

Weld County Fair Board Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 1:17 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, Christine Gabel, and Ken Vaughn. A vacancy exists on the Fair Board.

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

FAIR ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES: Security Committee Member Bridget Holcomb reported that Security is going and expressed concerns with Orozco Security not being as present as they should be for this event. They took an additional contract in Cheyenne, and as such, aren't as present and focused here. Given that, the Weld County Fair Security Team is trying to pick up the slack. She suggested that this issue be revisited after Fair.

She went on to state that a lot of people are running into jersey barriers and countless people going through the A-frames that are set up. She expressed gratitude for the Sheriff's Posse for helping to intervene and pick up some slack. She also made note of a dairy cow getting out of the barn and reminded the Board that Orozco Security does not seem to be doing all things agreed to.

Board Member Dever stated that it has been an eventful swine pen assignment situation which turned into a free-for-all. She said there is a lot of blame and attitude going around and reiterated the need to reconsider how pen assignments are handled.

Board Member Gabel stated that assignments should not be left to superintendents as that would not make it fair and equitable. She stated that while she did solicit ideas for a fix, she would not want to leave it up to them. The Board must have a strong hand in how this goes moving forward. It was noted that the Fair Office would take the heat in the past and that things do not seem to be consistent from specie to specie. A lottery approach would help make it fair and consistent.

Board Member Gabel and Committee Member Holcomb both expressed agreement that we have reached a point where the focus is not on the kids anymore and rudeness and disrespect are taking over. A lottery may take care of that.

Committee Member Holcomb reported that she has heard complaints about beef starting at 5:30 while others are later. Again, consistency would help with these issues and complaints.

She also stated that after shavings were watered in the dairy barn, some flooding occurred. Shavings should be allowed to go down and not watered until afterwards.

Fair Coordinator Masarie shared that the City of Greeley capped spickets without telling anyone associated with the Fair which has caused some issues with campers.

She also reported that the virtual poultry show created different and new timelines and tasks for various people and that the Poultry Superintendent's brother passed away right before Fair began. She noted that Virtual is a lot more work for all involved.

Board Member Gabel reported that drug testing is going very well with no issues. She mentioned the idea of researching and finding someone to come in and do carcass testing. Board Member Vaughn moved, seconded by Board Member Bledsoe authorizing the research to find someone to come in and do carcass testing. Motion carried: 6-0 (one Board vacancy)

President Helus reported that a goat exhibitor requested that her sister be allowed to show her goat after she rolled and broke her ankle. She has noted that she would be in the ring with her sister during the sale. Board member Bledso moved, seconded by Board Member Aricayos to allow the exhibitors sister show in the sale ring with the exhibitor in the ring with her. The motion carried: 6-0 (one Board vacancy)

Director Swanbom reported that things are going well despite some hiccups with Show Works. She also asked about protocol when someone id's an animal and it is determined that a horse is not fit for showmanship and how it works to select another horse.

Fair Coordinator Masarie stated that the animal has to be identified and vet checked. It was also noted that maybe another exhibitor who has already identified a horse for this show could be used. President Helus shared that he would like to talk with Debbie, the Chairperson, first about this.

The alcohol issue was brought up again, and it was clarified by Committee Member Holcomb that alcohol is specifically disallowed in the buildings but not specifically disallowed in the park. She stated that there is not a lot of clarity about this, but this issue needs to be revisited and some clarity reached.

Fair Administrative Assistant Aragon reported, after having managed liquor licensing for the City of Greeley for 31 years, that consuming alcohol in any public place is not allowed by Colorado State law and that the Greeley Police Department could be used as a resource in helping to address allegations of this occurring on the grounds of the Fair. She also noted that there may be some options in the future for identifying a designated alcohol beverage tent where alcohol could be controlled, contained, and safely served. This could also be a fundraising option should the Board decide to consider something like that.

There being no further business to come before the Fair Board, the meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Isaia Aricayos, Fair Board Secretary