

Elbert County Fair Board

Minutes
September 22, 2014

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by President Ben Duke at the Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall. In attendance were: Ben Duke, Kristi Strachan, Russ Steen, JW Zion, Vicky Whitman, Ric Miller, Dan Carpenter, Pat Kelley, Trevor Smith, Sheila Kelley, Brad Henderson, Tami Schneider, Rod Sigmon, and Jill Duvall.

Approval of Agenda:

Agenda was approved by Trevor Smith and Kristi Strachan.

Approval of Minutes:

Trevor Smith's attendance at the August meeting was noted and a misspelled name was corrected. Minutes were approved as amended by Dan Carpenter and Pat Kelley.

Guests:

Mary Steen was in attendance.

Old Business:

- The unauthorized help/assistance to kids in barns was recognized as a difficult issue. We need to continually remind participants that they do the work and focus on "guiding" the kids. 4-H communications leading up to the fair will be utilized to convey this message as well as discussing this issue at carcass seminars. It is a difficult area to police and write specific rules about; in addition, we don't want to discourage families from participating.
- Animal weights: after discussion about finished weight depending on animal frame, lack of minimum weights at state fair, improving quality for buyers, kids making choices when they purchase their animals, and the comfort level of Fair Board members with weights....it was decided to keep all weights the same except for hogs for the 2015 fair. Hog weights will now be 230# minimum and 285# maximum. Dan Carpenter moved and JW Zion seconded this.
- Round Robin for dairy and llama discussion tabled until October.
- Open Class Superintendent and Security: Ben Duke will work with Sheila Kelley to send out emails soliciting individuals for these positions. Kyrei Zion indicated that the County may try to move the Open Classes to the Exhibit Building from the Fellowship Hall. All agreed that this would be a terrific move.
- Royalty program outline from Mary Louise Jacobson was discussed. Criteria were reviewed by the board. We will ask Mary Lou to add criteria for contestants to this outline. Ben Duke read a letter complimenting Mary Louise and the EC Royalty Program.

Extension/4-H Report:

Sheila Kelley reported that end of the year paperwork is being completed with clubs. Interviews for an additional extension agent have occurred. An offer for this position has been made; we are awaiting the CSU background check. 113 Elbert County projects went to state fair.

Fairgrounds Report:

Kyrei Zion stated that there is a possibility Open Classes will be relocated. There also may be less area in the ag building available next year. And according to the Master Plan, new restrooms will mean the rabbit barn will be coming down. We need to think about where to

relocate the rabbit barn. Ben Duke expressed appreciation for everyone's efforts during the fair; he singled out the County employees in particular.

New Business:

- Herdsmanship awards will be left up to the discretion of individual barns; not required.
- Vicky Whitman is still working on tentative schedule for the 2015 fair.
- Ben Duke will check with what the commissioners want in the annual report and prepare the report. Sheila Kelley will provide pictures.
- Election of fair board officers will take place at the October meeting.
- A discussion of the parade marshal and theme for the 2015 fair will be discussed in October.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Duvall
Secretary pro-tem