



DOUGLAS COUNTY FAIR BOARD

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

**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 February 20, 2025. The meeting was held in the James R. Sullivan Conference Room. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present:

*John Adams
Pat Candelaria
Scott Candelaria
Dean Elliott
Sarah Fischer
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
Tori Checkal
Matt Coyle
James Jamison
Linda Jefferies
Dick Sabulsky
Ted Sorenson
Danny Talbert*

Other Guests Present:

*Marcus Ballinger
Mercedes Glenn
Tristan Hastings*

Staff Members Present:

*Zach Burns
Tim Hallmark
Sharon Hines
Teresa Kutt
Michelle Mannes
Tori Thelen*

Board Members Absent:

*Jennifer Foss
Gabriel Ryan*

Associate Members Absent:

*Deb Dilley
Josiah Fredericks
John Holst
Ryan Kennedy
Chayce Lutz
Kyle Moore
Patti Russell
Jean Sabulsky
Chris Spyke
Monica Wilson
Kate Wormington*

6:30 PM CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**Public Meeting****No Public Comment**

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: Lori moved to approve. Gary seconded. Mercedes asked that the cost of tags be noted as an issue that is under discussion. No further discussion. All approved.

Treasurer's Report: Wes reported that the budget does not include the extras that are being requested from the BOCC. That request is on their docket for an upcoming session. Year-to-date expenses are \$5,091.29.

Consent Agenda. Rob moved to approve. Scott seconded. Sarah requested that the Harmony Equine item be removed from the consent agenda and moved to other business at tonight's Fair Board meeting. Pat C. expressed concern about the use of the consent agenda and thoroughness of information available to Fair Board on items on the consent agenda. No further discussion. Scott opposes. Motion approved.

Reports From Other Groups

CSU Extension: Mercedes reported that 4-H Enrollment closes on March 1. The CSU office has requested booth space in the marketplace near the 4-H exhibits. Master Showmanship clinic will take place on June 6. JC is back. Additionally, the CSU office hours are now Monday – Thursday, 8-5. The change in hours were made to better support outside events.

Fair Foundation: No report.

4-H Youth Council: Tristan reported that the June Livestock Show will take place June 6-7 and celebrity judge, Ryan Rash, will be in attendance.

REGULAR AGENDA**Staff Report:**

Concert Update: Zach reported that Trace Adkins declined, and outreach would continue to other acts.

Ticket Update: Zach provided an update on the February rodeo ticket campaign: 850 tickets have been sold, with \$30,000+ in sales. Sales are 13 weeks ahead of 2024 sales.

OLD BUSINESS**Fair Board Director Renewals**

Rob motioned to renew Dr. Phil Riesselman as Fair Board Director. Seconded by Scott.

Rob motioned to renew Lora Talbert as Fair Board Director. Seconded by Scott.

Rob motioned to renew Scott Candelaria as Fair Board Director. Seconded by Phil.

No discussion. All approve.

Additionally, Rob reported that Gabe will transition to an Association member. Dean is working on filling all openings with the goal of nominations in May.

Competition Rules Update

Michelle reported that the CRs were posted on Feb. 13 to the website. Hayden is working on revisions for IDs and Tag-ins to amend verbiage for EID implementation on ID day. Those will be brought to the Fair Board in March.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Recruitment

Dean is working with staff to recruit new members to the committees. Please send any recommendation to Dean.

Entertainment Committee Proposal

Tom Harris proposes to bring the Harmony Equine Center to this year's fair for a training demonstration on the first weekend and a booth to promote the organization on the second weekend.

Tom motioned to approve. Lisa seconded. Rob suggests that the schedule be reviewed by Fair Board prior to adding new events. The proposed time on Sunday, July 27 is the same time as the 4-H horse show in the indoor arena and east warm-up arena. Events that might disrupt the competition with noises or PA announcement should be avoided. Lori asked for clarification on the activity being proposed. Tom replied that on Sunday, July the center is proposing a training exhibition and the second weekend is an awareness activation on grounds such as a booth in the kids corral or in the Marketplace. Phil asked for time commitment for activities, Tom replied 4-5 hours a day.

All approved. No opposed.

Scott McHenry proposes bringing a draft horse show and pull to the Fair. He is asking for 3 hours for the horse show with wagons, obstacle course, log skinning and team race and 2-4 hours for draft horse pull. Rob voiced concerns about traffic with the 4-H horse show taking place on Sunday, July 27. Noise and space will be a problem. In addition, judges for the 4-H horse show have been booked. Hayden suggests we wait until the March Fair Board meeting where the schedule will be reviewed. Scott M. remarked that we need activities on Sunday since we will be charging grounds admission. Tim noted that we moved the Exceptional Rodeo to Wednesday to accommodate the 4-H horse show. Dean suggests to table discussion so that Scott M. can work with Entertainment and Show Management committees to discuss openings in the schedule.

March Meeting

Pat C. motioned to that the March Fair Board Meeting be dedicated to reviewing the master schedule. Phil seconded. Staff will send electronic copies prior to the meeting. Lori asked how long the review will need, Dean replied that the board should expect a long meeting. No further discussion. All approved.

Director's Comments

Pam agrees with Pat C.'s earlier comments about the use of the consent agenda and the board lacking information on key decisions. Gary feels that minutes of committee meetings should be sufficient in providing information. Pam feels the board should have more time to review the committee minutes. Scott agrees with Pat and Pam and there should be more discussion of what the committee's recommendations are. Dean stated that this has been an ongoing discussion over the years. The business of the Fair Board could be impacted but Dean would entertain spending 40 minutes of each Fair Board meeting to committee updates. Rob commented that directors are on multiple committees and attend multiple meetings each month. Fair Board should be thoughtful of what is on the consent agenda and ask questions when needed. Pat C stated that committees should decide what goes on the consent agenda not staff.

Hayden doesn't feel putting decisions in consent agenda works effectively. The board votes and must stand by decision without context.

Lori reminded the board that we don't highlight changes in the CRs. Pat suggests we highlight changes for Fair Board members.

Dean feels that the consent agenda allows the committees to be more empowered and the Fair Board should trust the recommendations made by the committees. It avoids the Fair Board getting bogged down in small decisions. There is an opportunity for insight at the committee level, the executive committee level and at Fair Board. Fair Board can pull out items as needed.

Guidelines and Procedures

Dean reminded the board that at the September meeting, the board reviewed the by-laws. The by-laws were then sent to the County attorney for review, the county recommends removing Section 5 which instructs the board to follow Robert's Rules of Order. Pam mentioned that this section was originally added based on a recommendation from County legal. One other change was designating the website as the location for public postings. Rob requested an electronic copy be sent to Fair Board.

Other Business

Pat C. asked for a correction to the Executive Meeting Minutes: The last sentence in the Jr. Livestock Sale section should be removed.

Lisa asked about the handout provided at tonight's meeting and Pat C. clarified that it was the list of all awards and is provided for general information.

Zach mentioned that on the back table there were an assortment of items from past fairs and invited the board to take what they would like.

Adjournment at 7:24 pm

Next Meeting: March 20, 2025, at 6:30 PM

Rules for Citizen Engagement at Fair Board Meeting

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.

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.