



A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to growing community through events like yours, and the Super Fair.

Our big spaces inside & out are open for socially-distanced events—contact us if we can help you with yours!



**Lancaster County Agricultural Society, Inc.  
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting  
MINUTES**

**Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 7:30pm**

Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds

Lancaster Room (enter Pavilion 1 Business Center)

410084<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln NE 68507

1. Call the meeting to order--proof of due notice of meeting in Lincoln Journal Star & open meeting rules present in meeting room
  - *The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:32 p.m.*
2. Roll call
  - Present
    - Kendra Ronnau
    - Karen Rutt
    - John Cooper
    - Ron Suing
    - Bryce Doeschot
    - Lynn Hagan
    - Tom Messick
  - Absent
    - Jennifer Cusick-Rawlinson
    - Ron Dowding
3. Approval of minutes: May 20, 2021 regular meeting
  - *Rutt moved to approve minutes from the regular board meeting on May 20. Hagan seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously on a 7-0 vote.*
4. May Financial report and approval of checks—Martin
  - Balance sheet
    - Actual numbers were used for tax receipts; there were no estimates used

like there were last month.

- The cost of goods was higher than usual for May due to purchasing shavings for June horse shows, but are still in line.
- Most notes still remain for repairs/maintenance as well as raw materials (i.e. asphalt, doors, clay, etc.) for arena.
- A negative class correcting entry was noted for the purchase of the food truck last month.
- Profit-loss statement
  - Numbers are still positive; Martin and Dickerson are working to reclass items that are being charged to the Event Center class and actually support year-round operation including Super Fair and NHSFR into Building/Facility Admin (i.e. core team members would keep even if had to close temporarily).
  - Martin said next month's statement will look unusual as a result of this initiative, but it will be the most useful system for being able to easily see P&L by correct class of operation.
- *Suing moved to approve the May 2021 balance sheet and profit-loss statements. Messick seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously on a vote of 7-0.*
- Jennifer Cusick-Rawlinson (came in at 7:51 p.m.)
- Checks for the month of May 2021 were \$225,433.98.
- *Hagan moved to approve checks in the amount of \$225,433.98 for the month of May 2021. Suing seconded, and the motion passed unanimously on a vote of 7-0 with Cusick-Rawlinson voting while Messick stepped out of the room briefly during the discussion about checks, so he abstained from the vote.*

#### 5. Accounting Staff Addition—Martin

- Martin told the board that Jodi Gates was recently hired full-time to supplement Loretta Yerger's part-time work. Jodi will focus on accounts receivables and making sure they do not age. She has experience in the construction industry as well as working for the state (including the Department of Labor). She has extensive accounting and public service experience. She is a great addition to the team.

#### 6. Officer & Committee reports

- President (Ronnau), Vice President (Dowding), Secretary (Cooper), Treasurer (Rutt)
- Committee Reports as relevant: Personnel Listening (Ronnau), Fund Development (Cusick-Rawlinson), Strategic Planning (Cusick-Rawlinson), Premium Auction (Ronnau), Grievance (Cooper), **NHSFR Rodeo (Ronnau)**
  - Ronnau: The Cornhusker Classic Quarter Horse Show was not as big as previous years due to show losing its futurity partner. Show-goers were still satisfied with it. The event served as a "dry run" for staff in preparation of the rodeo.
  - Dowding was absent. Rutt and Cooper had nothing to report.

- NHSFR Rodeo Committee: The final rodeo prep is coming together nicely; facilities are being prepped and upcoming changes have been handled well. Board members were encouraged to reach out to organizations they are a part of to help with the rodeo, especially RV rentals. Excitement is in the air around the county in anticipation of the rodeo.
- 7. Rodeo and fair health operating guidelines approved (Dickerson)
  - Restrictions are lifting, but staff and visitors are encouraged to continue practicing mask-wearing, social distancing, and other COVID-19 safety measures when possible (especially if they are not vaccinated).
- 8. Extension Report / Communications (Wobig)
  - Trudy Pedley will be helping out with open class events.
  - Suing detailed how he has helped out with the 4-H kids' rocket program. Suing's family is also to be honored at the fair for their participation in helping out with 4-H statewide on multi-generational basis (four and counting).
  - Wobig and Pedley visited the Albion 4-H facility to help with an entrepreneurship program there and said it was a major success that they had a great time participating in.
  - The LEC office has a printed catalog for open class static exhibits for those who do not have access to a computer.
  - The District 4-H horse show turned out well, although numbers were not as high as they have been previously.
- 9. 2021 Fair Update (Dickerson)
  - Detailed flyer schedule
    - The flyer will be distributed to board members via email right now as it was not available for this meeting. It will also be shown in-person at the next board meeting. The flyer is much more detailed with more pictures. The flyer and tickets are on-track to be distributed by July 1<sup>st</sup> to the fair gate six locations by our courier partner along with two fair posters. Overall, preparations for the fair are going well.
  - Board member availability
    - The list of what each board member is responsible for will be reviewed at the next board meeting. Board members will do their best to be flexible and fill in as needed.
- 10. Operations Director Report (Rook)
  - Things are progressing well overall in terms of summer preparations/reopening.
  - The Announcer's Stand will be ready for final inspection once the electrical components are moved and for the Ticket Booth when the stairs are built.
  - Electrical wiring is being wrapped up in the Ticket Booth in preparation for final inspection.
  - Fences and signs are to be finished up within the next couple of weeks.

- New outdoor arenas are being prepped in preparation for the rodeo.
- Final cleaning/setup will be underway for the rodeo soon; it has been delayed until after the Cornhusker Classic Quarter Horse Show.
- Fence reflective clips are ordered as recommended by LFR on north ditch fences; tanks and reflectors are to be installed at the end of the month.
- 1/3 of water tanks have been installed in the livestock pens just today by Maintenance Manager Jake Rhoades
- A portable welder is now available for use on the fairgrounds. Will first be used to install ladder guards on the new campground electrical towers.
- An affordable temporary wireless system is planned for implementation on the national campground using FMCA's system and consultant. It is to be installed on July 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> and will take a couple of days to install.

#### 11. Business Development Report (Kraeger)

- NHSFR Expo vendor numbers are about the same compared to May 2021 (including incoming and outgoing vendors).
- The Expo sales gap to revenue budget has been reduced by 50% with new expo vendor apps coming in daily. With four weeks left anticipate being close to goal when include vendor facility services that weren't in the original budget before rodeo moves in.
- Potential vendors are being encouraged to get applications in as soon as possible.
- Interns will be making calls to local businesses and encourage them to be involved in the rodeo with ads and Welcome to Lincoln Day. One intern took the initiative to organize this closing approach which is experiencing good success past week and also helping businesses be aware to be ready for the influx of rodeo business.
- CLC (community learning centers) at LPS have been asked about prices to bus kids to the rodeo and Kraeger researched cost of about \$1 to provide snacks for them. Foster families, who are more under-served than CLC kids, may also be invited who would bring their own kids if CLCs do not take all available morning performance tickets. Sponsors are being sought to underwrite these costs including for \$10 tickets which will support the rodeo costs & scholarships and are tickets often not sold for daytime perfs.
- LEC is close to its fair sponsorship goal.

#### 12. Managing Director Report (Dickerson)

- Dickerson handed out NHSFR staff, volunteer, and board roles
- Volunteer numbers are about the same as they were last year this far out from the fair.
- LEC is working to recruit volunteers from the Shrine Circus, Car Swap Meet or other show promoters to increase volunteer numbers.
- Board members were encouraged to act as hosts for rodeo state teams if interested. LEC seeking 49 volunteer couples/families to answer questions for each team

before they arrive and while in Lincoln.

- Forms and payments are coming in for trade shows, ticketing, etc.

13. Other Business

- Martin: a training certification process for ops and guest services was established which contains a step-by-step chart with varying levels of tasks (i.e. beginner, intermediate, and expert) for training employees to be more well-rounded.
- This initiative makes pay more skill-based rather than tenure-based and team members will be asked to take initiative to drive the pace of their own development with master level team members, supervisors and managers who can sign off on their level of performance.

14. Communication from the public (5-minute limit per person)

- No communication from public occurred.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Nebraska Ag Expo RFP status

- *Hagan moved to go into the Executive Session. Suing seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously on a 8-0 vote.*
- *The Executive Session began at 9:36 p.m.*
- *Doeschot moved to come out of the Executive Session. Cusick-Rawlinson seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously on a 8-0 vote.*

16. Adjournment

- *Cusick-Rawlinson moved to adjourn the meeting. Doeschot seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously on a 8-0 vote.*
- *The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 p.m.*

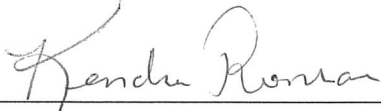
**Next meeting: July 8, 2021 at 7:30 PM \*\*Please note this is a date change\*\***

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

Submitted by the

LANCASTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA



\_\_\_\_\_  
President Kendra Ronnau



\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary John Cooper