

Weld County Fair Board Meeting

July 27, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by President Aaron Helus in the Fair Board Room at the Island Grove Event Center, 501 North 14th Avenue, Greeley.

MEMBERS PRESENT: President Helus and Fair Board Members Isaia Aricayos, Tom Bledsoe, Lauren Dever, and Ken Vaughn. Board Member Christine Gabel arrived late, and a vacancy exists on the Fair Board.

EX-OFFICIO/STAFF PRESENT: Fair Coordinator Jenette Masarie, Extension Director Hannah Swanbom, and Fair Administrative Assistant Cheryl Aragon who recorded the Minutes.

FAIR ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES: Board Member Bledsoe reported that an exhibitor had requested approval to show a different horse on Sunday than what he placed in for safety reasons. Board Member Bledsoe stated that he was concerned about someone inexperienced handling that horse in a round robin and recommended that the exhibitor be allowed to substitute the horse for safety reasons as requested.

Board Member Vaughn moved, seconded by Board Member Bledsoe to allow this exhibitor to substitute his horse for safety reasons as requested. The motion carried: 5-0 (Gabel not yet arrived and one Board vacancy)

Board Member Aricayos questioned the verbiage in the Fair Rules related to substituting an animal and wondered about an amendment.

Vice President Helus stated that the Board has traditionally handled these types of requests on a case-by-case basis.

Board Member Bledsoe reported that the Royalty Queen fell off her horse during competition. He stated that she is doing well now, and that her family has declined medical assistance. She was asked to watch for dizziness, headaches, fainting, etc.

He also stated that vendors and campers are in place and that general problem solving is going on.

Board Member Gabel arrived at 1:17 p.m.

Board Member Dever reported that there are pen situations that are being worked through in the pig tent and offered up an idea that pens be sold or auctioned in the future to help solve some issues that are occurring. Another suggested offered was to assign pens on a first-in basis.

Fair Coordinator Masarie reported on the success with the Open Show and noted that everything there is going smoothly, and all are happy. She stated that there have been some issues with the Flower show and that many ideas for improvements have been shared.

Additionally, weigh ins are going well, vendors are arriving although one left unhappy with the lack of foot traffic, horse show going well and goats going well, as well.

Board Member Christine Gabel reported that as far as cattle goes, some concerns have been expressed about opening earlier than they were told to. She stated that numbers are up so space is tighter, but the frustration just appears to be about opening too soon. She also stated that the goat show is going well.

Director Swanbom spoke about allegations that a former Fair Board Member has been seen consuming alcohol at the horse show and in the Arena. She stated that consuming alcohol while in campers and rv's is a different matter than consuming it in public at 4-H events around kids and other members of the public. Discussion ensued amongst the Board about the Rules about alcohol and where they do and do not apply. It was suggested that Orozco Security or the Weld County Sheriff's Office approach the former Board Member to remind him of the Rules. Board Member Bledsoe was directed to ask Orozco Security to approach him and remind him about the Rules.

Board Member Gabel also asked that following the Fair, a conversation be had about talking with volunteer committees and their unacceptable behavior towards others.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Isaia Aricayos, Fair Board Secretary