

Country Fair Committee Minutes

April 26, 2006

Present: Barney Sheridan, Chair; Tara Sheridan, Joey Hennes, Robin Miotke, Jeri Delys, Roger Christopher, Larry Henderson, Dale Clouse, Stacey & Erin Demerle, Jerry Marks, Lisa Mills, Madeline Heitzman, Reed Williams, Colleen Terrazas

1. Education/Entertainment Committee Report by Roger Christopher

- All presenters will need a pass to get through the gate on the day they show up to give a presentation. The committee will work this out with Scot.
- Many ideas for demonstrations, events and clinics have been identified and now the committee will follow up and schedule activities.
- Contacting "Day Camps" and informing them of the events scheduled during Fair Week may turn into a recruitment tool for the 4-H program.
- This committee will make decisions regarding what demos are appropriate for the Country Fair.
- This committee will need funding to get more popular demos scheduled. Right now the committee would like to know that they have \$1,000 to work with.
- Madeline asked for a schedule to include in a brochure she is developing. She would need the information by the end of May.
- Barney stated that traffic control will have to be addressed if the PBR crew is going to sign autographs prior to the Bull Riding event.

2. Theme Committee Report by Jeri Delys

- Went to the fairgrounds and mapped out the grand entrance into the Country Fair and the fence line using spray paint.
- The area has been graded, and right now it looks like a lot of space.
- Concerned right now with figuring out what material to use for designated paths through the Country Fair.

3. Country Fair Fundraising by Barney Sheridan

- Perception is key in fundraising for the Country Fair. If a donor knows the money is going to 4-H, they will contribute. Donors do not want to contribute to the Western Montana Fair in general, according to Barney.
- This week Montana First Credit Union is having their 1 million penny drive to collect money for the 4-H Country Fair and the YWCA. Half of the money collected will go to 4-H. This has been identified as dollars that go through 4-H Council and help with 4-H at the Country Fair.

4. Donations to date . . . by Lisa Mills

- \$450 committed thus far by 4-H clubs
- \$1500 committed by the Extension Office
- \$200 Dale Mahlum cash donation
- Vo Tech donated groundwork/machinery- grading, etc to help improve the site
- Lumber, paint and labor for the fence donated
- Two tents purchased (4-H Council and the Fair Board); 4 other smaller tents donated to 4-H (valued at over \$35,000 total)
- Sawdust donation in the works
- Architectural soundness design on the grand entrance façade donated by a local architect (son of Daryl Thompson)
- Logo design donated by Graphic Artist, Krystal Hennes
- Shane Clouse and Stomping Ground contributed majority of cost of their performance (a \$1200 DONATION) at the 4-H/FFA dance at the Fair (not open to the general public)

Total estimate of committed in-kind and cash contributions for the Country Fair is well over \$45,000 to date, and the penny drive will add to this total! Countless volunteer hours from the Country Fair Committee and community volunteers also add tremendously to keeping budgetary costs to a minimum.

5. Memorandum of Understanding

- Jerry Marks said the Fair Board has not signed the Memorandum of Understanding. Jerry suggested that he meet with Barney, Scot Meader, and Buck Smith to finalize this document.

6. Financial Need

- All committees are to assess their financial needs and have an actual budget proposal ready to present at the next meeting.

7. Petting Zoo Report by Tara Sheridan

- There is a lot of excitement about the Petting Zoo.
- Sanitation is an issue. Madeline will check into asking "Purell" to sponsor hand wash products at the petting zoo and coordinate hand sanitation stations with Tara.

8. Safety on the Cement

- Barney reminded the group that he spoke to the people in Spokane and they recommended laying dirt that has been sprayed and rolled. The dirt is reusable year after year.
- Another option mentioned is using sander belt pads that are 1/8" thick and are used in modular homes. The concern is finding a product that will last the week.
- Barney volunteered to discuss this with Scot and Buck to find a solution.

9. Other

- Dale reported that the Vo Tech students graded the area and road material will be applied next week.
- Fence exit on North side looks like the City employees cut it in an odd spot. Reed said he would look at it on his way home tonight.
- The Committee received "pats on the back" from Reed. He is very impressed with the work being done to make the Country Fair a reality.

The next Country Fair Committee meeting will be Wednesday, May 17 @ noon in the County Extension conference room.