

PRICE COUNTY FAIR
Regular Meeting June 18, 2020
5 p.m. Price County Fairgrounds – Northwoods Building

Members present: Peter Dahlie, Michelle Drobnik, Amy Karpenske, Jan Hardginski, Sue Nordall, Wyatt Lebal, Pat Vlach, Brooke Lebal, Doug Kirby, Greg Hughes, Denae Walcisak

Absent/Excused: Jed Hallstrand, Hanna Eibergen

Others present: Anna Hansen with the Price County Review

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Peter Dahlie at 5:05 pm.

Minutes: Motion by Pat Vlach, seconded by Denae Walcisak to approve the minutes of June 9, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

Public Comments/Correspondence: There have been some comments from the public on our Face Book page, some good and some concerned about holding the fair.

Issues Raised at June 9 Meeting

- **Covid-19 Public Health Position** – Michelle Drobnik talked with the public health officer Michelle Edwards. She got a list of guidelines and recommendations on how to proceed. Public health is not against holding the fair if it can be done safely. All workers temps need to be taken every day and would be required to wear masks. Must have hand sanitizer around the grounds, frequent clean bathroom schedules, possibly different entry points to ease congestion. She also highly recommended through social media or other, to ask the public to wear face masks at the fair. We would not be required to make a contact name list, as there would be a public notice regarding attending the fair if there was an outbreak associated with the fair. The biggest obstacle will be social distancing. Another meeting will be held next month with the Public Health Officer.
- **Insurance Coverage Regarding Liability due to Covid-19** – Amy Karpenske spoke with our insurance agent. We have a \$1 million dollar per occurrence liability policy, capped at 2 million. Any outbreak of Covid-19 would add up quickly and our cap would run out quickly. The industry is currently unsure of legality/liability of proving how Covid-19 was contracted, and would represent us, but ultimately, the courts would decide liability.
- **Market Animal Sale Details** – Market animal may not be a live sale, and possibly an on-line sale only. We have to follow the charter rules. She is planning on setting up a meeting with Brian Schmidt.
- **4-H Participation at the Fair** - Michelle Drobnik stated that the State 4H has no conclusion yet for groups limit. The 4H dining hall and possible ideas having plexi-glass, outside serving window, and possibly no seating in the building were discussed.
- **K&M Contract for 2020 Fair** – K&M is willing to provide a new contract and reduced price for only 2 days of carnival. A new contract was requested.
- **Policy to Conduct Fair to Prevent Spread of Covid-19** – Peter Dahlie stated we need to develop a policy regarding how to conduct the fair safely. He also talked about what would happen at this point if we would cancel the fair. We may lose some deposits but would still have enough money to last until next year. He said the Carnival would not charge the fair if cancelled and would roll their contract over to next year. Sponsorships are also down, likely due to Covid-19 and the Rodeo taking up some of our normal sponsorship dollars. He argued that if we hold the fair and don't get adequate attendance, we could lose money. He still thinks the most safe and financially responsible decision is to cancel the fair. Other members discussed reasons why to hold and why not to hold. Doug Kirby made a motion to re-vote at the next meeting to revisit the decision to hold the fair. Pat Vlach

seconded the motion. Four votes were for the motion and four votes were against the motion. Peter Dahlie broke the tie. It will be discussed again at the next meeting.

Committees

Advertising/Entertainment/Fundraising – Denae Walcisak stated that there will be no butterfly exhibit because it would be too difficult for social distancing in close quarters. Mark Peterson can still do a display and also some science experiments. Sponsors will be contacted to see if they would like to sponsor other events. Sue Nordall asked about larger posters. Denae will try to get more information on larger poster costs. Posters will probably need to be finalized by mid to end of July.

Buildings & Grounds:

- **Winter Storage** – Pete Dahlie asked that someone take over organizing Winter Storage this year.

Commercial Vendors: Jan Hardginski will update a vendor letter and will start sending out this week to possible vendors for the fair.

Policy: N/A

Exhibits/Livestock: Michelle Drobnik report thoughts about having some animals in and out in one day because of the barn. Market animals would stay. She also talked with Amber for an experienced opinion and also discussed having judging on the non-event days of the fair. Still trying to figure out where to show, maybe behind the chapel. She will update at the next meeting.

Finance: Nothing changed since meeting last week.

Old Business:

- **Fair Person of the Year** – Peter Dahlie asked for nominations for the Fair Person of the Year. Michelle Drobnik motioned to nominate Peter Dahlie and Doug Kirby seconded the motion. Further nominations were made. Jan Hardginski nominated John Vlach. Doug Kirby nominated Deb Urbanic. A vote by ballot was taken, which resulted in a tie between 2 nominations. A 2nd vote taken which also resulted in a tie. Two absent members were phoned. Final vote was to choose Peter Dahlie as 2020 Fair Person of the Year.

New Business: Michelle Drobnik did a few radio station interviews, Rhinelander, Eau Claire and Ashland. She stated that she was comfortable that by following the CDC and Public Health guidelines and recommendations that we could hold the fair safely.

Next Meeting Date: Thursday July 2nd 5 p.m. at the Fair Grounds.

Meeting Adjourned at approximately 6:50 p.m.