key to finalizing all of this information in preparation of the Fair Board meeting on the February 28.

7. **Open Class Livestock**

- In past years, some open class exhibitors have paid exhibitor fees and some have not.
- The deadline to submit an open class fair entry form is Friday, July 7 — the same deadline as 4-H/FFA.
- Prior to our next meeting, Scot Meader and Eunice Misbe will contact past open class livestock exhibitors to find out who wants to stay at the fair all week, what space requirements they will need, and who would like to be considered for performing a demonstration at the fair.

*Jim Miotke moved that the Country Fair Committee recommend to the Fair Board that all open class livestock exhibitors pay an entry fee. Lori Zeiser seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.*

Scot Meader added that if a 4-H/FFA member wishes to participate in open class, they must register by the deadline and pay the entry fee or they are ineligible to participate in open class. This policy is different from what has happened in past years.

8. **4-H Café/Refreshment Stand**

This year the 4-H community and Country Fair Committee hopes to operate with the idea of having Robin Miotke manage the 4-H Café, and Maria Freeman managing refreshment stand within the Country Fair boundaries. The refreshment stand would sell packaged ice cream bars and bottled sodas and water. We are hoping the Fair Board will allow the 17% charged the refreshment stand or some other percentage, to go into the Country Fund Trust Account. We will discuss further at our next meeting in preparation for the Fair Board meeting on February 28.

9. **Country Fair Sub-Committee Reports**

All sub-committees were asked to email their progress reports 48 hours prior to a Country Fair Meeting to Lisa, [lmills@montana.edu](mailto:lmills@montana.edu) or Colleen, [missoula2@montana.edu](mailto:missoula2@montana.edu). The Country Fair Committee wants to have the reports in writing for their review. It was decided that there is not enough time for every committee to verbally report on their progress at our meetings, but some may need to request to be on the agenda to get feedback or approval for ideas they are working on.

10. **Fundraising**

At our next meeting we will discuss potential dates for holding a radio fundraiser.

11. **Very important meeting: Wednesday, February 22, noon @ the Extension Office.**

Items on the agenda:

- Vote on "memorandum of understanding" for trust account being established
- Results of communication between Fair Office and Open Class Livestock Exhibitors
- Anything else for Country Fair Master Plan
- Discussion of Country Fair schedule
- Refreshment stand within the Country Fair boundaries
- Rule or policy change recommendations to the Fair Board
- Potential dates for radio fundraiser