

PRICE COUNTY FAIR
Regular Meeting July 2, 2020
5 p.m. Price County Fairgrounds – Northwoods Building

Members present: Peter Dahlie, Michelle Drobnik, Amy Karpenske, Jan Hardginski, Wyatt Lebal, Pat Vlach, Doug Kirby, Greg Hughes, Denae Walcisak, Jed Hallstrand

Absent/Excused: Hanna Eibergen, Sue Nordall (E), Brooke Lebal (E)

Others present: Jim Braun, Chief Administrative Officer of Flambeau Hospital

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Peter Dahlie at 5:12 pm.

Minutes: Motion by Pat Vlach, seconded by Doug Kirby to approve the minutes of June 18, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

Public Comments/Correspondence: One person has sent several emails opposing holding the fair because of Covid-19 concerns.

Fairgrounds Buildings: Peter Dahlie said that Dave Bockerstette, Price County Buildings and Grounds, was asked about use of center stage during the 2020 Fair. He said nothing inside the orange fence can be used, including center stage. Dahlie said the fair can remove items from the open class building, but no one is allowed into the barn to remove any items including the tractor, spreader, etc. because it is too dangerous to let anyone in the building. He also stated the open class bleachers are 6 feet wide and could possibly make it through the doors. Shelves could also be removed from the walls. He stated the pantry is 8 feet wide and built right into the open class building so it would have to be cut apart to remove it.

Fair Book: Michelle Drobnik reported that the fair book has still not been printed. We would still be able to edit the book to change from 2020-2021 to 2021-2022 and print a two year fair book for next year. The 2021 Fair dates would be August 25-29th, and the 2022 Fair dates would be August 24-28th.

Revisit Cancellation of 2020 Fair:

- Jim Braun from Flambeau hospital came to the meeting to address the Covid-19 issues and holding the fair. He reported Covid-19 cases are higher than ever with Wisconsin currently #8 with increase in cases. Hospitalizations are also increasing. He said we have been luck up north, but it only takes 1 party or get together to spread the virus. He stated Flambeau Hospital is doing 30-40 tests per week. He gave additional information and answered questions from board members such as Wisconsin is having trouble getting the agent that runs the test to allow tests in-house which would allow quicker results. Other states have higher numbers of swabs, death rates have leveled off and currently holding near the same as 3 months ago. People in the 20-40 age groups are showing the biggest increase in cases. The strength of Covid-19 depends on the health of the person contracting it, but underlying conditions, especially kidney disease issues result in very serious complications. He stated Marathon County currently has one of the highest spreads and Eau Claire, Oneida and Vilas counties are picking up. Other counties up north are currently low but it is only a matter of time. He also stated that antibody tests are currently not very accurate, and that there is one test group showing promising results in the search for a vaccine, but not likely before the end of this year. Greg Hughes asked about pre-screening equipment for the fair and if it would have to medical grade. Braun stated that he may be able to help with providing some equipment. Braun went on to say that he has been a supporter of the fair for many years and would hate to see it not be held, but in the interest of public safety, he must speak against it. He also added that because Flambeau Hospital is associated with the Marshfield Clinic Health System, that he cannot monetarily support the fair or the rodeo this year amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

- Jan Hardginski and Greg Hughes also brought up that there could be a lot of people coming from everywhere in the state. Large crowds came to the recent Kennan celebration and will likely come to the fair which will increase the chances of spread. Doug Kirby stated that he wouldn't feel right if we hold the fair and anyone gets covid or dies. It's just too hard to predict what could happen.
- Peter Dahlie tried to contact all of our main entertainment for this years fair and reached all but one. He said that all he contacted said that because of the circumstances, they would be willing to roll over any deposits and contract obligations to the 2021 fair if schedules work. He also found out that the 4H would not be allowed the sale of any foods that are not pre-packaged. They also cannot participate in 4-H groups, but could enter fair items into open class categories. He also stated that Covid-19 cases are increasing. Peter Dahlie entertained a motion to cancel the fair. Doug Kirby made a motion to cancel the 2020 Fair. Pat Vlach seconded the motion. Further comments were asked for before a vote. Denae Walcisak stated that there is a lot of work to get buildings ready. Pete Dahlie responded there is a huge amount of work to get things out of the open class building and would require a large crew and again reminded that the center stage is off limits for entertainment. He also stated that the Rodeo can still run as that is a separate agreement from the fair. Michelle Drobnik stated that Market Animal is governed by its own club and state rules. Per a zoom meeting she attended there might not be a sale here on the fairgrounds.
- The vote was put in motion to cancel the 2020 Fair. 6 members voted in favor of cancelling the 2020 Fair, and 2 members voted against cancelling the fair. Motion to cancel the 2020 Fair carries.

Committees

Advertising/Entertainment/Fundraising: Another sponsorship was received. Denae Walcisak will contact anyone who has sent sponsorships to the fair this year to see if they would like a refund or if they would like to roll their donation into next years 2021 fair.

Buildings & Grounds: Peter Dahlie said he has re-marked the camping spots between the Horse Barn/Arena and the Antiques 1 buildings to make them 25 feet wide per Fire Chief Jim Pisca. That will reduce the number of camping spots available in this area to 7 spots.

Commercial Vendors: Jan Hardginski reported that we received an application and payment from the Gyro vendor to come to the 2020. She will contact him to see if he would like a refund or hold over for the 2021.

Policy: N/A

Exhibits/Livestock: Michelle Drobnik report nothing to add since the fair is cancelled.

Finance: Amy Karpenske will contact our insurance agent to see if we are able to get a reduction in our policy premiums this year since we are not holding the 2020 fair.

Old Business: Peter Dahlie reported that Gary Bukouricz's missing ladder was found in the open class building. He has offered to pay the fair back for the new ladder we bought for him when reported missing. Amy Karpenske asked if people can still reserve the fairgrounds for their own private events. Peter Dahlie stated that if parties are willing to take their own responsibility and not hold the fair liable for any Covid-19 related issues, then he doesn't see why people can't reserve buildings for private events.

New Business: N/A

Next Meeting Date: Thursday July 23rd 5 p.m. at the Fair Grounds.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 6:19 p.m.