

LASSEN COUNTY FAIR ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes November 8, 2011
Regular Meeting
195 Russell Ave
Susanville, CA 96130
5:30 PM

The Lassen County Fair Advisory Board convened in a Meeting on Tuesday November 8, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. Dena Wemple called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm. Members present: Tom Neely, Becky Albaugh, Dena Wemple, Dan Douglas, Brett Smith, Tim Bruce, Jerry Hitchings, and Curt Moran. Supervisor Robert Pyle was also present. Fair Manager: Jim Wolcott, Office Assistant Courtney St. Jacques, and Sr. Account Clerk Patti Cardoza present. Absent: Jose Pena, and Todd Eid. Present in the audience: None.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Pledge of Allegiance Lead by Dan Douglas.

AGENDA APPROVAL, ADDITIONS AND/OR DELETIONS

Tim Bruce moves to approve agenda. Jerry Hitchings seconds. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

Jerry Hitchings moves to approve the minutes from the August meeting. Seconded by Becky Albaugh. Motion is carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Jim Wolcott passes around a Thank You card from the Sykes family that was sent to the Fair. Jim reads aloud a Thank You letter from the Haslem family and tells the board that they donated \$400 to the Fair Board. This money was deposited in the FireFund and will be available to use for a plaque or other item in memory of Jack Haslem when the Board decides what they would like to get. Jim Wolcott passes around a Thank You card from the Sykes family that was sent to the Fair Board itself.

ENTRY DEADLINES

The Board reviews the handout explaining the proposed date changes for entry deadlines. Dena Wemple explains that it is essentially extending 4-H and FFA still entries one additional week. Jerry Hitchings says that it makes sense to group the livestock entries altogether. Dena tells the Board that it will be difficult to change the mindset of those that participant in Open Livestock. Jerry points out that the number of Open Livestock exhibitors is not very large. Dena agrees that extending the still exhibits may be a good idea but she still has reservations about changing the livestock because there are quite a few Open exhibitors that know that they have an extra week. Becky Albaugh asks if the office could send some kind of notification in the mail to those Open exhibitors notifying them of the change. Jim points out that the office could do that but they will always miss

someone. The fair could put it in the newspaper and get the news out to the public in that way. Becky asks how many Open exhibitors there are. Jerry responds that there are a few sheep exhibitors, and a few goat. Dena points out that all of the Dairy exhibitors are Open. Jim tells the Board that the purposes of the suggestions are to make things easier on the office staff. Dena explains that the deadlines were split originally because it is easier to enter all of the market animals into the system, and then enter the Open animals. Dan says that he likes the idea of changing the 4-H and FFA still entry deadline. Dena agrees that it might bring in more entries. Dan suggests that they change the still entry deadline, but not the Open livestock deadline. Jim notes that Dena works with Nancy on the entries and asks how she feels about this suggestion and if it would make things easier or harder on them. Dena says that she would agree with leaving Open livestock one week later but moving the still entry deadline. Jerry points out that exhibitors are supposed to read the deadlines in the premium book every year. Jim says the office could do postcards. Becky suggests that calls be made to the Open exhibitors rather than postcards to save money on postage. Tom Neely reminds the Board that the fair isn't planning on printing any premium books next year, so the change would have to be evident on the website. Dan agrees with Tom and suggests that there be big flashing text that catches their attention. Tom suggests that the change be written in a 'New for this Year' section. Becky volunteers to come into the office before the deadlines and help make phone calls to the Open exhibitors. Dan makes a motion to accept the suggestion as written in the highlighted section which is to move the Open livestock deadline up one week and push the 4-H and FFA still entry deadline back one week. Becky seconds the motion. All in favor. No opposition. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive: None

Livestock: Jim will get information about the premiums and entries for all livestock divisions and report to the committee with recommendations about the premiums and entry fees. Next meeting will be held on November 29, 2011 at 6:30pm.

Jerry Hitchings wants to return to the rest of the list of suggestions on the handout about the Entry Deadlines. Jim recognizes and supports suggestion #2 about adding a class for Geometry Projects that are created by the high school students. Dena supports #3 about adding more classes to Junior Photography, and she agrees with #4 in that the system of judging needs to be specified for each section in the premium book. She explains that the two different systems of judging are necessary and our fair has them for certain divisions. The Dairy division uses the Danish system of judging which costs the fair a lot of money in premiums. Tim Bruce suggests that the Board table suggestion #4 for right now. Dan asks what the state rules say about the two different systems of judging. Dena is not sure of the answer. Curt asks if the fair would lose exhibitors if they chose to only follow the American system of judging. Dena says that that is a possibility. Jerry explains that Dairy probably doesn't cost the fair any more than other divisions because they always supply their own judge. Dena agrees and says that there is some kind of rule with 4-H that

requires the use of the Danish system. Jerry makes a motion to accept suggestions 2 & 3. Dan seconds the motion. All in favor. No opposition. Motion carried. Jim explains that suggestion #4 concerning the systems of judging has to be taken to both the Livestock and Exhibits committees because one committee cannot make the decision for the other.

Long Range Planning/ Site: None

Exhibits: Next meeting will be held on December 13th at 4:30pm.

Commercial/Entertainment Meeting: Next meeting will be held on November 29, 2011 at 5:30pm.

Auto Racing: Next meeting will be held on November 29, 2011 at 5:00pm.

Manager's Report:

Jim tells the Board that they received a check from Windjammer Cable for their event in the amount of \$811.08 which is a little less than last year, but they did not have the radio station there. Jim points out that Dan, Tim, Curt, and Tom attended the event. It was a good fundraiser and raised more funds for the Board.

Sierra Cascade Nursery had the state inspector come to the grounds and look at the housing for their workers last week. They are required to have heat in every restroom. The fair only has one heated bathroom. Sierra Cascade will be putting \$4000 into two other restrooms for heaters. They will bring the heaters in when their workers get here and they will remove them after their employees leave so that the fair doesn't have to worry about the maintenance. Jim explains that he has fixed the gfs that weren't functioning correctly. The light switch in the Junior 4-H Building is not ADA compliant, so he will be fixing that as well. The repairs will end up costing around \$500, but it will benefit them.

Jim explains that F&E made a mistake and we will be getting another \$36,000. There were some fairs that were overpaid and others that were underpaid. We were one that was underpaid. We will get the money when the other fairs give the money back to F&E.

This will be the 6th or 7th year of the Festival of Lights. The Board has not put up a display for the past two years and Jim says that he would like the Board to do one. The event will be in the paper and will advertise it to organizations and families as well.

Courtney sent out postcards to different businesses and organizations around town. We had about 500 people come through the gates last year. There were 160 people that came through on Christmas Eve. Set up will begin next week and continue until December 2nd.

Jim continues to explain that if people need to set up on the weekends, Mike and Kathy are willing to come down to the grounds and open it up for them. If they need to come in after 5pm on the weekdays then he will stay and close and open it for the participants.

The event will begin on December 2nd and continue through Christmas Eve. Dan says the the Light Tour for the senior citizens will be coming through it on December 14th. Becky will be the chairperson for this committee which will meet after this meeting to discuss ideas for the display.

Jim tells the Board about the conference that he attended in Sacramento. The whole thing was about fair budgets. F&E still wants the fair's reports. Jim gave them a copy of our

fair's budget at the conference. Most people seem to be concentrating on revenues rather than expenditures because they are not able to do layoffs. They would have to get rid of all of their part time employees before they could lay off any full time employees. Bills will be proposed to make business easier on fairs in that way. The Department of Food and Agriculture has been looking at fair and emergency funding. They have had different departments attend to become more informed about what fairs do. The Antelope Valley Fair moved to a new area because the city moved them. They just finished a JPA and it is working. The city is behind the fair now. They are selling off their old property and getting money from that. The Glen County Fair hasn't made money in the last 8 years off of their fair. They have a new manager now that connected with a non-profit organization. She found out that sponsors don't want to give money to the fair because they think that the fair will take all of it. They are leasing the fairgrounds to the non-profit organization and the fair staff is being paid through them now.

Jim says that he had a conference call with CFA on Monday. A key legislator on the Democratic side is going to bring a bill forward to cut 50% of fair funding rather than 100%. Once that bill has been introduced and we get the number on it, we will ask our community members to make phone calls, and write letters and emails again. The governor's office is going to host the next CFA meeting so the governor can listen in. Changes in funding won't happen by next year, but by 2013 something with the funding might happen. The governor is listening so that is good.

Jim tells the Board that it was a good conference. They made recommendations about what each fair was doing. A lot of fairs cut their premiums altogether. The Anaheim conference is in January. Jim has not decided if he will be attending it this year.

Matters by the Board:

Jerry~ Welcome Patti. Thanks Bob. Thanks everyone.

Curt~ Good to see everyone, Bob. Welcome aboard Patti.

Tim~ Welcome Patti. Thanks Bob.

Bob Pyle~ You are doing a great job. Keep up the good work.

Dan~ Thanks Jim. Everything you do doesn't go unnoticed. Thanks Courtney. Welcome Patti. Have a good Thanksgiving everyone.

Becky~ Happy Thanksgiving!

Tom~ Thanks everyone.

Brett~ Thanks everyone, Bob. Patti, nice to meet you.

ADJOURNMENT

Dan Douglas makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jerry Hitchings seconds the motion.
Meeting is adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Fair Manager _____
Jim Wolcott

Board President _____
Dena Wemple