

**Elbert County Fair Board Minutes
November 18, 2024**

Present:

Tammi Schneider
Will White
Chris Carnahan
Garrett Miller
Ralph Hinton
Vicky Whitman

Ben Duke - Excused
Troy Kelty – Excused
Aaron Thieman - Excused
Amanda Love – Excused
Sheri Trehal – Excused
Trevor Smith – Excused
Dave Rook – Excused
Matt Summers - Excused

Kali Benson – Extension Director

Note: Although there were not seven fair board members present, there were six members and Kali as an ex-officio member can be counted to attain a quorum.

Guests:

2024 – 2025 Elbert County Fair Royalty
Mandy Brammer
Vicki Hutson
Lasie Zion – Elbert County Leaders’ Council
John Baker – Poultry Superintendent

Meeting was called to order by President, Tammi Schneider.

Agenda –Motion made by Will and seconded by Chris to approve agenda. Motion passed

October 20,2024 Minutes –Motion made by Vicky and seconded by Will to approve October 20, 2024, minutes.

Elbert County Fair Royalty:

The Royalty Court of Queen, Abigail Cabrerra, Princess, Mya Noe, Junior Princess Ava gave an extensive report on their activities since the county fair and their future plans. They attended the Colorado Association of Fair and Shows. They won an award for best display table and best photo. Other activities included reading at the Elizabeth Nursing Home, Kiowa Schools; and Elbert Schools. They also attended various Homecoming parades and helped with Trick or Treat. Future plans include the Parker Parade, National Western Stock Show, and Valentine activities. They plan to attend an Elbert County Commissioner meeting. Coordinator Mandy Brammer spoke about the royalty program.

John Baker Poultry Superintendent:

John discussed with the board various issues surrounding the Poultry Program. The board extended its overwhelming gratitude for the over 20 years John has served as Superintendent. His knowledge: leadership, and skills with youth, have increased the program hugely over the years.

There were a large number of exhibits in the market poultry classes this year. There were around 110 market turkey animals with 16 classes. There were 28 poultry pens exhibited. John requested that there be a Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Market Turkey and a Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Market Poultry awards. Currently market turkeys and market poultry are combined in the selection of The Grand and Reserve overall market exhibit. With the numbers increasing, he felt those should be separated. Classes are divided by weights as are the other market livestock divisions. There was discussion around lower limits for numbers of entries. Discussion around various ways to do this. At this year's fair, there were over 300 birds shown overall. Check-in went well. Help from Trevor and Aaron was appreciated.

There will be a Youth Poultry Event in June and July. Vets will come from CSU for information sessions as to the care of the birds. It is rare for the fair to have to excuse any birds from the fairgrounds.

John expressed the need for more equipment. We have purchased cages in the last few years but are still borrowing several cages from El Paso County. There is also a need for better tables to exhibit the birds. There are 90 kids enrolled in the project. It would also be helpful for John to have an assistant or at least some administrative help.

Elbert County Extension; Kali Benson:

Kali reported there were two candidates in the final interviews for the other extension agent position. An offer has been extended to one of those candidates. It is hoped that the new agent could be on board in January.

It is time for enrollment for the 2024-2025 year. Re-enrollments must be completed by December 31st; new enrollments have until January 31st of 2025. With the number of expected re-enrollments and new county enrollments, Elbert County 4-H will not be accepting any new out-of-county 4-H applications this year. All fair board members are strongly encouraged to become an Elbert County 4-H Leader.

Senior Washington Focus applications are due on December 8th. There will be leader training on December 8th. There will be programs on new leaders and goal setting. There will be youth officer training. December 4th and 5th is the National Shooting Sports competition in Grand Island Nebraska.

An idea has been put forward to have a Volunteer Recognition program during the fair.

Master Gardner's program is going well. The new garden is wonderful.

Elbert County Fair Grounds:

In light of the recent snowstorm, Aaron from the Elbert County Office of Emergency Management is reviewing the current emergency management plan.

The board was deeply saddened by the death of Gary Woirhaye, the fairgrounds manager. Currently Matty Bond will serve as the interim fair grounds manager. The old small pavilion has been torn down. It is expected the new pavilion will be approved and built by year end. The pavilion will be doubled in size. There was discussion about the concrete under the pavilion. The county will probably not increase the size of the current concrete pad. Discussion around increasing that pad and getting funding to do so. Tammi expressed that she would like to see the pavilion named in honor of Gary.

Improvements are planned for the Ag and Exhibit Buildings. A new wash rack is being built at the beef barn. Fencing is being reworked behind the bleachers. A commercial kitchen will be installed in the Ag Building. There is no new information about the horse stalls.

Old Business:

Market Sale Committee:

Chairperson, Sheri Trehal had hoped to have seven on the committee, including herself. There were six applications received. Those were from Scott Maranville, Sue Link, Jake Sewald, John Hockaday, Lonnie Trehal, and Mindy Webb. Vicky made a motion and Ralph seconded to approve the six as sale committee members. The motion passed. Kirby Carpenter will help with marking for the sale. Members will serve a one-year term, with renewals as approved by the fair board.

The Elbert County Fair Foundation is being formed to support some fair programs. Members will be Ben Duke, president; Kristi Strachan, treasurer; Mindy Webb, Kali Benson, Tammi Schnider, Vicky Whitman, Sheri Trehal, and Joe Martel. It is expected that funds from and for the Elbert County Junior Market Sale and the Centennial Farm Banquet will be processed through this organization. They will meet at least four times per year, one hour before the fair board meeting.

Friends of the Fair will be donating their current funds for the Market Sale to this foundation. The Grange Building is also being donated. Money for sponsorships will still be run through the county unless the sponsor specifically requests that they go through the foundation.

Budget & Expenditures:

Suggestions were made to purchase new pens for the sheep barn. Would like to get larger pens with vertical rails. We would like to get eight new pens. The price for the pens is approximately \$2,640 per 4-pen section. The county has agreed to purchase eight pens. Vicky will talk to Friends of the Fair to see what funding we can get from them.

New Business:

Review and changes to the by-laws will be tabled. Will possibly change the number of fair board members to 11-15. Currently it is 15-19. The County Attorney has recommended that and increase the use of committees.

Scott Maranville has resigned from the board but will serve on the Market Sale Committee.

Members are asked to have suggestions for Parade Marshall and Parade Theme for next meeting.

Will made a motion and Vicky seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Next meeting will be on December 16th at 7:00.