

Country Fair Steering Committee Minutes

Friday, January 13, 2006 Meeting

Present: Barney & Tara Sheridan, Buck Smith, Scot Meader, Tracy Charles, Charlie Deschamps, Lori Zeiser, Roger Christopher, Jim Dixon, Joey Hennes, Robin & Jim Miotke, Dale & Lucy Clouse, Jeri Delys, Bob Rommell, Jerry Marks, Lisa Mills & Colleen Terrazas

Committee Chair

Lisa asked Barney Sheridan to provide background and to chair the committee.

Background & Goals

Barney explained that the Fair is receiving tremendous pressure from all entities of the community wanting more space, in an area where space is limited. We want the Country Fair to be an attraction that will in turn sell gate tickets at the Fair. Just throwing up a sign calling the area "The Country Fair" is not good enough. He requested that Scot get him an aerial photo of the fairgrounds.

Goals: we need to figure out how to make the best decisions for the kids in 4-H/FFA while maintaining an attraction for the Western Montana Fair.

Barney explained he is not a believer in continuing to do something just because we have "always done it that way". He questions why animals arrive Monday and Tuesday and leave on Sunday when the judging process does not require animals to stay all week. Do market animals really need to be at the fair before Wednesday night? Is the fair schedule more about what is easy for parents to handle rather than what works for the kids.

Jerry Marks asked if the enclosed ice rink is off limits to animals. Scot said it would be occupied by commercial and educational booths.

Fair Duration

Buck Smith addressed the fact that many fairs are 10 days. He said the Fair Board is currently looking at that.

4-H/FFA & Open Class

Barney asked what the expectation is of this committee regarding cooperation between 4-H and Open Class. Is this committee supposed to plan for Open Class.? Charlie said that Open Class will be at the fair the same time as 4-H, so yes, this committee will address Open Class.

Jim Miotke reminded the committee that the fair book says that Open Class is welcome if there is room.

Gene McClure called in stating that the Country Fair's #1 goal should be Youth Exhibits. Everything else is considered if space is available.

Tara Sheridan asked about Open Class goats. Scot said it has not been decided if Open Class goats will come in for a one-day show or will stay the whole week. If it is a one-day show, he was told that 150 goats could show up. If they must stay all week, the maximum number will be 50. Tara mentioned that a dairy goat pen is 4x8 for one dairy goat.

Lisa stressed that we have a comprehensive Country Fair schedule that includes when 4-H/FFA and Open Class arrive and leave the fairgrounds, and when shows are. If Charlie Russell Riders will be housed on the Country Fair area, we want to include their schedule as well.

Map (Was distributed at the meeting.)

Lisa explained the various locations on the map. These are not to actual size

Purple ovals = show rings

Big red box = all beef without Long Horn Cattle

Grey = llamas

Violet = small animal barn

White = Quality Supply & Mountain West Coop

Pink = pigs

Black = sheep

Sliver of dark red = livestock sale trailer

Small white next to brown = petting zoo

Brown = goats & dairy

Small red (Butler Barn) = possibly Charlie Russell Riders or mini horses

* Grading, shading and path work will be required in the Country Fair.

Tent

The idea of setting up an enclosed tent (120x60) to house all beef except the Long Horns was discussed. We can rent for \$10,000 which would include set up, or we can purchase a refurbished/used tent for possibly \$15,000, and we would have to handle set up. It was proposed that we ask Montana Party Time to donate the set up time for the tent. Tara said she would make that connection.

Entrance & Exit

A gate on to South Avenue was discussed. It was decided to make the gate larger to accommodate traffic entering the fairgrounds on Russell and exiting on the Westside of the wellhead on to South Avenue.

Two Show Rings

Barney said with two show rings he could visualize a professional horse training demonstration and a professional beef showing demonstration which would draw a crowd.

Petty Zoo

A Petting Zoo was mentioned. Lisa suggested that Tara Sheridan be Superintendent with compensation and all the 4-H Cloverbud groups would run the petting zoo with Tara's supervision. *Lisa moved that we have a petting zoo at the 2006 Western Montana Fair and Tara Sheridan be the Superintendent. Scot seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Charlie said the Fair Board would finance it. Scot said it would be paid through a volunteer agreement.*

Avian Flu

Barney said he read that the Arizona State Fair was not going to allow poultry this year due to Avian Flu. Lisa said she will contact the State Veterinarian regarding impact of Avian Flu in Montana and seek advice for our fair.

Identify Goals

Everyone on the committee was asked to identify goals to be presented next week. We will meet weekly until we get a handle on this project. Barney said he will be out of town next Wednesday, so Roger will chair the meeting.

Tentative Schedule

Lisa will come up with a tentative schedule for the Country Fair portion of the fairbook to submit for our review. Lisa asked the committee to consider the Charlotte's Web theme in the Country Fair. A popular movie, called Charlotte's Web will be coming out in June at movie theaters. 4-H was a partner in the making of the movie.

The meeting adjourned at 1:19 pm.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, **January 18, 5:30 pm in the Extension Office conference room.**

To Do List for Next Meeting:

- Everyone comes in with a list of goals for the Country Fair.
- Scot provides Barney with an aerial view of the fairgrounds.
- Lisa will have a tentative "Country Fair" schedule available for our review.
- Scot will notify committee regarding the Open Class Goat schedule.
- Tara will report on tent set up communication with Montana Party Time.
- Lisa will report on Avian Flu.

Minutes submitted by: Colleen Terrazas