

Ransom County 4-H

**SPRING COUNCIL MEETING**

April 18, 2016

**Attendees:** Council members **Pres.** Dan Bear, **Sec.** Judy Oland, **Leaders at Large:** Wylie Geyer and Kim Meyers, Brian Zimprich, Robbi Hopkins, and Deb Lee. Kristi Freeberg, Billie Jo McLeod, Dana Dagman, Jeff and Libbie Perleberg, Kelly Lyons, Jeff Lyons, Monte Spadgenske, Sara Lyons, and Karla Lyons.

The meeting was called to order by President Dan Bear.

The 4-H Pledge and Pledge of Allegiance were said.

The **Secretary's report** from the Fall 2015 meeting was read, Kim motioned to approve as read , 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wylie.

A **Treasurers report** was presented by Robbi, with written copies of financial and detailed Carnival reports given to all present. The report was accepted as presented as motioned and 2<sup>nd</sup>, by Kristi and Dana.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Carnival Review:** Discussion held after reviewing the comparison of 2015 & 2016 Carnival Income/expenses, games, and lunch booth handouts. The carnival made \$832 less than last year. The primary cause seemed to be decreased attendance. No real concrete reason identified.

**Western 4-H Camp:** The schedule for summer camps are available, and the earlier camps have been filling up. Several Ransom County kids have already signed up. Deb Lee is co-chairing a 'Junking' camp in August. All clubs are encouraged to discuss camp opportunities at your upcoming meetings. Deb again stressed that **the new buildings and renovations at camp are VERY nice!** Donations are being solicited for bunks/mattresses at camp..cost is \$1000.00 per bunk(top & bottom). Kim motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff and passed unanimously to have Ransom Cty Council donate \$500 toward bunks. Clubs are asked to **consider donations** toward this worthy cause also.

**Livestock and Equine Committee Recommendations:** A copy of their March 31st, 2016 minutes was given to everyone present. Brian reviewed/explained each recommendation as follows:

1. To move to a **(3) tier age division** for the entire Ransom County Fair for both Interview and Showmanship judging. The age groups would be **Junior (age 6-10), Intermediate (age 11-14), and Senior (age 15-18)**...based on 4-H age as of September 1, prior to the Fair. The horse events currently use this system, but ages will change slightly with this recommendation. The

Showmanship Round Robin would be open to only Intermediates and Seniors, as the committee felt Juniors are generally not ready to show other's livestock.

2. The Committee recommends continuing livestock interview judging like it was done in 2015. **One interview judge** was available for **each age group**, and judged **all species** of livestock for that exhibitor. If the age divisions are changed as recommended above, we will need (3) livestock interview judges this year.
3. To coincide with the (3) tier age splits, it is recommended that the age for **Kid & Calf classes** in beef and dairy (1101, 1102, 1103, 1201, and 1202) be changed to correspond with the junior division (**6 to 10 years old**). The 'names' of these classes would be renamed as 'junior calf classes'. Only juniors could exhibit in these classes.

Some discussion/clarification about above 3 recommendations was held (including that class #1104 was a typo, and would not be changed to a 'Junior only' division). After Wylie motioned, Jeff 2<sup>nd</sup>, all three recommendations passed with a vote of 8/0.

#### **Further suggestions for the 2016 fair:**

Include the exhibitor's **4-H age** on their check-in form, as well as the show program, helping workers on entry day and officials on show day verify kids are entered in the right classes.

Keep the **livestock show format** (all species), the same as last year (2015). 4-H first, FFA show 2<sup>nd</sup>, followed by the Open show. It was noted that the Open Division Show in 2015 had fewer participants than in prior years.

The livestock committee brought the **suggestion to the Fair Board**, that maybe they could change their **Livestock Open Show ribbon policy** to offer only one blue, and one red ribbon to indicate 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> in class, rather the Grand and Reserve currently given. The committee felt this was one way to avoid the inconsistency noted when a red ribbon animal in 4-H or FFA can receive Grand or Reserve in the Open Show.

**It was dually noted that the Fair Board discussed this issue at their last meeting and chose to keep their current ribbon policy.**

#### **Horse Show** committee recommendations:

1. Add a Costume Class and Egg & Spoon Class to the show. After lengthy discussion re: safety issues, increasing the length of the show, etc, Kristi asked that this **recommendation** be **withdrawn**.
2. **Move the Horse Interview Judging to Wednesday afternoon** (Fair entry day), at the same time other Interview Judging is taking place.

3. Start registration for the Horse Show at 8am, ending by 8:45am, so the show would start at 9am.
4. Use two stations to check-in contestants, allowing the show to start on time.  
(Karla motioned and Kristi 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve rec.2 thru 4) motion passed 8/0.
5. It was recommended to add a Walk/Trot Division to each of the horse riding events for all ages. If an exhibitor entered a Walk/Trot, they would be limited to only Walk/Trot for the entire show and no points would be given toward overall awards or qualifying for the State Show. Lengthy discussion resulted in Sara motioning to **add Walk/Trot division to Junior and Intermediate divisions of Western Pleasure, English Equitation and Hunt Seat**; and the exhibitor **could** enter other classes, but would be disqualified if they loped. Kristi 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, which passed with 8/0 vote.

**Other items discussed at the committee meeting in March included:**

1. Requesting a **Porta Potty** be stationed **near the Horse Arena** during the 4-H Horse Show. The fairboard should be contacted to see if this is possible.
2. Possibly charging **admission to the Horse Show**: for additional prizes or improvements to the arena.
3. **Farm visits** by Brian will again be done this summer. He will provide nutrition, animal health advice, etc to families, 4-Hers this way, rather than having more workshops.
4. **Red ribbons** excluding some from the Premium Sale. Any **changes made to policy must be voted on and passed at Fall Council Meetings** to go into effect for the fair the next August.
5. **Horse Arena** in need of new obstacles for shows. Interested persons should list items, estimated cost, and suggestions on how to cover the cost.
6. What interest is there in a **Tractor Driving Contest** during the fair?
7. **State Level Issues:**
  - A new Youth Livestock and Equine Specialist is being hired.
  - Work progressing on getting a Livestock Skill-A-Thon program going in ND. Resources should be available in the next couple months
  - Development of a Youth Livestock Quality Assurance program, with youth needing to be certified in this in order to participate at the 2017 State Fair.
  - Statewide Animal -ID Program

**Horse Classes:** Wednesdays at 6pm with Kristi Freeberg and Kristi Anderson.

**4-H Foundation:** Deb urged clubs and individuals to consider directing donations to: If a certain quota is met, the County 4-H Council will receive a kick-back donation of \$.

**4-H Extension Youth Conference:** Very worthwhile, kids can attend after completing the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Consider attending sooner than later, as kids' schedules seem to get busier the older they get.

**4-H Project Manuals:** Very nice **new** ones for **Flower Gardening, Needlepoint and Embroidery**

**County Ambassador Program:** Still do Salvation Army Bell Ringing, help with Day Camps and County Fair, and held a Fun Day last summer. Activities are somewhat limited by the kids busy schedules.

**Showcase Pizza Party Winner:** **Aliceton** Club; There was extremely good participation this year overall! Awards were displayed next to the exhibits, rather than giving out awards prior to the Carnival due to the chaos/noise.

**Healthy ND 4-H Club deadline:** July 1 (your club receives a prize just for turning in the form)

**Youth Gardening Workshop:** Brian is holding at the Courthouse this Saturday.

**Hippology:** **Brittany Johnson** won the State Senior Quizbowl w/ Stutman and Sargent County girls. They will be fundraising and **making plans to attend the National contest in Denver** in January.

With no further business, Pres. Dan Bear thanked the large group present for taking the time to be involved. The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Kim, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sara.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Oland, Council Secretary