

MINUTES OF MEETING

COMMITTEE Oneida County Fair Planning Team

PLACE: Curran Professional Park –Sally Latimer’s Conference Room
315 South Oneida Avenue, Rhinelander

DATE: Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Minutes:

Call to order and President’s announcements. Craig Mandli called the meeting to order approximately 5:30 p.m. The meeting was properly noticed and the facility is handicapped accessible.

Committee Members Present: Craig Mandli, Tina Werres, Bill Bell, Cindy Eckardt, Jenny Zier, Theresa Seabloom, Melanie Ostermann

Excused: Nancy Gehrig, Denise Rheaume-Brand.

Absent: Freda Waalkens.

***Tina asked me to remind committee members to advise Tina or Craig prior to the meeting that you won’t be there otherwise marked as absent.**

Others Present: Romelle Vandervest, Michelle Wich, Sue Glentz, Jim Lillis Representing Media

Approve agenda for today’s meeting Cindy Eckardt made the motion to approve the agenda with the order of agenda items at discretion of President. It was seconded by Jenny Zier. All ayes. Motion passed.

Approval of minutes of November 17, 2010: Motion made by Jenny Zier, to approve the minutes of November 17, with the correction of the date to be held as December 8. It was seconded by Cindy Eckardt. All ayes. Bill Bell abstained as absent previous meeting. Motion passed.

Prospective committee members. Michelle Wich was introduced to the committee was made by Tina Werres. She is the mother of Nellie Wich, who is the current Fairest of the Fair. Michelle is interested in joining the committee, and paperwork is being submitted to the Ag Committee. Because the meeting is being held prior to the Ag Committee meeting next week, we are still awaiting confirmation of Sue Glentz, Tom Peterson, and Leroy Eades..

Financial report and approval of expenses. A brief discussion was held regarding the request of a refund for vendor fees due to the loan of tables as needed for the 2010 fair. Cindy Eckardt made the motion the vendor fee be refunded. Jenny Zier seconded the motion. All ayes. Motion passed. No other expenses to be considered at this time.

Correspondence. Acknowledgement of Christmas cards received was made. A letter from the Chamber of Commerce will be read when we get to the Chamber vendor proposal.

Carnival negotiations. Chris is an over the road truck driver in the off-season, and unavailable to attend our meeting as we had hoped. Tina reported the phone negotiations had reached a stalemate. Chris wants a 2-year commitment from the committee, which the committee hesitates to commit. Tina said that she had spent a great deal of time calling other carnivals. At this time, there are no other choices available that have approval from the county lawyers or the Ag committee. Chris says he has another offer for the same date from people who will commit to two years, and suggested we consider changing our fair date if we do not want to make the commitment. He will accept the same contract as last year – the \$10,000.00 guarantee.

Negotiations for wristbands have not been settled. He said he is willing to pay us 20% of the sales from wristbands; however, this brought discussion that made it clear that more discussion is needed. More discussion is needed regarding who does the selling at the fair, if few want to presale under his terms, and what on-site wristbands meant since he still sell the tickets for the rides. Chris is also asking for exclusivity for his food wagons, and is offering \$25.00 per midway game his carnival provides, and that his carnival keep what revenue they earn. This would give the committee approximately \$200 in revenue.

There was also discussion regarding pony rides and wristbands. Apparently many fair attendants thought the pony rides were part of the wristband offer. They complained at the additional charge to ride a pony. It is important that we advertise the wristband will not include the pony rides, so that this issue will come up again.

Discussion was held among the committee members regarding the current negotiations with K & M Amusement. At this time, the members are willing to remain with a one-year commitment and continue to look for a different vendor next year. Included in the discussion was the issue of loyalty. Generally, the committee is willing to risk not having K & M for the carnival provider, and acknowledges it may be forced to change the date if Chris continues to insist on a two-year commitment. Because the date was changed from previous commitments, the committee is hesitant to change the date again. The date Chris is recommending is the last weekend in August or possibly in June. Neither date is acceptable.

Brief discussion was held that wording in the contract needed to make it clear there will be no smoking in the children play area period. It is posted in the park that there is a city ordinance against smoking near the children. Several carnival employees refused to comply. They threatened to strike, so the issue was postponed. This year we need to utilize stronger language regarding our expectations of the "no smoking" ordinance. The committee is also requesting no inflatable attractions be allowed at the next fair. There is still concern due to the broken leg at the inflatable attraction at last years fair.

Bill made the request before any contract is signed that both he and corporate council be allowed to review the contract. This was agreeable to all committee members.

Tina was asked to contact Chris and see if further negotiations were possible.

WI Assn. of Fairs Annual Convention/Fairest Basket Tina advised the accommodations were still set up as stated in the previous meeting. The fair has reserved two rooms for committee members, and an additional room the Wich family will pay for. The convention will be held January 9, 10, 11, 12, with the participants returning to Rhinelander on January 13.

The "fairest basket" needs to be ready by December 20. Participants involved in the basket are still working to build the value of the basket. Currently they are trying to put together three vacation packages that involve Oneida County. Included in each package will be an overnight stay for 2, lunch and dinner for 2, some sort of culture event for 2, a guided event (such as a fishing service, or a boat trip down the river – which could be considered as an amusement or entertainment option). Included will be a pair of Hodag Country Fest tickets, and hopefully a golf outing. Both Sally Latimer and Kim Swisher are finalizing the offerings that are to be included. Should the basket not be a popular item at the auction, the fair committee has been authorized to bid up to \$500 toward the basket.

Michelle Wich has expressed an interest to be the team leader for the Action Arena. . Cindy Eckardt will lead Animal Alley. Jenny Zier will represent the 4H concerns as well as participate in the planning of the fair event.

Chamber of Commerce Vendor Proposal. Kim Swisher sent an e-mail expressing her regret that she had a prior commitment and could not attend tonight's meeting. Tina shared that the new offer indicated a one-year commitment and a 50/50 split. The Chamber also wants assurance the electric bill problem has been cleared up. The committee shares the same concerns as the chamber. Bill Bell stated that the city has made a significant commitment to improve the electrical upgrades that should solve many of the problems we experienced at the 2010 fair. Tina said that Chris said his people could park their trailers over by the old hospital next year, and this too should relieve some of the strains that were experienced. Should there be

unexpected expenses it is hoped that they will be covered 50/50, however Bill Bell will not commit the city to further expenditure. Should the chamber take over the vendor situation they should restructure the fee for electricity. It is also suggested that someone be assigned to on site monitoring for compliance. This information will be shared with the chamber. Kim is waiting for her proposal to be accepted and \ passed by the chamber committee that is involved in the proposal. Hopefully we are working toward a mutually acceptable proposal and our efforts remain positive for all parties concerned.

Ponies at Fair next year. Discussion was held as we had received an offer from Ponies at Heaven to be our pony vendor next year. The committee discussed loyalty issues, and determined that the \$5 ride fee was normal and routine for this type of amusement. Most people believed the ponies were owned by the carnival, and this is not so. It is important that we advertise the ponies are **not** part of the wristband offering by the carnival so that people will not mistakenly assume the ponies are part of the offering, and this issue will **NOT** come up again.. With this in mind, the committee felt that Pete the Pony Man had provided us excellent service and we were pleased with his presentation and care of the animals. The committee unanimously agreed Pete should have the right of first refusal, It was suggested that we send a thank you to Ponies at Heaven, and advise them the same.

Possible OCF shirts for committee members Brief discussion was held regarding whether or not fair planning committee members should have tee shirts identifying them as such. - It seems that it might be a good way for people to know who to approach if they have any concerns. All requested the request that the shirt be 100% cotton. Generally, the tee shirt design was acceptable to most of the members; however, she will also investigate the polo or Henley styles as well. Tina will investigate this further and will report on possibilities at the next meeting

Gas Card. (Ref. June 10, 2010 meeting). This issue was tabled to the next meeting as considerable time had passed since the meeting began.

Date(s) of future meetings. The Fair Planning Committee meeting will meet **THURSDAY, January 20, 2011**. The meeting will be held **at the Curran Professional Building at 5:30 pm**. It will be held in the basement conference room unless indicated otherwise by a note on the entrance door.

In an effort to make our meetings on a more compatible basis with the Ag meetings, which usually meets the **SECOND MONDAY** of each month, we are going to make our meeting date the **FIRST THURSDAY** of each month. It is hoped this change will facilitate financial expenses to be paid on a more timely basis. The 15 minute delay in start time should encourage people who come from work.

Please note that the January 20 meeting will be held to report on the Wisconsin Fair Association convention that will be attended the previous week. The following meeting will be held **Thursday, February 3, 2011**.

Public Comment/Communications. There will be a 4H workshop held at Curran on December 8. It will cost \$2.00 for 4H members and \$4.00 for non-4H participants. The focus will be on Christmas stampings.

Items to be Included on next agenda. (** All agenda items assumed to be discussion/decision items.)

- Fair Negotiations
- Vendor Proposal with Chamber of Commerce
- Wisconsin Fair Association Convention Report
- Gas Card (Ref June 10, 2010 meeting)
- Tee Shirts for Fair Planning Committee
- Ponies at fair next year

Adjournment. Jenny Zier made the motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Craig Mandli. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Melanie Ostermann, Fair Secretary