

Marias Fair Board (SPECIAL) Meeting Minutes – June 17, 2020

Marias Fair Board held a special meeting June 17th 2020, 7:00 P.M at the Shelby Fire Hall, to discuss updates on the Coronavirus and vote on whether to move forward or wait till July 1st to vote on whether or not to hold grandstand events at fair or cancel the fair for this year do to health concerns. Present at the meeting: Lynda Fretheim (Vice President) Board members: Janet Hawks, Todd Howell, Chris Vermulm, Linnet Doane. Ramona Kinyon (Marias Fair Manager) Kim Woodring (TCEA) Adriane Good (PCEA) Toole County Commissioners: Don Hartwell and Mary Ann Harwood. Lindsey Habets (Website) Travis Clark (Citizen)

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Lynda Fretheim at 7:10 P.M as Andy Van Haur (President) was absent. With 5 board members present. Lynda called for the reading of the minutes from the June 3rd meeting Ramona stated that they were unavailable at this time. The reading of the minutes will be at the July 1st meeting. Lynda called to go around the room and have each member say how they feel about holding Fair. Ramona stated she would first like to have Blaire report on any updates from the state concerning the coronavirus. Don called Blaire and she reported via speaker phone to all present. She stated we are still in phase 2 with know idea when phase 3 would be implemented however due to the large uptick in cases since June 3rd she felt it would be awhile before phase 3.

Mary Ann reported she had contacted some other counties and the ones whose fairs are in July and August are canceling. Choteau has canceled their July 4th Rodeo. Lynda said to remember the commissioners will let us use the funding to improve the grounds for next year, and that cases are rising since the phase 2 opening. Don stated he is afraid of what outside people might bring in if we hold a large event.

Linnet stated she lives for the fair she loves everything about it, however it is about safety and most of the contestants are from other states or countries. She also said she is looking for a place in town where the school exhibits could be displayed and we would make sure they were judged, and everything had a ribbon on it.

Janet would like use to wait till July 1st to vote because that is what we had said at the June 3rd meeting however she understands why an earlier decision is called for.

Todd wants to move forward he hates to see us cancel but does not see how we can move forward and follow the state guide lines. He stated he does not feel we will be in phase 3 by July 1st or even by July 16th which is the fair date. He also was glad that 4-H can have the 4-H shows and sale and commended them for making this work.

Chris she stated she is in agreement with Todd, she would like to see us have a fair with all the grandstand events the inflatable food venders open class and everything however she does not think the state will be into phase 3 before fair which would make it unable to go on.

Adriane said the agents would rather the Fair Board made a decision now. They hate to see us wait till July 1st as it would make it easier for them and everyone involved to know sooner. They also have concerns about the amount of outsiders the grandstand events would bring in as from a 4-H agent point of view- the safety of the youth comes first. Kim reported they are working on activities to keep the

youth busy in the evenings and during times when there not busy with their animals or other projects. They are looking into having a drive-in movie type thing one night.

Ramona said she would work with the agents to make a bathroom schedule that worked for everyone. However, with the bathrooms needing to be cleaned every 2 hours they would be closed at night as neither her nor Julie would be able to stay up all night cleaning. Everyone camping at the fairgrounds would have their campers so this should not be a problem.

Lindsey, she hates to see us not at least have open class exhibits. This however would probably not be possible if the state is still in phase 2. She however stated she sees the point of view of the Fair Board and 4-H agents and understands why deciding sooner would be better.

Travis said he has no opinion either way on whether or not to have the fair, however if the board decides cancel it for this year it would be a good time to do some improvements to the grounds and use the capital improvement money that they received from the sale of land to CHS. He said it was not to be used until there was a plan in place as to what to use it for.

Mary Ann stated someone needs to make a motion of whether to cancel fair and put it up for vote. Linnet moved that we cancel Marias Fair for 2020 due to the covid-19 concerns. Todd seconded the motion. Lynda ask for any farther discussion, being none all present board members voted aye, motion passed. Being no other business, Janet moved to adjourn the meeting, Linnet seconded, all voted aye, meeting adjourned.

Ramona Kinyon

Marias Fair Manager