

The Brown County Fair Board meeting was held in the basement of the Brown County Courthouse on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026. President Nancy Radke called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

Fair board members present included: Aaron Dosh, Dylan Frey, Joel Green, Dwight Guthmiller, Nicole Hansen, Kevin Heinrich, Samantha Hockenbrock, Trevor Meintz, Katie Moulsoff, Brody Mueller Eric Pigors, Nancy Radke Alley Shelton, Dan Stevens, Rhonda Retzlaff, Payton Carda, Terry Nash, and Jeff Swingler.

Also present were Commissioner's Duane Sutton and Drew Dennert.

Office staff members Rachel Kipley, Mackenzie Bierman, Sarah Hartje, Misty Dosch and Becca Tullar.

Nicole Hacker joined telephonically.

Excused members included Conald Burgard, Joyce Voeller and Jeff Kipley.

Visitors were Mckenzie Hasbrook Miss Brown County Fair and Greg Markley with Fair Foundation.

Miss Brown County Fair awarded to be Mckenzie Hasbrook. A motion was made to approve Mckenzie Hasbrook as the Miss Brown County Fair by Alley Shelton. Seconded by Terry. Approved.

Trevor motioned approval of the February minutes, the motion was seconded by Dan. Approved

Joel moved to approve the Treasurer's Report which was seconded by Rhonda. Approved

The communications folder was sent around for all to view

### **Foundation Report:**

Greg Markley was in attendance and said that they met last Wednesday morning. There is no deadline for the VIP parking spots; they have 30 to sell and have already sold 2. All but two of the Parking Lot Signs left to sell; they will also be auctioning 2 signs at the Hall of Fame Banquet. They are looking for volunteers to help work the bull riding classic in April. If you are interested in

volunteering, please let him know. All the money raised will be going to the new 4-H building. They will be having Raffle Boards, Wine Wall, Duck Pond and silent auction at the Hall of Fame.

#### **Commissioner's Report:**

Commissioner Dennert noted the Wind Ordinance passed unanimously. March 2<sup>nd</sup> limits on roads went into place. May & June will be budget hearings.

**4-H Report:** Becca Tullar talked about the 4-H Gala which is September 10th, will be held in the Expo building. The goal of the Gala is to show the need for a new building. 4-H shooting sports are currently going on with kids qualifying for state shoot in April. She has hosted 2 YLL training sessions with 2 more options for kids to attend before the deadline in May. 4-H fruit sale was a huge success. The Bull Riding Classic will be held in April with the proceeds going to the new 4-H building.

#### **Fair & Park Manager's Report:**

Rachel Kipley was in New Orleans last month for the National Farmers Union Convention. She stressed the importance of partnerships with other organizations; for instance, Farmers Union upgraded the Poultry Barn into the Farmers Union Ag Education Expo and staffs it all Fair Week. She thanked everyone for attending the You Make the Difference Tour event; board members are encouraged to sign up for the weekly emails. She's working on hiring seasonal positions including mowers, cleaners, bartenders, and interns. Job descriptions are in the communication folder. Campers and boats will come out of storage April 7-9 and campgrounds tentatively open April 15, weather pending.

Annexation officially occurs April 1. Working on finalizing entertainment contracts. Rachel reviewed the BCFF Hall of Fame Banquet Ticket Policy, which was also in communications. Still looking for gate monitors & Wednesday Clubhouse help. Master Gardeners will maintain Marquis & B Entrances flower beds, as well as, Larry's bed and barrels. "250 Years of Gardening" with seeds of

historical value – Martha Washinton’s herb garden with signage to explain what herbs and uses in Larry’s bed. Thanks, Becca, 4-H will oversee Gate D and Stu Swenson will oversee Amy’s Bed.

Crafted Interiors donated 10 more cedar picnic tables, pallet of water, and use of their 6-seat golfcart for Fair Week. Office staff will be at Zone 4 in St. Cloud Sunday - Tuesday, March 15-17.

#### **Fair & Park Assistant Manager’s Report:**

Mackenzie said that ticket sales started on Monday are going well. Camping contracts are due back March 31<sup>st</sup>. She is currently working on the Livestock and Open Class book and is going to print in May. She is on the Heartland Committee and looking for ideas for presentations for this year's convention. She attended the equalization meeting and was able to secure a donation for the new 4-H building. She presented Dylan with a pair of Justin cowboy boots that he won for being chosen as the Rodeo chairman of the year.

#### **Fair & Parks Event Coordinator Report:**

Sarah reported that vendor contracts were due March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Not coming back this year for concessions are All About Bacon, Wild Sides and Dip n Dots. We have 13 open booths inside and 8 open spots outside. Sarah reported that she has been busy with the Comp Ex committee and they had a meeting last month. For fairgrounds Home Builders were in the Expo this past weekend and Liebeilts is currently setting up for their show.

#### **Fair & 4 H Administrative Assistant:**

Misty reported that she has been busy helping coordinate with the 4-H fruit sale and wrapping that up. She has been busy calling and sending out Livestock sponsorship contracts with a few still needing to get back to her. She will be starting judging contracts soon for the livestock shows. The Friends of the Fair volunteer invite post cards for the Hall of Fame banquet have gone out with 13 so far RSVPing. Board tickets will be \$30. We have finished up selling parking lot signs. Sign Up Genius is ready to go and will be available

April 11<sup>th</sup> at the Hall of Fame Baquet. Also finished up helping with the You Make the Difference Tour.

### **Junior Fair Board:**

Dwight shared that Kevin has been working on creating a scholarship for the Junior Fair Board. Kevin reported that he would like to start a scholarship and see how it goes even if it's small. He is hoping to start it at \$250.00 and see how it grows. The hope is to inspire our youth to join the Junior Fair Board and give back to the community. He is working on fine tuning the details and will report back on that in the future.

### **Advertising /Marketing:**

Brody reported all concert announcements are out. We are needing to form a booster squad to grow our online following. Starting April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7am every weekday, we need a group of people to go on Facebook and love our posts, comment and share. We are planning to post daily through the end of June. One contract for approval from the DRG Media Group, they are the Radio out of Pierre for \$2400. A motion made by Brody to go with the DRG Media Group, seconded by Dwight. Approved.

### **Building & Grounds:**

Trevor reported that we've got a contract to approve from Radio One to do our radios for the week of the fair, with everything the same as last year for \$2400.00. A motion was made by Trevor to go with Radio One for 2026, seconded by Rhonda. Approved. We are needing to schedule a time in April after Dwight orders the metal to fix the stage.

### **Camping:**

Joel reported that the contracts are starting to come in.

### **Carnival & Vendors:**

Aaron reminded everyone that Conald was taking donations for the Fair Board to purchase a parking lot sign. Discussion was held on if

they were going to purchase a parking lot sign or purchase a bench that they could have forever verses and Sign that would only be good for 3 years. It was decided to table the discussion until the next meeting.

### **Competitive Exhibits:**

The committee met at the Fair Office on February 26<sup>th</sup> , we discussed presenters for the building most have been confirmed, just need to confirm three more time slots Sarah confirmed the Anthem Oats and King Arthur contest and need to still secure sponsorship for Diptastic and Fabric Challenge contest. Alley was able to secure sponsorship with Circle K for the People's Choice Contests. The committee has decided to follow 4 H in changing the exhibit judging from Monday of the fair to the day before which is Sunday and this should help alleviate some of the traffic issues Monday and free up board and staff to help deal with vendors on Monday. A motion was mad by Alley to move Competitive Exhibits check in from Monday to Sunday afternoon, seconded by Samantha. Approved.

### **Food:**

Dan is asking for some input on what kind of food everyone would like to have for meals for the workdays and during the fair.

### **Friends of the Fair:**

Rhonda reported that we have sent out 135 invites to the Hall of Fame Banquet is April 11<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm. We have had 13 rsvp back. We will be doing volunteer sign up at the Banquet with Sign Up Genius. We have 3 additional events scheduled for this summer to sign up volunteers.

### **Grandstand Events:**

Dwight reported that we have all our acts announced. Sunday will be Ranch Games.

### **Rodeo:**

Dan reported that we will have Mutton Busting from Jeff Howard. He will supply 35 sheep for August 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. The payment is 4 general admission 4 day concert passes, 4 general admission tickets to the Dakota Bank Stampede Rodeo each night Monday and Tuesday. A motion was made by Dan to accept Jeff Howard's Mutton Busting sponsorship. Seconded by Rhonda. Approved. Dwight will look for someone to sing the National Anthem.

### **Special Events:**

Katie reported that we will have Mogen's Heros, payment is \$2000, Vanesa Carpenter, payment is \$1000, Danica Michaels, payment is \$2000, and 1270's Band, payment is \$2400. Motioned made by Katie to have Mogens Hero, Liz Gregory Talent, Danica Michaels and 1270's Band. Seconded by Terry. Approved.

### **Clubhouse:**

Eric reported we still need Wednesday night volunteers. We need a group of 8 people they would get \$900 plus tips for the evening. We are also looking for an indoor food vendor for the clubhouse.

### **Old Business:**

None to discuss

### **New Business:**

Aaron has looked at a different stage for the Clubhouse that is over at Pierpont lake. Aberdeen Abatt would like to sell it to us for \$12,000, but we would like to offer between \$4,000 up to \$6,000 and we move it. A motion was made by Trevor to put in an initial offer of \$4,000, seconded by Dan. Approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

### **Announcements/Other:**

The next meeting is scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the basement of the courthouse.

Notes taken by Alley Shelton, Fair Board Secretary.