

**Verde Valley Fair Association**  
**Board of Directors**  
**Meeting Minutes March 15, 2022**

5:30 p.m. - Regular meeting

In attendance: Vice President Paul Groseta, Treasurer Lewis Rice, Secretary David Mongini, Board member Steve Drake and Director Coleen Gilboy in addition, public Brian Bolton, Jessica Bolton, Holly Norris via phone, Kayla Niederer, Amy Brown, Dereck and others who did not sign in or we could not read.

Absent: President Pynne Johnson

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm

**Call to Public:** None

Financial moved to top of agenda for Amy Brown from Edward Jones could talk about options in investment.

A packet was handed out to the board – on page 3 is our goals for the investment account and page 7 is our investment vs fund balance. It is down from last year but on page 8 it shows our annualized return. The discussion was about putting more into the investment account and to create an investment policy. Taking \$250,000 and doing CD's in a ladder of 3, 6, 9 months. Mr. Mongini moved to take out of the checking account into the investment account \$250,000. Mr. Rice 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Additional discussion was on quarterly it would auto roll and any changes could be done by future boards. The vote was called an all in favor.

**Consent agenda** – Mr. Mongini made the Motion to Approve the January 18, Regular, January 18 Executive and February 15, Regular meeting. Mr. Groseta 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. No discussion – all in favor

**Chairman's Report** -Paul did not have anything to report on..

**Administration Report** - \*Office is busy – we have our 2<sup>nd</sup> office person on staff but this close to fair it is really crazy busy. \* Walmart made a \$250 donation via a gift card and a pallet of water we will pick up in April. \* Time off was presented for moving son back home, family reunion and a wedding.

**Financials** -ARPA money is here, discussion was on a one time purchase of a tractor. This agenda item is later in the meeting. Mr. Drake moved to approve the February 2022 financials. Mr. Mongini seconded the Motion. All in favor.

**Committee Report** –

**Livestock:** \* 752 Entries, 230 exhibitors, we have submitted the information for “Beyond the Ring” a National showing program that kids accumulate points for year end prizes – our Livestock committee has requested that Mrs. Holly Norris register us for this program. \* we have 31 roaster rabbits more than double any other year.

**Arena Report:** \* The youth rodeo has been moved from the Wednesday of fair, to the Saturday before so that kids do not have to choose between 2 events.

**RV Camping Spots** – Mr. Mongini will have an update at next meeting . Spoke with Joe Link from SWI.

**Rentals** –\* A request has been made to have a benefit in commercial for a longtime Verde Valley Resident for a cornhole tournament – discussion decided this would be a great event to have here at the fairgrounds at no expense to the organizers. \*Parking lot space North of Arena for “Art Exhibit – more information is needed at this time it would be \$500 per day, nothing after 10 pm. \* Hire someone to do rentals – currently Mrs. Gilboy is doing the rentals as well as administration of fair and facility – board would like other jobs assigned to this position

**Fair 2022** – Senior Day with City of Cottonwood shuttle is not going to happen, like everywhere else they do not have enough staff to add this. We would like information from Sedona Troll and Founding Fathers collective shuttle as options for people to ride the busy days of the fair. Other things is secure off-site parking at Riverfront park. Work with MRI to have an emergency evacuation plan.

## Old Business

- A) **Millings** - Longfellow excavating started March 1<sup>st</sup> and is completed
- B) **Steer Washing** – Longfellow excavating started after millings and is completed
- C) **Coolers on Boardroom** - Working with Verde Sol-Aire to get this project complete before fair.
- D) **Showworks Training** – A huge success – we had 12 fairs here for 2 days, they had hotel rooms and we worked from 9 am to 5 each day. Everyone felt it was a very informative event.

## New Business

- A) **Request for Benefit** - Discussion regarding this was in the Rentals item and we are approving this event
- B) **By-Law updates/changes/work session.** Before Memorial Day – after fair bring any updates, changes to the meeting so we can get this done before the next Executive Board election.
- C) **Drainage** – We were contacted by the City of Cottonwood regarding some drainage from our property to the new homes on Aspen Street – our Attorney has stated that since we have not moved any materials that we do not need to do anything at this time. This is the direction the board has asked staff to follow.
- D) **Photography Bid** – We received 1 bid – opened it in the meeting – it is for \$4,000. Mr. Mongini moved to accept the bid with 2 questions 1) it states 40 hours of on site photography, if it lasts longer, is she going to stay 2) will there be a place where the kids can download the photos for longer than 3 months.. Mr. Rice 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion with the answers to the 2 questions being yes. All in favor.
- E) **Staff Salaries** – There has been come compression in salaries – we do not do a COLA raise each year and staff salaries for those here 4 to 5 years are not much more than those coming in to work the fair. Staff requested that we look at the current salaries vs what the industry has seen. Mr. Drake made the motion to approve the salary increase for year around staff and another adjustment in June and Mr. Mongini 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion . All in favor.  
**Tractor Purchase** – We have received ARPA funds – a one time money. The grant can not be used for Capital Improvements but we can use the ARPA funds for the 2022 fair and take the funds we were going to use and buy a tractor and skid steer. Mr. Rice made the motion to spend up to \$70,000 for a tractor and a skid steer with implements. Mr. Mongini 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion = no more discussion – all in favor

## X. Future Agenda Items- New Fair Website

**Adjournment** – 8:01 pm Mr. Mongini made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Rice seconded the motion. No discussion. All in favor.