

## 4-H Council Meeting Minutes – June 7, 2006

Present: Roger Christopher, President; Robin Miotke, Vice President; Joey Hennes, Treasurer; and Board Member Margie Thurston. Lisa Mills and Sally Tromp were also in attendance.

Absent: Jim Salter, Jim Dixon, Vyonne Moran, Gene McClure, Janet Hunter, Janet Rose, Tim O'Neill, Amy Smith, Isaac Hunter and Colleen Terrazas.

**THERE WERE NOT ENOUGH PRESENT FOR A QUORUM.**

**Drama Festival Report:** Sally headed up the Drama Festival this year and wished to discuss the event and see what could be done to make it better. It was held at the Roxy Theater this year, and although the venue is very nice, both the stage and the audience area are too small to accommodate the 4-H event. Sally has researched other facilities. The University of Montana has several options:

UC \$225

UC Theater \$200-\$400

Music Theater \$250.

Orchard Homes is \$300 with a \$150 credit.

Potomac is free with a nice kitchen, good community support and a large area, however, there is concern over the distance/winter roads for judges and others participating.

Robin offered to visit with the UM folks more to see if she could negotiate a friendlier rental fee. There were five groups this year and interest appears to be dwindling from the old days. There was significant discussion with input from all at the meeting that maybe we should broaden the event to include other performance arts and either hold performance events between plays, or perhaps a talent show, musicals, involve films from filmmaking projects and to document the event and get more participation. It was felt if we start now, perhaps with some exposure during the Country Fair, we could get some excitement building and make a broader event. The Council has interest in seeing this event, or a broader event continue in the program and may entertain a request for some sort of future funding. Sally said she would work on photos and maybe videos from past events to showcase to clubs to get more interest. She will put together a proposal and bring back to Council at the July meeting.

Joey gave the **Treasurer's Report**, which is attached. Lisa asked who was in charge of the livestock judging funds, which brought up discussion as to all of the committees that carry their "own" funds and who has the say as to the use of the money. Joey said her understanding is that the balances in these types of funds are for the use of the group with no questions asked by Council; however we don't have a handle on who within each group can make the call as to the use of funds. Lisa was going to check with the Livestock Committee to see if they knew who was in control of the livestock judging funds.

**Dog Report:** Lisa reported that dog leader Gail Verworn was bitten by a dog at 4-H dog training. Apparently the bite, although it bled quite a bit, was not serious and it has been taken care of. This raises an issue of concern about the methods that are used at 4-H Dog Training. Council

needs details of the practices in order to address any concerns. A letter has been written to Dog Project families and leaders which outlines the 4-H dog training approach, which is using rewards, high happy voice, and positive reinforcement, and that "hanging" a dog by its collar is only to be used by a professional trainer and only in emergencies such as when the dog attempts to bite. Now Council is aware of the situation. There have been concerns over forceful training methods used by Gail expressed by one family and other dog leaders, though no one has filed a formal complaint at this point. Lisa is gathering more information to determine appropriate next steps.

**2006 4-H State Congress.** We currently have 12 applicants that qualify to attend 4-H Congress. There are 6 top winners, 3 ambassadors (one of these included in the 6 top winners), 4 qualified to compete (1 of these included in ambassador count) and 1 At large. In addition we have 2 adult volunteer chaperones and Lisa as 4-H Agent. There was considerable discussion as to how we should approach funding for this event. There is \$2000 approved in the budget. It was decided that we could stay within the approved budget using the \$2000 appropriated for Congress and an additional \$265 in "other" and "discretionary" funds to pay as follows:

100% costs for the 6 top winners (6x\$185 (fee and housing)	\$1110
50% costs for the other six delegates	\$555
100% costs for 3 adults	\$600
	\$2265

Since we are within approved budget this did not require a vote. Transportation cost is an issue which was not dealt with at this meeting.

**I Am 4-H Award.** Roger reported that the trophy is all ready and the cost is around \$60. This bill will be forwarded to Joey for payment, and Council has already approved to pay for a t-shirt and a \$50 cash award. The process to choose a winner will be discussed at a future meeting.

**Jonathan Moran Memorial.** An email from Vyonne Moran was read which provided some ideas from the family for a memorial to honor Jon. The Rabbit Barn signs were discussed as one idea, Lisa will look into details. It was decided to wait for a time to see what sort of contributions were received and to let everyone give this some additional thought and also see if the family had additional ideas. As a group those present felt that the Council would be supportive of contributing some funds towards this cause, but would await further discussion and a quorum to make a decision.

**State Leader's Forum:** We received a request to contribute \$200 toward this event which will be held in Missoula September 29-30. There are funds already budgeted for Regional Leader training so these funds can be disbursed as requested.

**Other:** Roger announced that he will be traveling to Boston with his family for a 3-month stay and will be unable to fulfill the duties of Council President. However, his office is up for re-election about the same time so he will not run for another term. Margie also announced that her term is up this year and she will not run again. She did volunteer to be on the nominating committee and help find people interested in her position and any other Council position.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectively submitted, Joey Hennes, Treasurer