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**Missoula County Fair Event Committee**

Thursday, January 12th, at 10 a.m.

Fair Office, Building #12

Missoula County Fairgrounds

1101 South Avenue West, Missoula, MT 59801

DRAFT

**Committee Members**

1. Jim Sadler – Chair – present
2. Dave Bell – Vice Chair – present
3. Sarah Knobel – present
4. Brooke Martin - present
5. Campbell Barrett – present
6. Tonya Robert - present
7. Jane Kelly - present

**Meeting Minutes**

1. **Meeting commencement**
   1. Chair Jim Sadler called the meeting to order at 9:57 am
2. **Rollcall and introductions.**
   1. All committee members were in attendance. Jim Sadler, Brooke Martin, Tonya Robert, Sarah Knobel, Dave Bell, Jane Kelly, and Campbell Barrett were present. Staff included Billie Ayers, Fairgrounds Events and Operations Manager, Tenzin Lhaze, Design Coordinator, and Zanna Kortenhof, Events and Recreation Coordinator, and Allison Wilson, Outreach and Programming Specialist.
3. **Approval of agenda**
   1. Agenda approved as published.
4. **Public comment on items not on the agenda**
   1. None.
5. **Action items – Approval of minutes from July** 
   1. Jim Sadler made a motion to approve the minutes. Minutes passed with no objections.
6. **Discussion items**
7. Staff Introductions
   1. Ayers introduced Allison Wilson who has started as a new full-time employee. Wilson worked seasonally for the last two summers and is now here permanently.
8. 2023 Fair
   1. Entertainment Updates
      1. Ayers shared that she is hoping to have the bands selected by the end of the month. She added that Wilson, Kortenhof, and Lhaze are looking into different dance and demonstration groups.
      2. Kortenhof shared that Tony Furtado has been booked as Thursday night entertainment. She added that there are a number of artists that the music coordinator is speaking with, but nobody else has been signed yet.
      3. Ayers shared that the rodeo planning and Lords of Dirt is going well.
   2. Vendor Applications
      1. Kortenhof shared that concession vendor application will open in the next two weeks. Commercial vendor applications won’t open for another couple of months.
      2. Knobel, Kelly, and Martin shared that they would all like to be on the food selection committee.
   3. Volunteer Updates
      1. Ayers shared that the Quilters Guild has agreed to taking over the Commercial Vendors and exhibit pick-up and drop-off.
      2. Ayers shared that the Fairgrounds has applied for an Americorp team. If approved, Americorp would send a team of 8-10 volunteers for the month of the Fair. The Fairgrounds would have to house them.
   4. PRCA Rodeo Applications
      1. Ayers shared that she will not be adding any more money to the timed events.
   5. Pageant Update
      1. Ayers shared that there is a person who is interested in taking over the pageant. She will receive a larger stipend than most volunteers because she will need to attend several events throughout the year.
9. 2024 Fair
   1. Theme
      1. Ayers asked everyone to continue brainstorming themes for the Fair. Ayers added that so far, the general idea is “Red, White and Blue.” Red in 2024, white in 2025, and blue in 2026.
      2. Sadler shared that the flower show theme in 2023 will be “Designing the Future” and the rose show theme will be “Tribute to the Queen.”
      3. Sadler shared that we could consider Lewis and Clark or the Buffalo Soldiers.
      4. Martin suggested that MMIWG be a focus on the year that the color is red. Kelly suggested that Fire be the theme of the “Red” year. Lhaze mentioned that fire can be as regenerative as it can be destructive. Barrett mentioned that “Rocket’s Red Glare” could be a good theme for the “Red” year. Sadler mentioned that a lot of 50s cars were designed with rocket themes.
      5. Martin suggested that in 2024 we look forward (Rockets Red Glare), in 2025 we look back (potential ice age themed), and in 2026 we focus on the present (America 250). Lhaze added that in 2024 looking forward and projecting hopes and dreams for the future could be an element to the theme.
   2. Ayers shared that the Fairgrounds is in negotiations with a winter light show on the Carnival Lot. Ayers shared that to coincide with this winter light show the Fairgrounds will continue with a potential Winter Fair. The light show would assume the role at the winter fair that the carnival does at the Western Montana Fair. Ayers added that there will be a bar in Culinary.
   3. Martin asked if the winter light show will install an ice rink, and if so, mentioned that MCF staff should check in with Glacier Ice Rink. Martin mentioned that the “Skate with Santa” is one of Glacier Ice Rink’s major fundraisers.
   4. Wilson suggested that a portion of the potential light show ice rink goes to Glacier Ice Rink rather than the Fairgrounds to help ease the loss of skaters at Glacier Ice Rink.
10. 4-H update
    1. Barrett shared that the FFA kids competing in Denver won their conference (beating Texas).
    2. Barrett shared that he is working on a plan B since the Fairgrounds bond failed.
    3. Ayers shared that she was approached by a large donor who wants to step in and save the day since the bond failed. They would be a lead donor. If the donation goes through, half of the originally planned indoor arena would be constructed. The llama barn would also be moved over to the new site of the indoor arena. Ayers shared that this initial donor would cover a basic building with a fabric roof and then down the road more could be added to the building. Ayers shared that the biggest consideration for the initial build would be significant power and water upgrades to the site. The donor would like a projected plan by February.
11. Development update
    1. Arena and Grandstands
       1. Ayers shared that the Fair is still in discussion with a lead donor to build a new arena and grandstands. Ayers suggested that when the new arena is built, the rodeo theme could be “The Rodeo at the Bottom of the Lake.”
    2. Software Discussion (Ungerboeck and PlacerAI)
       1. Ayers shared that we looked into switching CRM software from Zoho to Ungerboeck.
       2. Ayers shared that Glacier Ice Rink and the Fairgrounds are planning to split a subscription to PlacerAI.
    3. **Adjournment**
       1. Next meeting will be Thursday, February 9that 10am in the Fair Office.
       2. Chair Jim Sadler adjourned the meeting at 10:43 am.