

Three Forks Rodeo Arena Board of Directors

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, February 2, 2026

The meeting was held on this date at the City Hall, located at 206 Main Street, Three Forks, MT and was called to order at 5:35pm.

Present were Casey Elmore, Adam Miller, Ann Price, Mike Lane, Gene Townsend and Ryan Hamilton. Ryan Pestel was excused. Marketing Director Christina Kamps and Executive Secretary Crystal Turner were also present. Public present was Whitney Carr of the Three Forks Chamber of Commerce.

Financials & Approval of Minutes

Ryan Hamilton moved to approve the minutes as amended. Gene Townsend seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Crystal Turner read two claims to be paid to the Board to Northwestern Energy and the NRA \$500 sponsorship. Ryan Hamilton moved to approve the two bills. Gene Townsend seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Adam Miller reported the total cash is at \$312,746, with roughly \$6,000 in interest to earn that is not counted in that yet. The next CD terms out on 2/28/2026, then we have 10 days grace period if we want to make a decision at the next meeting.

Special Projects Nothing at this time.

Master Plan Bleacher wing - Adam reported there are three options provided. Option 2 has a staircase located on the north end, and Option 3 located on south end. Christina Kamps asked for clarification about the wheelchair accessible seats. Adam replied that Option 2 has them forward like our existing design. Adam said we could keep our existing ramp (dotted line across the bottom), with Options #1 and #3. "To make room, because that ramp takes up some of that flat part, they put handicap in the first two rows," he said. Christina said that narrows the walkway a bit. Either option adds additional VIP seating. We could omit the ramp and change it out for a staircase that could exit to the back beer garden area, and Option #3 Adam said he had them remove the new ramp. Option 1 and 3 seat 724, Option 2 seats 600.

There was a lot of discussion for each option, noting Option #1 has a big [wheelchair] ramp, which is expensive. Option #3 the would be seamless to the existing ramp. Could do a walkway [at top] and connect the existing VIP. Christina asked if there are any

drawings that show the arena fence. Options 1 and 3 leave about 15-20 feet from the existing arena fence. Adam thoughts (between Options 1 and 3 differences) - there is a little platform in Option 3 we could ask them to remove that but keep the stairs. He likes having the extra exit out the back. There would not be a ramp on the end, but there would be 2 sets of stairs on each end, one directing folks straight, and one back.

Pricing is roughly \$400,000 for each option, with design already 98% complete.

(Ann Price arrived at 5:52pm. Ryan H caught Ann up to speed on the bleacher proposals.)

Adam said, "We have \$90,000 in cash, we could ask the City for a \$310,000 loan. We know we can afford that payment. I recommend paying off the existing bleacher loan (\$149,000 still due). One of our CDs doesn't come up until June. Not counting any ticket sales prior to June, that would leave us with a little over \$100,000 in the bank." The Board tasked Adam to go back and get a final number, through Sourcewell. Adam to also talk with Kelly Smith about the possibility of overlapping InterCap loans while we pay off one and apply for a new one.

Adam said that he would like to keep the ball rolling. He will go back to the engineer to finalize the design. He will pursue with the plan the Board use \$100,000 of cash towards this project and ask the City Council to borrow up to \$325,000 (hopefully won't have to use that much). Gene Townsend said the Board needs to stress the safety of the existing bleachers. "Last year was pretty scary with the ones that broke while people were sitting on them," Gene added. Casey Elmore prefers Option #1 with the walkway connecting the top VIP areas, ditching the proposed extra ramp, and adding another set of stairs. He asked what seating capacity would be with these new bleachers and existing newer set, and the existing bleachers to the north? Adam replied it would be about 2900, and then the north ones would hold roughly another 250.

Casey and Adam will go before the City Council on 2/10/2026.

Gene Townsend made a motion to select Option 1 for presentation to the City Council and use the total project price of around \$425,000. Ryan Hamilton seconded the motion and noted we want to add a center staircase exiting to the back. Motion passed unanimously.

Rates - Crystal Turner reminded the Board it said we were losing money on some of the weekly barrel racing events with the Arena Manager having to be on site. She also reminded them last year the Board said to consider a youth rate. She clarified that the initial base rate is to have the arena groomed and ready, not to have Whobee there for four hours during the event. "The application's wording misrepresents him having to be

on site for 4 hours with that base rate,” she said. She recommended the Board increase the hourly grooming rate to \$50 vs \$25 and remove the “4 base hours” because that is misleading. Discussion on increasing the lights fee since the bill has been double this past month (with NorthWestern Energy rate increases). It was agreed to leave the light fee as is. Regarding youth rates, the Board did not opt to create an additional rate. If youth groups inquire, they may come before the Board and state their specific case/reasons for a reduced rate and the Board will consider them on a case-by-case basis.

Rodeo & Events

Board agreed to accept David Hollenback’s proposal to provide photography for the NRA rodeo. Crystal to inform David.

Ryan Hamilton worked on the Sanction Form for the NRA rodeo and Crystal to get it back to the Northern Rodeo office.

Board reviewed and agreed to Red Eye Rodeo’s cost. There was discussion on getting reimbursed by the MTHSRA. Ryan Hamilton and Casey Elmore are to speak to Debbie Lund about possible refunds.

Discussion on the Trick Riders’ show. Crystal Turner said they have emailed the Board interested in providing this service again. She asked if the Board wanted to switch up the “half time performance” or just go with the trick riders. The Board agreed this is a fun event for the crowd. Crystal to reach out to Audrey Snellman and Gracie Stolfus - and start the process to have them do the performance this year.

Internal Operations - no update.

Arena Operations - no update.

New Business - no update.

Other Items - no update.

The next meeting would be 3/2/2026. Adam will email if there is any difference on the bleacher before moving forward.

With no further business, Adam Miller moved to adjourn. Ryan Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:32pm.