

Country Fair Committee Minutes
January 16, 2008 meeting

Present: Scot Meader, Campbell Barrett, Tara Sheridan, Cindy Arnett, Joey Hennes, Chris & Billie Ireland, Larry Henderson, Jim Miotke, John Warehime, Becky Blanchard, Roger Christopher, and Colleen Terrazas.

This is the first time the Country Fair Committee has come together since the fair.

Barney Sheridan, chair for 2006 & 2007 officially resigned as chair.

1. **Basic Fair Update from Scot Meader, Fair Manager**

- The Board of County Commissioners are 110% behind the Country Fair Committee.
- Scot is working on signing a three-year contract. Eunice Misbe, Toni Hinton, and Glenn Millhouse will continue working at the Fair.
- The Fair Commission no longer exists. It was disbanded by the Board of County Commissioners last summer. Buck Smith is the only former Fair Commission member currently involved with helping with the fair, and he is working on night shows. Any participation by a former Fair Commission member must be approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Scot meets with members of Missoula County Senior Management Staff monthly regarding the Fair. Jerry Marks is part of this, as is Ann Mary Dussault, CAO.
- A new roof is going on the Culinary Building.
- A second heater and doors will be installed on the building commonly referred to as the Marsda building.
- Larry Farnes, Missoula County Facility Manager, did a building by building inspection to decide what jobs needed tackling first.
- There will continue to be fairs at the current location 2008 and 2009.
- The Board of County Commissioners will be seeking public input regarding the future use of the 46 acres which is currently known as the fairgrounds. No building will be demolished, nor will the fence around the race track be removed until the public process has been completed.
- Any alteration to a building or big expenditures must go before the Board of County Commissioners. Scot handles all other matters. If you want to seek a big expenditure, you must complete the "Request for Proposal"; submit it to the Fair Office. At the appropriate time, Scot and those requesting the expenditure will meet with the Board of County Commissioners.
- We think the current open ice rink will be enclosed in the future.

2. **2008 Fair from Scot Meader, Fair Manager**

- Superintendents are the ones really responsible for making the Fair happen. Scot has met twice with food booth concessionaires and superintendents, and will meet again on February 12, 6:30 pm, Building 35 on the fairgrounds.
- Some of the extra carnival vehicles will not be in the carnival area, but in another location at this Fair.
- Toni Hinton is working on getting a "Montana Made Products" exhibit this year.
- The use of the new South Avenue gate will continue to be used for "exit" only.
- There is discussion about moving the Mountain FM Stage under a tent.

3. **Ideas for 2009 from Scot Meader, Fair Manager**

- Relocate the carnival to the current parking lot. That would mean there would not be any onsite parking for the public.

4. **What was awesome about the 2007 Country Fair?**

- Stage
- Clown (however, not available in 2008)
- Animal displays
- Petting Zoo

Thank you Quality Supply for donating the feed.

Dan from Opportunity Resources worked with Tara Sheridan everyday and she said she couldn't have done it without him. By the way . . . Tara announced that she would ***not*** be in charge of the Petting Zoo this year.

- Retired Senior Volunteers "manning" the Information Booth. It looked like it was working out well.

5. **What needs improvement and/or added in the Country Fair in 2008**

- Kiddie Rodeo. Sigi Anders-Olson normally organizes this, but was busy evacuating animals due to the fires. Some suggestions if Sigi cannot handle all the days we would like to have the Kiddie Rodeo is to have the rodeo queens work with Sigi one day and then perhaps they would know better what to do, or ask the High School Rodeo Association to organize and run the kiddie rodeo.
- Unloading of animals is always an issue when drivers leave their vehicles, and the arriving and leaving of open class animals.
- Possibly relocate 4-H exhibits to upstairs in the Culinary Building.
- Dog demonstrations with border collies demonstrating herding of sheep.
- Sheep shearing demonstrations and spinning wool in to yarn.

6. **Subcommittees Needed**

- Theme
- Fundraising
- Country Fair Stage
- Publicity
- Educational displays
- Events

7. **General 4-H input regarding the Country Fair**

- The creation of the Country Fair concept was developed by 4-H families and interested parties who wanted control over a section of the fairgrounds during the Fair to insure the future of 4-H, family values and agriculture at the Fair.

8. **Country Fair Coordinator Position**

- In 2006 Lisa Mills tried to be both the 4-H Agent and Country Fair Coordinator. This is a totally unreasonable expectation for one person.
- Lisa Mills resigned as 4-H Agent immediately after the 2006 Fair. Lisa was hired temporary, part-time as Country Fair Coordinator in 2007.
- Dollars need to be found to pay a person to do this job. The success of the Country Fair enhanced the concept of Fair in Missoula County.
- Once dollars are identified, the Country Fair Committee requested that Lisa Mills be contacted and offered the position before we consider filling it with any other individual.
- Subcommittees identified in #6 above would report to the Country Fair Coordinator.
- The Country Fair Committee would be advisory to the Country Fair Coordinator.
- The bottom line is we need a "go to" person with a strong committee.

9. It was noted that Jim Miotke, Roger Christopher, and Larry Henderson need information mailed to them as they do not access email.

The next Country Fair Committee meeting will be Wednesday, February 20, 5:30 pm at the County Extension Office.