

Three Forks Rodeo Arena Board of Directors

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, May 5, 2025

Our regular meeting was held on this date at Cook Shack, located at 95691 MT Hwy 2, Three Forks, MT at 5:35pm.

Present were Casey Elmore, Ann Price, Mike Lane, Adam Miller, Gene Townsend and Ryan Hamilton. Ryan Pestel was excused. Marketing Director Christina Kamps and Executive Secretary Crystal Turner were present. Emily Smith was present from Headwaters Food Bank.

Financials & Approval of Minutes

The minutes of April 7th were distributed via email prior to the meeting. Ryan Hamilton moved to approve the minutes. Ann Price and Gene Townsend seconded in unison. Motion passed.

Crystal reported there were only a few bills to be paid, but the Council doesn't meet for another week and any more that come in, she will enter to be paid. So far: Christina Kamps' monthly stipend and Northwestern Energy. Ann Price moved to pay the bills. Mike Lane seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Adam reported there is \$278,242 in cash and CD's. He recommended waiting until the June meeting to decide on the CD renewal since the meeting is before the renewal date.

Rodeo & Events

Emily Smith introduced herself and thanked the Board for allowing the Food Bank to use its freezer space during the rodeo off season. She said they have appreciated Family Night on Friday Rodeos in the past and hoped they could do it again this year. It has been a tradition now for 10 years! In 2024, Family Night raised 450 pounds of food. Emily said, "If one pound of food equals one child's ticket, you have donated hundreds of free tickets so we appreciate it." They are seeking foods for summer that are easy for kids to cook, "A lot of parents are at work during the day so in the summer we try to have easy stuff on hand like cereal, macaroni and cheese, canned meals, shelf milk, but we also always need canned veggies and fruits. We are building our spectators for the

future by allowing kids to come and enjoy rodeos.” Christina added that Family Night also helped the Rodeo where Friday nights’ attendance was usually down. Gene added, “It’s benefitted us both.” Emily said that the Food Bank feeds about 50 families a week, with roughly 35-pounds of food provided to each per visit. She offered help scan tickets at the gates since they will be there to handle food donations. It was suggested the Friday night child tickets were actually distributed to the family/kid at the time the food is donated rather than prior to or at the ticket window.

High School Rodeo Recap: Casey said we need more port-a-potties in the future, the event is just too well participated anymore. There was an accident in one of the potties which reduced its use for a whole day. There was a recommendation to move the potties on the east end to the beer garden/barn building area because the stock contractor or water truck usually blocks view of the potties.

We need to relay to the Ambulance Crew to not run lights or sirens unless there is an emergency - they had them on to move during the event and spooked a horse and it no longer would cooperate and allow its rider to participate. Crystal will email the Ambulance District.

Ryan Hamilton said the arena will need leveled before the NRA rodeo, and add some sand to the arena and warm up area (which for High School rodeo is used, but during the NRA rodeo it’s the food truck area). Crystal to relay to Whobee.

The old amp/PA system can go to surplus sale. Myrt Woosley would like it, but Crystal needs to do a surplus sale resolution and she is working with Public Works on some other equipment too. Crystal will keep Myrt in the loop so she can bid on it.

Sky Diver/Sky Dance with American Flag: these guys have bid \$4,500 to jump out of an airplane and bring the American Flag into the rodeo arena to start the event. The Board thinks this would be an awesome thing to do for the rodeo, but cannot justify spending that kind of money on a 3-minute event. Crystal will let Brian Naiman know.

Trick Riders: Crystal has the contracts prepared and has communicated to Gracie Stolfuss what type of insurance she needs to get. Ann Price moved to allow Casey to sign both contracts. Ryan Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

PA System: Adam demonstrated how to operate the PA system. Crystal said it has been being stored in City Hall but it’s very heavy and she does not want to have a renter come pick it up and have to carry it up the Crow’s Nest stairs (which are very steep). There was agreement to store it in the Cook Shack for now, until the Crow’s Nest door

could be reframed to support a deadbolt, then it will be stored in the Crow's Nest. Adam said it would be cool to order a headset for the clowns, they are wireless mics that bluetooth to the PA system. Ann Price moved to order the \$180 recommended wireless headset. Ryan Hamilton seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Adam will get Crystal the link so she can order it. There was more discussion about renting the equipment out, what the cost per day should be. Crystal to call around and find out what other arenas do. (Update 5/23/25 - last weekend the arena was rented and the PA used and someone manhandled it and broke wires. Since this incident it has been discussed to just provide its use to all, leaving it in the Crow's Nest held in place with a cable clamp and strapped to the wall, and increasing the deposit. Crystal has been working on better language in the arena use/application.)

Master Plan: Casey said that Northwestern Energy has hooked up the new power, so we will start getting a bill for that meter. He will continue to work with Public Works and Mike Helzer to pull the power to the Crow's Nest and to the vendor spots. There was discussion regarding how many hookups should be available, and if the "Rodeo Office" trailer should have a RV hookup. It was decided yes.

Gene Townsend moved to hire Ascent Technical again this year for the ATMs and internet onsite during the NRA rodeo. Ann Price seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Special Projects: Crystal is still working on the lease for the permanent ATM locations. She sent a draft to Adam to share with Ascent Technical.

Gene said that Global Net came out and tested the capability. They could provide a hot spot if we want to use their internet. Adam replied tha Ascent is working with Marty Lyon on additional internet capability for him to show the rodeo on the Cowboy Channel, but we do not need additional internet for our use or our patrons. Adam told Ascent that if Marty wants additional internet he will need to pay for any upgrades.

New Business

Nothing new has been heard about the car derby request.

The next meeting will be 6/2/2025 at 5:30 at the Cook Shack.

With no further business, Gene Townsend moved to adjourn. Mike Lane seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.