

Jefferson County Fair Park January 7, 2016 | Meeting Minutes

The Jefferson County Fair Park committee met on Thursday, January 7th at 8:00 a.m. in the Activity Center Conference Room. Present were: (Fair Committee) Al Counsell, Blane Poulson, Matt Foelker, Russell Kutz, Jennifer Hanneman, County Administrator Ben Wehmeier, County Board Chairman James Schroeder, Fair Park Director David Diestler, Supervisor Roger Kylmanen, Marketing/Administrative Assistants Amy Listle and Renee Busshardt, Swine Superintendent Greg Sambs, UW-Extension Agents LaVern Georgson and Sarah Torbert, and Finance Director Brian Lamers.

Let the record show that a quorum is present, meeting duly noted and the door open.

Review and Approve Agenda

Minutes: A motion was made by Jennifer Hanneman to accept the minutes of the December 3, 2015 meeting as presented, seconded by Matt Foelker. Motion carried.

Communications: Holiday Greeting Cards from several Fair Park vendors and customers were presented.

Public Comment: None.

Discussion and action on terminal vs. non-terminal swine exhibit at Fair: David presented the information that was included in the committee packet. This included the re-cap of an informal meeting held on December 10, 2015 to gather audience opinions about the fair swine show, results of an online survey targeted to swine project participants and their families, a survey conducted by Stacie Ashby at DATCP indicating how many fairs had terminal vs. non-terminal shows, documents from the DATCP State Veterinarian's office, fair superintendent assistance, information from WI State Fair and additional thoughts. Superintendent Greg Sambs also expressed that most slaughterhouses appreciate terminal shows because they have more time to organize and better prepare for the amount of animals that may be sent their way and suggested that some improvements could be made to the swine barn. UW-Extension Agent LaVern Georgson talked about the spread of pig diseases, the effects that has on pig producers and that Wisconsin has a high focus on animal health and its importance. UW-Extension Agent Sarah Torbert asked that no matter the decision that communication was high priority. Jennifer Hanneman made a motion to continue with a terminal swine show, seconded by Matt Foelker. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on Feasibility Study: David presented a handout with information about a feasibility study request for proposal and evaluation criteria. This will continue to be discussed. No approval or action was taken.

Financial Report: Review financials with the committee and we are expecting to stay within budget

Director's Report: David reported Grandstand entertainment for Friday night has an accepted offer. We are still looking for an act on Saturday night. Augie's Catering will not renew their contract after March 2016. A request for proposal for a new food service vendor has been published. Dave would like to have the website redesigned and is working on a request for proposal for that. Still doing research on Point of Sale (POS) systems. Dave also talked about a Senate bill that is being created that would change regulations on fair entries.

Supervisor's Report: Roger Kylmanen reported that a used John Deere Gator was purchased, this will replace 2 older golf carts that will be sold on the Wisconsin Auction site. Restrooms are being updated with new paint, toilet paper, paper towel and soap dispensers. He also provided a list of other projects he is working on.

Office Report: Amy Listle reported that Renee Busshardt started December 7, 2015. 2016 event contracts are being completed. The office staff and Fairest of the Fairs would be attending the Wisconsin Association of Fairs convention in the Wisconsin Dells at the beginning of January. Also the Fair Office was being painted.

Next Meeting: The next meeting was set for February 4, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. in the conference room of the Activity Center.

With no further business, Al Counsell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jennifer Hanneman seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 a.m.