

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING FOR
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
EL DORADO COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION, INC**

Wednesday, August 2, 2023

PRESENT: Feathers, Hunt, Whitaker, Carter, McGuire, Davis, Kobervig, Witherow, Willyard, Warden and White
MANAGER: Kathy Dunkak
OTHERS: Robin Cleveland, Amanda Koch, Eric Freiberg, and Jason Bloxsom
EXCUSED:

- 1. Call to Order at 4:30pm**
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Record verification of legal meeting notice. Feathers authenticated the verification.
 - D. Determine Quorum. Feathers determined that the requirements for a quorum were met.
- 2. Approve Agenda Previous Minutes and Consent Items**

Davis moved that the agenda, consent items, and previous meeting minutes be approved. Witherow seconded. Motion carried and approved.
- 3. Public Forum**

Lt. Jason Bloxsom discussed the Sheriff's role in the fair. Their goal was to make a big presence. They had undercover as well as uniformed sheriffs. They had a social predator try to abduct a youth. They are on that case now and he was apprehended. Several people were banned from the 2023 Fair and one is on the list for a lifetime ban. Security Items: Metal detectors need to be calibrated for each use. If not, they will have blind spots and miss items being passed through.

Will be issuing daily reports from the previous day to crush any rumors that may be going around.

Sheriff's Dept is going over our rules and tightening them up so there is a more clear-cut understanding for our patrons.
- 4. Old Business**
 - A. Dee reviewed the ARPA agreement for the water run-off (canal) and everything looks above board and we can cancel at any time without any penalties. Next step is for us to put out a RFP for engineering the project. Kobervig moved that we accept the contract. Warden seconded. Motion carried and approved.
- 5. New Business**
 - A. Lifetime ban for Vicente Castaneda. The CEO can ban people from fairs and events but the board needs to initiate a lifetime ban. This person came in every day even though banned the day before. Instigated fights and was disruptive. We will go through the Civil Division at the Sheriff's Department to issue a no-trespass and lifetime ban. If this person, years down wants to be allowed to come back he will have to go before the board. Davis moved that we move forward on contacting the Civil Department to issue a No Trespass/Lifetime Ban. Kobervig seconded. Motion carried and approved.
 - B. Resetting the January 2024 meeting from the 2nd to the 10th as the WFA Conference is the first week of January. Willyard moved to change the date of the January 2024 meeting to the 10th. Forni seconded. Motion carried and approved.
- 6. Manager's Report**
 - A. Fair numbers:
 - a. Record-breaking attendance – up 14.7%: 2022 – 72,000 and 2023 – 83,402. With new ticketing was able to give the carnival a presale report on opening day.
 - b. Fair entries were up 31%.
 - c. Livestock Auction was down 7% from 2022. Heritage Hog made \$32,320. Brewster raised and sold his hog as a fundraiser for the Pollock Pine's children who were struck by the car – He raised about \$60,000.
 - d. Our Presale was down a little – but we made up for it.
 - e. Cars parked: 2022 – 3094 and in 2023 – 4175.
 - f. Shuttle riding was up.
 - g. Concession sales up 11%: our income in 2022 - \$155,585 and in 2023 – \$172,414

- h. Carnival sales up 10%: Our income in 2022 – 226,610 and in 2023 - \$247,932. The Carnival presale was \$156,000.
- i. Taco sales were up 400 tacos – 9600 tacos
- j. Payroll up 11%
- k. Trash bill was \$9,000 – Food vendors fill up bins with boxes and cardboard. Next year they will have a designated dumpster as well as a cardboard dumpster near their booths.
- l. Bar sales were up: in 2022 – \$69,769 and in 2023 – 71,109
- B. No issues with ABC (undercover checked for serving underage and too drunk). Margarita Bar had issue with someone selling tickets to underage – they promptly fixed that.
- C. Had an issue with local gang/motorcycle club beginning with asking them to remove their gang attire. The sheriff is working on our rules to be more precise and clear.
- D. Cindy Burdette (past JLA President) works for Sac County Sheriff and Homeland Security. They have a grant and will be coming up to assess our entire property for any security breaches.
- E. Has a meeting scheduled with livestock in August. Wants to discuss getting rid of livestock camping. We need more parking for volunteers, department heads, etc. Suggested that some camp for security.
- F. The Blast profits were \$17,619. We did get a \$5,000 grant that we will share with Speedway for the fireworks. Speedway is appealing the charges due because the fireworks show was 9 minutes less than quoted. Vendors did well.
- G. Armory update: Speaking with BOS and politicians. Assemblyman Joe Patterson is coming for a tour.
- H. Financial review is scheduled for next week.
- I. Please let Kathy know by October 13 board meeting if you would like to attend the WFA Conference and your travel plans.
- J. Volunteer Appreciation Dinner was on July 20. Went well. Next year we will schedule it a bit later since a lot of livestock people are busy with the state fair. Director McGuire recommended all of the board members attend this event.

7. Treasurers Report (May)

- A. Spent a lot of money on the fair. Entertainment money was well used and people love those events. Stadium packed. Rubicon Challenge would cost us about \$20,000 if we were to pull all of this together ourselves, very grateful for the Jeepers Jamboree, Bob Sweeney, and everyone that pulls this together.
- B. Hunt would like to have the Gold Buckle Sheep Co, Mutton Bustin back in 2024.
Kobervig moved that the treasurer's report be approved. Davis seconded. Motion carried to approve.

8. Maintenance Ad-Hoc

- A. **Adopt-a-Spot** – White will be scheduling a time to do the next quarterly judging soon.
- B. Fair notes to be gone over after the strategic meeting in October.

9. Director's To/From

Carter: Attended the State Fair and was there for their most prestigious award – County Fair Best of Show (round-robin winners of Master Showmanship compete for the Golden Bear). A group of EDC youth were there to support the EDC entries. Great to see. Good comradery and support. We have a great bunch of youth that are really connected. At our fair, there was a group of youth who jumped in and helped with the Pee Wee Rodeo. Very helpful. We need to improve our overall Ag Educational Displays for the attendees coming to the fair. Still exhibits – first time signing up. James was very into this and excited. What can we do to get more information out to the schools so we attract more youth?

Mutton Bustin needs fine-tuning. Maybe have a mutton bustin' competition and the winners get to attend the mutton bustin' at the rodeo. Need long-sleeved shirts. Need to drag the dirt or move back to Henningsen Arena.

Pee Wee Rodeo needs to be fine-tuned also. Hard to find events that the typical fairgoer understands enough to participate. The favorite is the Hay Hauling.

Heritage Hog brought in about \$32,000. Moving towards the next set of pens for the Sheep Barn. Some estimates are over \$50,000 so we have about \$20,000 left to raise. The HF Tri-Tip BBQ dinner for 4 fundraisers will be on October 28. The money will go towards the panels. Livestock Committee to work with Eric regarding selling old panels.

Sunday morning church was a great event. (The church sold 840 tickets to their church members.)

Volunteers do garden in the plaza - looks awesome.

Davis: Put discussion for solar on September's agenda. Put the use of the board room during the fair on the agenda a month before the fair. Thank you for arranging for the scooter to get around the fair.

Hunt: Liked the Jr. Bull Riding. Amador received 1.5 million from CDFA – they are DAA (which is what they focused on) and they really focused on fairs the become emergency shelters.

Warden: Great time at the Fair. People seemed to behave themselves. Lighting at bars needs to be improved. The area behind Cap Bar needs level cement. Judged eggs (the first one was rotten).

Witherow: Had to refuse to serve only one person at the bar that appeared too drunk. Disturbed by the smoking around the bars.

McGuire: Parking for directors wasn't nose in this year. Harder to park and get out.

Appreciation Dinner for volunteers was interesting. Surprised not more people were there. Volunteers really appreciated it. The whole Fair Board should attend in the future.

Kobervig: The fairgrounds look great. Read the ARPA contract and everything looks great.

October Retreat – O'Hallorans inviting all board members to come get apples. Baby Corner is really nice (a/c).

Maybe hand people coming in with small babies information about the baby corner. Lexi Boeger running for supervisor – she wants to come to talk to the Board. She can come to a public forum as we are not political.

White: She was at the bar and has it down now. The picnic table by MORE adopt-a-spot always seems to have a cannabis aroma coming from it. Agenda item: pop-ups around livestock areas during fair were very messy.

Willyard: Thought Fair was pretty good. Enjoyed judging. Loved working at the Tiki Bar and loved the bands.

Feathers: The volunteer dinner was amazing. Talked to a lot of people. 4 of the Board Members met to discuss post-Fair items – will go over them at the October meeting. No one said anything to Feathers about why the Board Room wasn't open. Parking changed to parallel parking because officers needed spaces. Next May's agenda will have parking on it.

10. **Adjourn meeting at 6:12 pm**

Karen Forni-Feathers

Karen Forni-Feathers, President

Kathy Dunkak

Kathy Dunkak, CEO

10-3-23

Date

10-3-23

Date

