

Yuma County Fair Board Meeting  
April 17, 2023 7:00 pm  
Yuma County Fairgrounds – YUMA

The regular scheduled April meeting was called to order at 7:30 following a grounds walk-through. In attendance were Fair Board members BJ Mekelburg, Tom Mekelburg, Justin Crossland, David Blach, Harold Blackham, Jaden Campbell and Robin Schneider; Rodeo Manager Cassidee Rogers; YC Commissioners Scott Weaver, Adam Gates; CSU Extension JoLynn Midcap; YC Fairgrounds Manager Mike Criswell; 4-H Superintendents Mariya Mekelburg, R Curt Lapp, Ryan Noble, CJ Leonhardt; YC Fairgrounds Event Manager Carmen Murray; YC Fair Queen Coordinator Michelle Smith and YC Sheriff department Larry Gilliland. The March minutes were reviewed and a motion by J Campbell to accept the minutes as presented was seconded by D Blach and the motion passed.

Committee and Special Reports – (only committees with action or discussion are listed)

- Fairgrounds – M Criswell brought up a plan to make the show and sale ring smaller and as discussed during the walk-through. There was discussion and positive feedback about the plan as proposed (attached) to take out 2 full panels from the current size of the ring. R Noble also brought some work needing to be done to the drainage/retention pond east of the rodeo pens and south of the horse stalls. S Weaver stated the county has plans to work on the area.
- Extension – J Midcap stated members and leaders are picking up tags for hog, sheep and goat tagging. The deadline for turning in the weight, tag and scrapie information is May 8<sup>th</sup>. The FFA advisors have been contacted to make sure they are aware of the lack of weigh-in for this year. Tria Means, 4-H Food Booth Manager turned in her resignation and the office is looking for her replacement. The Fair Board would like to extend a sincere ‘Thank You’ to Tria for all her years of helping 4-H with the food booth. D Blach asked if there had been some follow up with the Beef exhibitors that weighed-in ‘intact’ steers for their 4-H project animals. Midcap stated they would ensure they had been taken care of.
- Rodeo – C Rogers has gotten the stripping chute repaired and has a few other repairs being completed by M Criswell. The sound is locked in for the 2023 Fair and sponsor letters should go in the mail on May 1.
- Superintendents - R Noble, Horse Super., requested the enclosed horse stalls need to be lifted about 8” and sub-material be brought in. He also asked if there was some shade cloth available; the outdoor temporary stalls could use some shade as well. D Blach, Beef Super., mentioned the steers may be moved to put all the animals in the center aisles and leave all the tack for the outer stalls.
- Beer Garden – No changes have been made since the latest proposal. The S Weaver asked the committee to see the final plan so the YC Commissioners could approve and the committee then take the proposal to the City of Yuma for an alcohol variance for those dates. Blach also stated he would finalize with the Knights of Columbus regarding heading up the BBQ competition for 2023 or if we need to seek someone else to organize that event and the preparation of the meat.
- Marketing and Vendor – C Rogers confirmed the committee could not pursue the bingo card promotion because there was a purchased ticket as a “stop” on the bingo card (i.e. rodeo, night show) and participants had to pay for a chance it is then considered a raffle and specific licensing is required.

## OLD BUSINESS

For the Night Show an actual contract was received earlier that afternoon, however the first look left the Commissioners with many questions regarding whether or not an actual contract could be viable since several contingencies in the contract were questionable. Several open ideas were discussed in case a contract agreement with Maddie & Tae could not be reached. We may have some challenges with the stage and promoter, which are currently tied together, and if the contract falls through locating other services for this year and future years may be a problem. Several thoughts about utilizing a "Battle of the Bands" with prize money to draw bands and another option would be to look at bringing another entertainer from the area, but making sure it is a regional band to make it enticing for the public.

The schedule for Yuma County Fair 2024 was discussed. J Midcap stated several of the local schools are planning to start mid-August so a later fair date (8/7 - 8/12) would make it a challenge for over half the local school kids. Several fair Board members were in support of an earlier fair date even if it starts in July. A motion by J Crossland to have the 2024 YC Fair scheduled July 31 through August 5 (7/31/24 - 8/5/24) was made and seconded by Blach. Motion passed with 1 member against.

## NEW BUSINESS

A reminder was made the swine, sheep, and goat tagging and reporting had started and the exhibitors in those projects should have their information turning in to the Extension office no later than May 8th.

Larry Gilliland, YC Sheriff department, brought some questions to the Board regarding security at the fair in 2023. The department is facing staffing problems which will also make it challenging to continue the usual staffing at the fairgrounds. He brought three options before the board; 1-scaling back across the board; 2-backfilling licensed staff with civilian citizens; 3-utilizing city police staff. Typically the security at the fairgrounds has run smoothly with no major problems so looking at utilizing a partial civilian staff could be a viable option. Gilliland will take the feedback to do whatever necessary to ensure coverage over the fairgrounds but also utilize citizens and police staff to fulfill proper coverage and bring a proposal to the next meeting.

Carmen Murray, new Fairgrounds Event Manager, addressed the Board with a few questions. The inclusion of the Cattlemen Beef Division rules in the Fairbook was one question and following discussion about the layout of the market classes and size of the grand drive, it was decided to leave the details of the Beef Show out of the Fairbook and allow those rules to be at the discretion of the superintendent.

No further new business so "For Good of Order" was requested. R Schneider thanked Murray for updating the fair and Fair Board information on the county's website; T Mekelburg thanked M Criswell for all his work at the fairgrounds; J Crossland asked to have a report from the Fair Queen and Event Manager included in each month's agenda.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. Next meeting will be May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in Yuma at the YC Fairgrounds with a site walk-through at 6:30 pm.

Respectively submitted

Robin Schneider, Secretary