

**FORT ASSINIBOINE and DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dawn Fortin, Jennifer Christianson, Linda Renfert, James Aitken, Vernice Aitken, Lori Thompson, Kelsey Thompson, Dustin Williams, Jenni Williams, Danny Williams, Devin Williams, Jennifer Wood

IN ATTENDANCE: Penny Bohn, Secretary/Bookkeeper
Zach and Ashley Marcellus, FMM

CALL TO ORDER:

J. Christianson, President, called the regular meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

7.3 Preschool; 7.4 FMM Contract; 7.5 Woodlands Capital Operating Grant; 7.6 Insurance update were added to the agenda. K. Thompson moved and J. Wood seconded that the September 9, 2024 agenda be accepted with additions. CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

L. Renfert moved and J. Aitken seconded that the August 12, 2024 regular Board meeting minutes be accepted as presented. CARRIED.

BOOKKEEPER'S REPORT:

The Bookkeeper's August 31, 2024 report was reviewed. P. Bohn moved and V. Aitken seconded that the Bookkeepers August 31, 2024 report be accepted as presented. CARRIED.

FMM REPORT:

Ashley Marcellus presented the FMM report for August 31, 2024.

The weather was challenging for the Hoedown weekend. Working on getting the grounds back to good condition. *Suggestions: extend roadway from admission gate to old beer gardens to prevent muddy ruts and stuck vehicles. Hire an additional person for the extra tasks involved during Hoedown that is beyond the FMM duties.*

Arena Operator Course was completed August 27th. Trained on making the ice. Picked up hockey rink paint from White Ice.

New tasks: Winterize Walsh Park. Fixing doors throughout the hockey arena. Hoedown cleanup and prepping the arena for ice making.

Ideas: Glow in the dark lettering and lines. Coaldale Arena hosts a Christmas skate with black lighting and glow sticks with fluorescent paint in the ice. They receive much positive feedback. Costs: Black lighting rental, blacklight paint (orange for Pistols, green for Ranger and black outline). \$126.00/colour approximately \$500.00 and rope lighting.

***** L. Thompson moved and K. Thompson seconded that we purchase 2 colours (orange and green) and stencils to try this. CARRIED.*****

OLD BUISINESS: No old business

Chairman's Initials _____

Secretary/Bookkeeper's Initials _____

CORRESPONDENCE/E-MAILS:

Fire Department email: J. Christianson apologized for the letter that she sent to the Fire Department. It should have been addressed to Devin, not Sheldon. The letter came from her personally and not the Ag Society. The letter was strictly meant to gain information for future years planning for the Hoedown. She puts in a lot of hours into planning and only wants to improve each year. A. Marcellus noted that she would not like her name specified in correspondence stating that she designated the Fire Department section. She is both our FMM and a member of the department. As we were short on bleacher seating with full attendance on Saturday, we need to increase the number of bleachers for next year. Devin Williams spoke on behalf of the Fire Department. The department has voted that all members will pay for their entry into the Hoedown as they want to support the event. The designated bleacher was appreciated. The Fire Department will look into scheduling the event for the medics.

AAAS Convention: The convention will be held February 6 – 8, 2025. Registration is no open with early registration fees available. Let us know if you wish to sign up. Grants are available to reimburse fees.

NEW BUSINESS:

Events Coordinator J. Christianson has suggested that an events coordinator be hired. The position would entail planning for recreation programs such as swimming, Outdoor Ed, markets, Harvest Supper, some Hoedown planning, Skate with Santa as well as any future events organized. Jen does all of this now. A suggestion of \$250.00/month as an honorarium payment. Some months will be busier than others but should balance out.

******* J. Aitken moved and Devin Williams seconded that we hire an Events Coordinator at \$250.00/month as honorarium pay. CARRIED.*******

Casino Chairperson: J. Christianson would like to add a Casino Chairperson. This position would coordinate volunteers, get licenses for raffles and request authorization to spend casino funds. After a discussion, this was tabled until the October meeting.

Preschool: Jenni updated that the stage lighting was taken out of the Preschool room. She has requested that an electrician be hired to correct some of the wiring issues in the room. We will try to sell/give away the removed lights. A heat tape will need to be put on the water lines to prevent freezing this winter. The lines are completely exposed as the hole was not properly filled in after the washroom repairs last year. Zach and Ashley will get a quote for an electrician for these repairs. This expense can go into our capital operating grant with the County.

FMM Contract: Zach and Ashley have requested that their wage be increased from \$22.00/hour or \$3600.00/month to \$25.00-\$27.00/hour or \$4200.00-\$4400.00/month now that they have completed the ice making course. If paid a higher wage, ice making fees will then be included in their wage instead of added on top of the wage. Large rate increases like this will not be expected in the future. They pay WCB premiums from this amount. We can try to add a wage increase to the operating grant.

Chairman's Initials _____

Secretary/Bookkeeper's Initials _____

***** J. Christianson moved and L. Renfert seconded that we increase the FMM wage to \$4400.00/month and extend the contract until April 30th with a review being held at that time. CARRIED.*****

Woodlands Capital Operating Grant: This grant is due September 15th. We will request capital purchases needed such as radiant heaters, garage overhead doors, Rec Hall furnaces, Hockey Rink carpets (replace and move wall, add window), and dehumidifier. Will also look into adding a booster for cell reception. Jen and Penny will complete this. RME Grant (Zamboni garage) is due at the end of September and the UFA grant (electrical in the building) is due in October.

Insurance Update: The coverage is through RMA Insurance with the County. We should do an annual playground inspection for this. We are not covered for the gator, tractor, mower, Zamboni and sea cans on this policy. We are only covered for buildings and contents with a 25% subsidy. Jen will take care of this. Any rental agreements should state that renters are to get their own event insurance.

HOEDOWN:

Debrief: Should we tender for the stock contractor next year? Their fees have increased substantially the last 2 years with this year's increase being \$3000.00. Jen will put to tender ASAP.

The medic hired from Alexander Safety had been on the job for 1 week at the time of the Hoedown. After a request for treatment, a person with an abdominal injury was asked to seek help from the Fire Department medics and to walk across a muddy area to get there. Essentially, we are paying for inadequate coverage. The Fire Department will look into being able to take on EMR services for the Hoedown next year with a commitment of 1 vehicle and 2 people.

Left over liquor is available for purchase if anyone is interested. Any remaining unopened bottles/cases will be returned at the end of September.

T&L Aggregates has offered to donate a load of sand. Zach will request if they would instead donate 1 ½" gravel.

EVENTS:

Canadian Finals Rodeo: Jen will apply to get a code for us. Any people purchasing tickets with this code will raise money for the Ag Society.

Harvest Supper: will be held November 2nd. Legion has been booked and will do bar service. Entertainment is booked. A license will be acquired to raffle off the beer fridge that was not claimed at the Hoedown as well as a cornhole game raffle. We will advertise on Facebook and is already in The Express.

Winter Market: Need to set a date once we have the Journey to Bethlehem date and will book at the School.

ADJOURNMENT:

J. Christianson adjourned the September 9, 2024 meeting at 8:17 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary/Bookkeeper

Chairman's Initials _____

Secretary/Treasurer's Initials _____