

4-H Council Meeting Minutes for September 6, 2006

Board members present: Robin Miotke, Vice-President; Tim O'Neill, Janet Rose, Vyonne Moran, Amy Smith & Margi Thurston.

Board members absent: Roger Christopher, Joey Hennes, Janet Hunter, Jim Dixon, Jim Salter, Isaac Hunter, & Gene McClure.

Others present: Erin Demerle, Senior Ambassador, Stacey Demerle, Lucy Clouse, Ambassador Key Leader & organizational leader for Frenchtown Valley, Rena Kammerer, organizational leader for El Toro Springs, Jatanna Kammerer, Jerry Marks, Scot Meader, Lisa Mills, Colleen Terrazas.

1. Minutes from July 5, 2006 meeting

Correction: Board member Janet Rose was not mentioned as present or absent. Janet was absent from that meeting. *Janet Rose moved to approve the corrected minutes. Vyonne Moran seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.*

2. Treasurer's Report

Joey Hennes, Treasurer, was absent. The committee was given the transaction information from the Country Fair sub-account which Joey had available.

3. Filling 4-H Agent Position

Jerry Marks passed out copies of the job description which will be advertised as soon as he obtains the approval of the County Commissioners. Jerry said he asked Robin Miotke, from the 4-H Board of Directors to serve on the search committee and Robin has agreed to do so. Jerry said that once the candidates to be interviewed are identified, they will be asked to make a presentation to the 4-H community prior to their job interview.

4. How Can We Retain a 4-H Agent?

- Lisa Mills said being a Missoula County 4-H Agent is quite a job! Lisa said when she was hired she thought this would be the job she held until the day she retired. She said she has enjoyed the position tremendously, but found that her family needs her more than the job will allow. The hardest part for her was spending one week away at camp, returning to the office briefly only to leave again for a week in Bozeman for 4-H Congress, and several weeks of Fair events.

In the summer the 4-H Agent is extremely busy while in town. One thing to consider is whether or not it is key to have the agent at Congress the entire

time. It is hard to catch up after an event that takes the agent out of town that has a consuming schedule such as camp or congress. It is not uncommon for the 4-H Agent to have meetings three nights during the week and an event on the weekend.

We need to figure out ways to help the 4-H Agent. In Lewistown, the clubs volunteer to organize and manage events — perhaps that is something Missoula County needs to try.

Lisa stated that the County Extension Office in general deals with numerous walk-in clientele on a daily basis. It is the culture of Extension that people do not call ahead to make an appointment or call to make sure you are in the office before stopping by. While the “open door” policy is welcomed, it can get a person off track on what they planned to accomplish that day, or it can cause some clientele to be frustrated when you are not at your desk.

- Colleen said we expect our agent to work days, nights and weekends. Managing the workload is a very real challenge. For the most part, the 4-H community does not understand the workload. It is not unusual for a 4-H leader or parent to walk in the office at 9:00 am and questions why the agent isn't in the office. Never mind that the 4-H Board meeting lasted until 10:00 pm the night before.
- Jerry was asked if adding more support staff was a possibility. Jerry said there are not enough dollars to do that. The County Extension Office is operating off the same mill levy that has been in place since 1985. Jerry said that 4-H leaders could play a bigger role, but they have families too.

5. **Newly created position at the Extension Office.**

Jerry said we currently pay \$90,000 a year to rent office space. He said he has scraped up \$300,000 over the years which he wants to put toward a facility that we own. Janet Rose added with that kind of money, there are Foundations out there that will match funds or donate a substantial amount toward such a venture.

A $\frac{1}{2}$ time position has been created to find a new home for the Extension/Weed offices, handle marketing and help generate dollars to accomplish that. Basically oversee the project from start to finish.

The Board of County Commissioners has offered space in a building they are constructing for law enforcement next to the jail, which the office staff is less than enthusiastic about. The Commissioners also offered a few acres

by the Milan property by the airport exchange. Fort Missoula would be another option. However, the office staff is interested in pursuing a complex on the fairgrounds before all others.

With the Fair developing a Master Plan, the time is ripe for us to identify what we need for our activities and make a proposal to be included in that Master Plan. Scot Meader said the opportunity exists to build a state-of-the-art facility unlike any in the state of Montana. Scot said that 4-H and the Fair have developed a very strong relationship. He said it is important for us to attend the public meetings and get our needs addressed.

Lisa said she would be willing to help organize a meeting with the 4-H community to identify needs and wants and form a sub-committee that would be willing to communicate 4-H desires to the Fair Commission. The Fair Commission is seeking input regarding the year-round use of the fairgrounds. A meeting will be scheduled soon according to Scot.

6. **Ambassadors**

Lucy Clouse, Ambassador Key Leader, asked the Council what are the "perks" to be a 4-H Ambassador? Lucy stated that the Ambassadors are asked to help with many events/activities over the course of the 4-H year, and she's wondering what type of financial support is provided for the Ambassador program. Stacey Demerle asked Council what they expect of the 4-H Ambassadors.

Lucy asked what is budgeted for club officer training as the Ambassadors are asked to handle that. It looks like \$100 is budgeted.

From looking at the budget, \$600 is budgeted for Ambassadors to attend training at Fairmont Hot Springs in October. Those allowed to attend that training are the key leader, senior and junior Ambassadors, and two Ambassador prospects.

In 2006, Ambassadors did not have their expenses paid to attend 4-H Congress as the Council voted to $\frac{1}{2}$ of their fee. It was mentioned that in January there will be a Legislative Breakfast in Helena that the Ambassadors should plan to attend. Amy Smith mentioned that if the Ambassadors attend events, they could always approach the Council asking for reimbursement for expenses.

Lucy and the Ambassadors will work on a schedule and a request for financial assistance.

7. **County Awards**

October 13th is the deadline for leaders to submit nominations. At that time we can schedule an interview date, contact judges for both interviews and record books. Margi Thurston will chair the County Awards Committee. Amy Smith, Robin Miotke and Vyonne Moran will help.

8. **Budget Committee Formed**

Robin Miotke, Amy Smith, Margi Thurston, and Joey Hennes will develop a budget for 2006-2007. Lisa will help if still in the position when they meet.

9. **Nomination of Officers**

Nomination of Officers and the election of the officers will be the first item of business at the October Council meeting.

Janet Rose moved to adjourn the meeting. Tim O'Neill seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Colleen Terrazas