

PRICE COUNTY FAIR
Regular Meeting August 22, 2019
2 p.m. UW Extension Office

Members present: Peter Dahlie, Michelle Drobnik, Amy Karpenske, Jan Hardginski, Wyatt Lebal, Christine McMillan, Sue Nordall, Hannah Eibergen

Excused: Doug Kirby, Virginia McMillan, Brook Lebal, Pat Vlach

Others present: none

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Peter Dahlie at 2:10 p.m.

Minutes: Motion by Nordall, seconded by Hardginski to approve the minutes of the August 13th, 2019 meeting. Motion passed.

Public Comments/Correspondence: Some comments were heard regarding the need for more bigger rides and less kiddie rides at the fair. Two letters were received from the Antique Association for payment of camping and electricity for the Expo, and also another letter regarding changing their contract, which will be discussed at a later date.

Financial Status: Most bills have been received and paid with the expectation that a few more will still be coming in. We will need to pay out fair premiums and discuss board stipends.

Review of the 134th Fair:

Bands & Karaoke-Karaoke was well received, the judges enjoyed the contest and thanked the fair for giving them the opportunity to judge. C McMillan, Dahlie and others heard excellent comments regarding the Saturday night band and seemed to enjoy better than the Friday night band, which was perceived as too loud.

Exhibits & Horses- Very good comments were heard regarding the Quilt Exhibits and would love to have them again next year. Open class entries were up, as well as educational exhibits with Phillips & Prentice at 100% participation. Chequamegon/Park falls increased their participation as well. Dairy was way down this year, but Wyatt Lebal said more kids are planning on bringing Dairy next year. There were more horses than usual, perhaps because exceptions were made to let older horses come and go instead of having to be at the fair all days. Hardginski made a motion to pay \$50.00 to Brooke Peterson for Sheep shown in previous years that weren't paid out because results were lost. C McMillan seconded the motion/motion passed. Drobnik motioned that a \$10 check be issued to Lynn Peterson to reimburse her for fair entry as she wasn't notified of a schedule change. Nordall seconded the motion/motion passed.

Grandstand Entertainment- C McMillan said the ATV/Lawn Tractor pull had good attendance. She thought it took too long (3-4 hours) and spectators lost interest as other entertainment started. She suggested it start earlier in the day. She also said the Horsepulls had good attendance, but not as full as previous years. Ideas were discussed regarding having a stage act for the grandstand, bringing back the demolition derby, having an open mic night, and other ideas, which will be discussed more as 2020 plans are made.

Vendors- Hardginski said most vendors were pleased with the fair, with many or all stating they are planning on coming back next year. Discussions included moving food vendors to some different spots, depending on access to electricity, with Dahlie adding that he would prefer no vendors right in front of the Northwoods building. Drobnik thought the inside vendors space seemed too tight and suggested moving them to a different location.

4-H, Beer Tent, & Boy Scouts- Dahlie stated that all did well with their sales. He also stated that all contracts are completed/renewed.

Fair Workers- All the shifts got covered with some work. Dahlie stated that workers are hard to find, and that there were no jail or community service workers available for this years fair. Hardginski brought up that next year we should pay a straight fee to the bathroom workers as they work all day but in shorter time spans. It was also discussed to try and get more volunteers, service organizations, etc. to try and fill some duties at next years fairs, and perhaps finding a way to park cars without having to staff people to do it.

Carnival- Hardginski says the carnival may want to change their contract with some additional/different exclusive sales items. C McMillan again stated comments she heard regarding the carnival having too many kiddie rides and not geared for older kids, and the need for "big" rides. She suggested looking at other options perhaps. Also discussed was the need to make sure we had the number/types of rides per the contract.

Children's Entertainment- The childrens museum was well received and Hardginski stated they will come as long as they have a building and space to set up in. Drobnik said everyone joyed Bob Boehm and had big crowds. The Juggler was also well received. It was discussed that perhaps changes should be made for next year to refresh entertainment so it isn't stagnant.

Butterfly House- It was very busy again this year. Thoughts to move exhibit to another location, but to make sure it has plenty of sun and warmth for the butterflies. Also discussed was to have more other insects and things instead of butterflies, as they are sometimes hard to get.

Fair Board, Biggest obstacle to a better Fair?- Discussions were made regarding taking more risks for more gain regarding entertainment, too fiscally conservative, creating something to draw more people in such as local high school football games, etc., but not sure on state HS rules, etc. Discussed better planning in advance for future fairs, but can be restricted due to finances. More discussions to come.

Anything Else?- The County Board meeting was brought up regarding cutting UW Exension, which would then cut 4H. Dahlie stated that this meeting didn't have anything to do with the Price County Fair, and no cuts were made to the Fair.

Next Meeting Date: The Annual meeting will be held September 26, 2019 6 PM at UWEX. Fair Board meeting will be held immediately after Annual meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Amy Karpenske
Secretary/Treasurer