



DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIR BOARD

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024

**DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS – JAMES R. SULLIVAN EVENTS CENTER
CONFERENCE ROOM**

MINUTES

Dean Elliott - Chairperson, called the Douglas County Fair Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on October 17, 2024. The meeting was held in the James R. Sullivan Conference Room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present:

*Dean Elliott
Sarah Fischer
Jennifer Foss
Tom Harris
Wes Jacobs
Scott McHenry
Debbie Mills
Phil Riesselman
Pat Salazar
Hayden Schmidt
Pam Spradlin
Lori Sorenson
Lora Talbert
Rob Tkach
Gary Turner
Lisa Turner*

Associate Members Present:

*Nick Candelaria
Ryan Kennedy
Kyle Moore
Dick Sabulsky
Jean Sabulsky
Ted Sorenson*

Other Guests Present:

*Marcus Ballinger
Paulette Chekal
Tori Checkal
Gary Debus
Cindy Duckworth
Danielle Hastings
Dustin Hastings
Tristan Hastings
Langer Family
Guinevere Nelson
Danny Talbert*

Staff Members Present:

*Laurie Anderson
Zach Burns
Clay Gysin
Tim Hallmark
Teresa Kutt
Michelle Mannes
Tori Thelen*

Board Members Absent:

*John Adams
Pat Candelaria
Scott Candelaria
Gabriel Ryan*

Associate Members Absent:

*Ben Alderton
Matt Coyle
Deb Dilley
Josiah Fredericks
John Holst
James Jamison
Chayce Lutz
Patti Russell
Chris Spyke
Monica Wilson
Kate Wormington*

6:30 PM CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**Public Meeting****Public Comment:**

Danielle and Dustin Hastings, 4-H parents, urged the Fair Board to award a buckle to Reserve Champions. The State Fair, National Western Stock Show and Douglas County Fair & Rodeo are the only competitions in the state where Reserve Champions do not receive a buckle. According to the Hastings, many 4-H families support awarding a buckle to Reserve Champions. They would like the clubs to be able to vote on the buckle and believe the kids should have a say. Hayden asked how to differentiate between Grand Champion and Reserve Champion if both receive a buckle. Danielle suggests different sizes or designs. The Hastings believe they could find sponsors to pay for the Reserve buckles.

Lindsey Langer, 4-H parent, also spoke to support the return of the Reserve buckle. She mentioned that agriculture is disappearing in Douglas County, and the buckle represents the Western heritage. It is a prized possession for the kids who keep it a lifetime.

Dean appreciated the feedback and will take the issue to the Awards Committee.

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: Gary moved to approve. Phil seconded. All approved. No discussion.

Consent Agenda. Rob moved to approve the consent agenda. Phil seconded. All approve. No discussion.

Treasurer's Report: The 2024 Fair marks the first time the Fair showed a profit of \$21,903. Wes reviewed each committee budget and applauded everyone's efforts. Wes and Zach are working on reorganizing some of the budget line items for 2025. Moving forward, each committee will be issued its budget to review during their monthly committee meeting. Zach reported that revenue was up 16%, and expenses were up 8%. Dean congratulated everyone and asked the board to consider where the monies should be reinvested for long-term improvements.

Reports From Other Groups

Fair Foundation: Cindy reported that the Foundation completed the L.E.G. Up Grant applicant interviews. The foundation received 18 applications and conducted 16 in-person interviews. Nine out of 12 grants were awarded. Award winners will be announced at Achievement Night. Additionally, the steer program will aid participants in choosing breeding animals. Grant Breakfast is November 16; Fair Board should expect to see an invite soon.

4-H Youth Council: Tristan invited Fair Board to Achievement Night on Oct. 23. Save the date for the following events: Nov. 4 is the next Youth Council meeting; Nov. 7 is the 4-H Open House, and Dec. 6 is the Holiday Dance.

CSU Extension: Guinevere reported the new 4-H year kicked off and program planning is underway.

Regular Agenda

Staff Report: Zach and Tim reported that a parking garage will be added to the design scope for the Master Plan. Tim is meeting with Commissioner Teal soon to discuss the Master Plan.

Old Business:

Committee Work Plans are due in November.

Elections of Committee Chairs

Rob moved to approve the following committee chairs and vice chairs. Hayden seconded. All approved. No discussion.

- Livestock Sale Committee: Chair – Phil. Vice Chair: Pat C.
- Show Management Committee: Chair – Hayden. Vice Chair: Rob
- Entertainment: Sarah
- Marketing: Debbie
- Administration: Lora
- Rodeo: John
- Guest Services: Gary
- Awards: Pat C.

New Business

Zach introduced the 2024 Fair & Rodeo Awards presented by staff to recognize outstanding contributions to the Douglas County Fair & Rodeo. This year's winners are:

- Unsung Hero Award: Pam Spradlin
- Most Outstanding Committee: Livestock Sale
- Fair Board Director of the Year: Rob Tkach

Other Business

Volunteer Recognition

During the Executive Committee, a recommendation was made to create a yearly pin for all Douglas County Fair & Rodeo volunteers. The cost would be \$2.50-5 each. The 2024 pin will be distributed at an April 2025 Volunteer Appreciation Event. Phil motioned to approve. Rob seconded. All approved.

Director Comment: None

Adjournment at 7:20 pm.

Next Meeting: November 21, 2024

To have orderly, efficient, civil, and productive board meetings, the following rules apply to all citizens who have a desire to address the Board:

1. Citizen comments will be heard during the public comment section at the board meeting.
 2. All citizen comments must be addressed to the Board. Directing comments to staff or other members of the public is not permitted during Board meetings.
 3. The public comment section is limited to ten minutes collectively.
 4. Citizens are asked not to repeat comments made by others; merely indicate their concurrence.
 5. Citizens will be asked to use a microphone so that Board members and the audience can hear their comments.
 6. Clapping, cheering, booing, and the like are not permitted at Board meetings.
 7. Failure to abide by the aforementioned rules of engagement is considered disruptive to the public process and will result in a warning to the violation citizen(s) by the Board Chair. If after that warning the citizen(s) continues to violate these rules, they will be asked to leave the meeting. If the citizen does not leave the meeting when asked, the appropriate steps will be taken by the Board Chair to have them removed from the meeting.
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Mission Statement: The Douglas County Fair and Rodeo is the premier annual community event in Douglas County bringing together the best of Rural Heritage, Agriculture, Western Sports, Youth and Adult Exhibits and quality Entertainment.