**FAIR BOARD MEETING**

**DATE: Tuesday, November 19, 2019**

**TIME: 5:30 pm**

**LOCATION: BLG 4**

**ATTENDEES:**

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| 🞏 **Jeff Wade, Chair**  🞏 Michael Everts  🞏 Ann Marie Moran  🞏 Kelton Jensen | 🞏 **Brenda York, Vice Chair**  🞏 K.C. McLaughlin  🞏 Tawnya Dykstra  🞏 Scott MacFarlane (Commission Liaison) |

**AGENDA:** *(subject to change at the discretion of the Board)*

***Time Topic Presenter***

**5:30 pm 1.0 Welcome** Jeff Wade

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

1.2 Call for Attendance **– Commissioner, Wade, Everts, Moran, Jensen**

1.3 Review & Approval of Minutes for October 15, 2019 –**No quorum**

**2.0 Call for Public Comment** Jeff Wade

**3.0 Presentation** Heather Demorest, GCHD

3.1 Tobacco Free Policy Draft

**The Health Dept did a survey during the fair- public asked if they would like to fair to be tobacco free. Over 80% said they would like it. All said they would attend if there were smoking areas. After consulting with coworkers decided to not propose a policy but would propose a tobacco free day. Could make it a family day with that day being tobacco free – provide signs, be available to answer questions. Provided handout with a plan and agreement to work together, not policy**. **Would ask people to comply. Their department is unable to staff a booth for 8 hours all fair long. Question to Dennis from Board member Moran – do vendors and carnival self-regulate? Answer – Yes. Chairperson Wade suggests a tobacco free zone such as food court or carnival – this for board approval at a later date. Heather would argue that this would effectively create tobacco free zones – feels that designating tobacco use areas is better. Wade disagrees because the free zones can be indicated on maps. Heather indicates that the Health Dept can assist with informing the public in media. Rachel provided her comments indicating that designating one day cast a negative perception on the other days. Rachel believes that the public would expect additional value for that day. Kelton asks about it being an education day instead of tobacco free day. Heather says signage wouldn’t have no smoking wording/graphics on it. Dennis asked if that activity could take place from a booth. Board member Moran voiced concern about opening up the opportunity for complaints for non-compliance and enforcement. Also said she would like to know the percentage of people who are smoking on the grounds during the fair – Heather agrees but indicated its hard to get. Health Dept does have community surveys but not on the fairgrounds during fair. Part of the goal of this day would be to gather this type of information. The day would not prohibit use but provide education for the attendees. Kelton feels – like Rachel – what the statistics are about whether tobacco use zones work. Heather says most people who use tobacco don’t want to break rules. Heather says she would like to survey the entire fair but cant staff that but would like to do the sampling. Board Member Everts agrees with Rachel and Jeff that one day might not be effective but that having tobacco free zones the entire fair would be better. Heather agrees that young attendees are more susceptible to impression and social norming, stats show that almost 49% of tobacco users want to quit so this would help them as well. Indicated that effectiveness valuation is based upon on how you define effectiveness. Chair Wade says that the board will review the agreement and advise Dennis on what they would like to see. Heather thanked the board for their input and time.**

**4.0** **Gallatin County Commission Report** Scott MacFarlane

**L&J Center vote didn’t pass. Commissioners will re-evaluate after the holidays to determine project advancement as the need still exists.**

**5.0 4H Report** Kelton Jensen

**Monday the presentations for the new agent will taking place at the Ag Center. Public is welcome**

**6.0 Financial Report** Rachel May

**Aging report provided- Low Country Trucking making payments. Misty Radue is making good on past due. $29 past due will be written off. Our tax rate went up 1% on rv rental income but the fair will not adjust rate to maintain margin.**

**7.0 Marketing/Sponsorship Report** Amanda Hartman

**Amanda introduced herself, presented background. Working on interim marketing and fair sponsorship.**

**8.0 Competitive/Office Report No report other than working with Amanda and county to fill open superintendent positions.**

**9.0 Operations Report**  Kole Kuntz

**Purchasing approved equipment – snow moving buckets, sweeper. Projects completed include streetlight improvements, heating system repairs, parking control, picnic tables, bike barricades, fence/cabling removed, installed manure bunkers. Still have two positions open – some candidates but no good fits yet.**

**10.0 Manager Report** Dennis Voeller

10.1 Fair – animals at Fair

**Advised the board that the commission directed staff to program to have animals during the weekend. Kelton indicated that Craig Carr will be contacting Dennis. Advised the board a stage in the Haynes is being developed- considering a bench press/dead competition. Motorsport programming on Sunday may include an American ninja feature – cost is prohibitive so researching options. Ashley Koenig has agreed to run the Barnyard Brawl – voiced concerns over some of the programming features- inquired about pig wrestling. Dennis is trying to find a pig wrestling act. Dennis has contacted Saddle and Harness Club for Saturday day and maintain one ranch rodeo performance. Dave Luebbe had contacted Dennis about building a tennis/fitness center on grounds. Board member Moran asked about location – Dennis indicated that tentatively he would suggest by SAR. Working Surface Treatment project in submittal to COB. Advised the board of those whose terms are expiring – Brenda, Kelton, Jeff. County sends letters to those individuals to confirm their wishes. Attended RMAF – good sessions on animal welfare. Presented recommended updates to board for their approval to General Lease, Building Clean Up, General and Rental, Camping Reservation Policy. Board has no changes. Visit with carnival was good – made very clear that changes were required. Question on whether we can vote on Admission Fee for Concerts business item was needed this time – Dennis says yes. Board Member Moran asked how we know that charging for show to upgrade talent level will work – Dennis gave examples of Sydney Montana and Boise Idaho. This change would triple our budget approximately. Moran asked what our risk was – Dennis says the budget was based on a half house sold, which would cover expenses. Dennis advised that this would be part of the strategy to become operationally self-sufficient so the millage from the county can be used to fund a bond to build a new facility. Ticket range would vary depending on cost of talent. Existing ticket fees in our market area range from $25 - $160. Board member Moran wants to upgrade the entertainment at the fair – her fear is that we’ve been doing this for free and getting half full arena. Dennis response is that free works for awhile but generally people will pay to see quality talent. Rachel provided overview of the draft admission program which includes general admission standing and seating, reserved seating and pit. Board member Jensen voiced concern over people who come with family and can’t afford to buy concert admission and food. Dennis thinks there will some adjustments to the fair attending public schedule. Chair Wade directed staff to do a doodle poll to determine a good time for a teleconference meeting to hold a one item agenda meeting to hold a vote. Dennis is directed to present to the board what staff is asking for in advance so the board can review. Chair Wade asked that the board be on the look out for the emails and commit to the special meeting.**

**11.0 Business Items** Jeff Wade

11.1 Vote on admission fee for concerts **– delayed to special meeting due to no quorum**

11.2 General Lease, Building Clean Up, General and Rental, Camping Reservation Policy Review and Approval – **no vote necessary, no changes recommended by board in attendance**

11.2 Other **– Chair called for a special board meeting for either Nov 25 or 26 by telephone.**

11.3 Confirm next board meeting – December 17 2019 **– Chair confirmed.**

**6:55PM 12.0 Adjournment** Jeff Wade