

GILA COUNTY FAIR COMMITTEE MINUTES

Monday November 20, 2023 / 5:30pm
Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center

1. Call to Order: 5:35pm

2. Roll Call: Board members present: Hannah McDaniel, Frankie DalMolin, Julie Hazen, Sammi Jenkins

Visitors: Justen Ollendick, Melva DalMolin, James Menlove, Seneca Sullivan, Amber Martinez, Hannah Greenwall, Amber Bauer, Nick Smyers, Mollimae Griffin, Cody Simms.

3. APPROVAL of Minutes: Tabled

4. CHAIRPERSONS REPORT: Hannah McDaniel

- Gila County Fair wrap up meeting.
- Voted to table all new business paperwork to be adopted until a future meeting until it is corrected to reflect the entity name Gila County Fair, throughout. Julie motioned and Frankie seconded.
 - Bylaws
 - Fair Fundraising and Gift Acceptance Policies
 - Fair Investment Policy
 - Fair Leadership Checklist
 - Fair Retention and Destruction of Administrative Records
 - Fair Whistleblower Policy

5. CO-CHAIR/ ENTERTAINMENT:

- Entertainment at 2023 Fair was a success. Democross brought the biggest draw of spectators. The rodeo was a great success for participants. Bands went well. Carnival was good for small children. Ag Experience was a big hit, and we would love to grow it into something bigger for next year.

6. TREASURES REPORT:

- General Account \$94,543.93
- Livestock Account \$142,621.21

7. PR/MARKETING:

- Cody Simms is interested in helping us boost our media presence. Cody will work on a proposal for us to view his services and pricing. GCF Board would like to ask Lacy Loren Photography to hire on for more than just livestock photos next year and photograph other fair events throughout the whole weekend.

8. LIVESTOCK: Frankie DalMolin

- Livestock checks were sent November 8th by mail.
- Frankie reported pictures will be printed and sent to buyers.
- Rule updates will be up for review planning by January meeting.
- Need wired lights in goat/lamb barn and over the scale. (Gila County)
- Barn access at certain times needs to be limited to exhibitors and parents only and then closed to all at a certain time unless an emergency occurs. This is where more/private security comes into play.

9. ENTRIES/AWARDS: Sammi Jenkins

- Fair total entries 1331 for 2023.
- Purchased two new exhibit tables from the Copper Splash.

10. VENDORS: Julie Hazen:

- All vendor deposit checks have been returned/mailed. Reconciled with Julie & Angie Newbold during Fair.
- Changes need to be made to the 2024 Fair Vendor Application.

11. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

- Molli Griffin – On behalf of 4H extension and Renee: need to look at how GCF distributes wristbands for entry. Options for 2024 will be a combined effort for change between GCF, 4H Extension and FFA.
- Andy Bauer – Concerned with Democross promoter and feedback. People had concerns about how the promoter ran the event.
- James Menlove – Rodeo bathrooms are in places! Electrical assessment has been completed - 3 Phase electrical. Looking at the electrical to avoid having to rent so many light plants and generators. GCF explored the idea of crowd control and facility fencing. Mr. Menlove said he and the County would like to discuss the possibility of future permanent facility fencing for crowd control entry points. Congressionally directed spending and infrastructure improvements was submitted for new grandstands at the rodeo arena since they are non-compliant and outdated. Would like to also look at grandstand improvements. Justen O mentioned GCF needing to have an active shooter training in 2024. Hannah mentioned and would like to talk in the future to the county about hiring private security due to Sheriff's being shorthanded. Will send a survey for #1 priority for fairgrounds, i.e. updated to grandstands, rodeo arena, exhibit hall...etc.
- Melva DalMolin – Dog Department liked the covered livestock arena for their show and liked that they ran Wednesday. Good break on different goat classes for controlled numbers. Horse show was good. We need more Pins for the livestock pens. Need more fans in the pig barn. We need designated feeding times for barns and a Youth behavior discussion and tolerance – 4H & FFA.

- Sammi Jenkins - Elite Performance Dance Company performed at the fair as they do every year but in one of their performances Sammi had spectators' comment to her that they thought the performance was inappropriate due to the age of the performers and the insinuation of Gender Transition.

12. NEXT MEETING DATE: January 8, 2024, 5:30pm, Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center.

13. DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Nominated board members for 2024 for all positions. Nominations are as follows:
 - Chairperson – Hannah McDaniel
 - Co-Chairman – Justen Ollendick, Hannah Greenwall
 - Secretary/Treasurer – Jennifer Underwood, Mollimae Griffin, Amber Bauer, Hannah Greenwall
 - PR/Marketing – Nick Smyers, Seneca Sullivan
 - Entertainment – Andy Bauer, Lisa Foster
 - Livestock – Frankie DalMolin
 - Entries & Awards – Sammi Jenkins
 - Vendors – Julie Hazen, Justen Ollendick, Hannah Greenwall
- Positions will be voted on at the January meeting.

14. ADJOURNMENT: 8:30pm

