

## Country Fair Committee Meeting Minutes May 5, 2008 meeting

Present: Campbell Barrett, Robin & Jim Miotke, Dale Clouse, John Warehime, Larry Henderson, Lori Zeiser, Becky Blanchard, Scot Meader, Jerry Marks, Lisa Mills, and Joey Hennes

1. **April 16, 2008 Minutes**. Scot Meader, Fair Manager, said the 4<sup>th</sup> bullet under his report “Revamping the concrete blocks for beef ties will be done by the fair grounds crew this week” should be eliminated as it is a Livestock Committee issue. *The minutes were approved with the correction listed above.*
2. **Report from Lisa Mills:**
  - ▶ **Petting Zoo**  
Laurel Clawson from Plentywood, raised five children of her own who were 4-H members, raises many baby animals, is self-sufficient, has own pop up tent, \$800/day which the Committee approved at the last meeting, has own million dollar liability insurance coverage and Lisa has received a contract. The cost for the week is \$4800. Donation bucket is okay to have in the Petting Zoo to help pay for the sponsorship.
  - ▶ **Kiddie Rodeo**  
Sigi Anders-Olson has agreed to put on a kiddie rodeo one afternoon during the fair. Lisa asked that \$500 be set aside for this expense, and Lisa will look for a sponsor of this event.
  - ▶ Parsons Pony Rides are only available in the morning. Most kids are at the fair in the afternoon, so Lisa recommended not spending money on Parsons Pony Rides this year.
  - ▶ **Signage**  
Lisa is wondering if we need to pay for any big signage needs. Lisa and Joey anticipate that additional signage will cost \$2,000.
  - ▶ Face painting by Susan Lucino was \$300 for one day – the kids loved it. Lisa will explore other options in the face painting area and try to find face painters who will come to the fair more than one day during the week.
  - ▶ **Country Fair Stage**  
If the Committee agrees, Lisa would like to hold jam sessions on the stage during the week with various musicians. Frame it like a Country Fair Jamboree. We could give the entertainers free tickets to get in the gates for their performance. Lisa asked about inviting Bitterroot Gymnastics to perform again this year. Joey said gymnastics brings a lot of people in, and John and Dale added that it was healthy entertainment for the families. Lisa will also pursue a performance by the “Super Skippers.” It was recommended that no entertainment be scheduled during the 4-H dance on Saturday night.
  - ▶ **Donations**  
Lisa asked Dale Clouse about a Missoula Concrete donation and Joey Hennes about a Farm Credit Services donation. Dale committed Missoula Concrete to sponsorship of one day of the petting zoo at \$800, and Joey agreed to a \$500 donation from NWFCS. Lisa will contact Janet Hunter about a donation from Les Schwab Tire. According to Joey, Triple W Equipment most likely will donate cash in addition to the child-size tractors.

- ▶ A concerted effort needs to be made to get the County Commissioners to observe the “happenings” at the Country Fair.
3. **Report from Larry Henderson on new Country Fair Archway:**
- ▶ \$690 for fir; \$512 for green treated wood. BMC West would give us a 10% discount. Scot said this is more money than he anticipated on spending on the new entry way. Scot said he is able to commit \$300. Joey Hennes asked if we could approach BMC West about donating the materials, or donating the balance on the materials after the \$300 payment. Joey said we could advertise the BMC West donation. Larry Henderson will approach BMC West. Lisa Mills said she has a working relationship with Boyce Lumber and she would be comfortable approaching them for a donation of materials if Larry is unsuccessful at BMC West. Scot Meader said he would appreciate receiving an invoice after July 1.
4. **Report from Scot Meader:**
- ▶ Photography is moving upstairs in the Culinary Building. The old photography building will “house” media arts.
  - ▶ Fair will pay for the “milker” exhibit for the whole week of the fair. Scot did not get the “Farmer for a Day” exhibit this year.
5. **Volunteers**
- When we identify specific areas that need volunteers, it was suggested that calls be made to people and ask them to volunteer rather than send out an email and hope people will respond. We are looking for volunteers to set up the Country Fair Stage, people to be in charge of the kiddie tractors, a couple of people to head up the games like bobbing for apples and pie eating contests. We need to identify all the volunteer roles that are needed for the Country Fair.
6. **More Ideas (attachment) from March 19, 2008 meeting**
- ▶ Old tractors. Lisa will make contact on having this display.
  - ▶ Lisa will follow up with Shane Clouse on obtaining plants from the Pink Grizzly.
  - ▶ Shane Clouse has two members of his band gone the day we need him for the 4-H Dance.
  - ▶ Fundraising [pie in the face, dunking booth] need to draw in the community otherwise 4-H is supporting 4-H and we need outside money for a real fundraiser. People need to know what their money is going for. We need to make contacts of very visible community people to find out if they will sit in the dunking booth or allow pies to be thrown in their face. The fundraiser is to pay for theme of the Country Fair . . . getting back to what’s important in community and youth and bringing the community together – you don’t get that from the carnival. The Country Fair has provided the vision of bringing the community together, and many people appreciate our efforts. We don’t receive gate receipts. This effort costs money and we need a fundraiser to support the cause.
7. **Montana Clown Works for 2009 fair**
- The clown was a huge hit at the 2007 fair. *Joey Hennes moved that this Committee pursue a commitment from Montana Clown Works for the 2009 fair. Dale Clouse seconded the motion which carried unanimously.*

8. **Co-coordinator for Country Fair**

Campbell informed the group that he approached Amy Smith about carrying on the Country Fair Coordinator duties during fair week should Lisa Mills be unable to do so. Amy Smith informed Campbell that she is not available during fair week.

9. **Hay Bales**

Joey Hennes reported that we will be very-very lucky to find hay bales this year. The market is expensive right now. This is something we will have to pay attention to and talk about in the future.

10. **Mission Statement**

Campbell said there are four drafts of possible Mission Statement that will go to Lisa Mills to fine tune and bring back to the next Country Fair Committee meeting.

[Colleen Terrazas listened to the tape and transcribed the minutes.]

**The next Country Fair Committee meeting will take place Wednesday, May 21, 6:00 pm.**