

Fair Board Special Meeting

Monday, January 31, 2022

Ouray County Event Center

Call to Order: 6:04pm

Attendees: Lee Tainter, Dale Earixson, Helene Discoe, Ashlee Briggs, Tate Rogers, Oakley Kelly, Willy Richardson, Jamie Goza , Jack Niece, Lynn Padgett – in person.

Bruce Norwood, Jill Norwood, Carolina Brown, Ben Tisdel, Erin Stadelman – via Zoom

Minutes: No previous minutes were discussed due to special meeting.

General Business: Lee announced the one topic up for discussion being the change in the fair date. Lee announces the challenges with having fair the days prior to the Labor Day weekend and possible reasons for keeping the same date.

- School start conflicts
- So much going on during Labor Day
- Ouray County fair is the same time as the State Fair, which the state strongly discourages
- Possible Rodeo conflicts
- Access to judges
- Thoughts for keeping it the same date involve tradition, Livestock weight, size issues

The week of August 9 – 13th. are open to use the fairgrounds and do not pose a conflict with other regional county fairs.

Jaime Goza stated all members can participate in general projects at state fair because the same rules do not apply that apply for livestock state fair participation. State Fair is generally 8/25-9/5. State fair entries are due by 8/12. Ouray members can bring their projects to Montrose County fair for judging then display at Ouray county fair. The goal of the extension office is to get more kids involved. 4H is the largest youth organization in the country. He explained how general project judging works and some ways smaller fair display projects.

Ben Tisdel reiterated the special meeting was about changing the fair date not the rodeo date. He stated the proposed date change works well and would like to see Ouray County projects be judged in Ouray County.

Erin Stadelman spoke as a parent informing about her children's participation in the Ouray County Fair. When they began their involvement, school did not have the early start date. When school moved their start date, it put a damper on her daughter's involvement because she was already in school and having to tend to her animals and miss school to participate in fair. She stated when her daughter was in fair and rodeo it was a lot for one family to do. As a business owner it would be nice to spread the fundraising for our local activities. Erin confirmed the fairgrounds are open 8/9-8/13

Citizen Willy Richardson spoke acknowledging the changing of the fair date makes sense.

Helene Discoe discussed the pros of having fair the same weekend as the Ridgway Rendezvous. H stated she would like the Ouray County youth members to be able to be represented at State Fair and have that opportunity.

Ashlee Briggs stated she acknowledges that people may be concerned about not having the rodeo and fair together. She stated if the fair is moved it allows the 4H club members to support and volunteer for the rodeo if desired and grow as a club separate from the rodeo. She stated she believes there is tons of opportunity we could tap into in our community to help with engage 4H youth with local artists and tradespeople.

Tate Rogers agreed moving the fair date makes sense and based his opinion on his own children's and family's historic involvement with the fair and rodeo throughout the years.

Bruce Norwood agreed the current date makes it difficult to find judges. And spoke about what they have done historically with having youth's general projects judged in Montrose and that they get more attention in Montrose.

Lynn Padgett stated she liked how the new board was working together and wanted the younger kids in our community to see what is available to them.

Motion made by Tate Rogers: To write a letter of recommendation from the Fair Board to the County Commissioners in favor of changing the fair date to the week of 8/9-8/13. Oakley Kelly seconded the motion. The entire Fair Board was in agreement.

Ashlee Briggs and Helene Discoe will script the letter of recommendation and get it to Erin Stadelman by 2/10.

Helene Discoe made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dale Earixson seconded.

Meeting adjourned 7pm