

Three Forks Rodeo Arena Board of Directors

Minutes of Meeting held Monday, August 4, 2025

Our regular meeting was held on this date at the Sacajawea, located at 5 N. Main Street, Three Forks, MT at was called to order at 5:44pm.

Present were Casey Elmore, Ann Price, Mike Lane, Adam Miller, Gene Townsend and Ryan Hamilton. Marketing Director Christina Kamps and Executive Secretary Crystal Turner were also present. Ryan Pestel was excused. Guest present was Carson Tribble.

Financials & Approval of Minutes

Casey asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes. Gene Townsend moved to approve the minutes of June 30th. Ann Price seconded the motion. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Crystal read the claims paid after rodeo and through 7/31/2025, which were paid to Lyons Group for the TV production at the rodeo, Jim Bryson for sand in the arena, Hoffman's Potty Princess, Ascent Technical, Cardinal, Care & Quality Spraying, reimbursement to Casey for lunch he paid for after Slack, Crystal for mileage, Denny DeLaitre for arena word, reimbursement to Gene for food purchased at Costco, Harrington, Invictus Security, Lehrkind's, Logan Landfill, Lehrkind's, Main Street Office, Mike's Custom Electrical, MMIA for a portion of the City's liability insurance, and to MMIA for the volunteer work comp coverage, Northwestern Energy, Sawdust & Steel, Stageline, the Ice House, TF Market, and Wheat Montana. Adam reported there is just under \$287,000 total in all the savings, checking and CD accounts. He said that expenditures in the fiscal year thus far were \$90,600. There was discussion on getting quotes for additional bleachers. Mike and Crystal explained to everyone that one board broke on the old wooden bleachers on Saturday rodeo night. Mike has since repaired it but they still need work. "None of the bleachers have any plastic covering to protect the wood. I replaced 20 boards a couple years ago, are all knotty and need replaced," Mike said. Gene will meet with Ahren Hastings to discuss him doing the engineering for two bleacher wing additions. Do not repair any bleachers until we know about new ones. Gene said he is working on two newer coolers for the Cook Shack (used) from Town

Pump who is willing to donate them. Crystal said the new general manager for the Three Forks Town Pump visited City Hall offering her contact info and that they'd love to help out the community; perhaps a sponsorship, other marketing, or even a grant from Town Pump could help with bleachers. Crystal will send both Gene and Christina the manager's contact information.

Rodeo & Events

Stock Contract ended this past July. We will need to put out a new Request for Proposals. Ryan Hamilton said there are three main stock contractors who work the NRA circuit in Montana. Jacob's Livestock remembered that Three Forks was to pay the clown and announcer on its own, but Crystal had a signed contract from Jacob's with them including it - so this year it was fine. Next time they want us to cover that. Crystal to review the old RFP and send to Ryan and Casey for review, then advertise. Crystal will put everything in the RFP that was in there last time and ask those submitting proposals to explain if there is anything they will not include and why. Mike asked how many rodeos Jacob's Livestock contracted. Casey and Ryan believed it to be one-third to one-half all NRA rodeos.

Casey said he has been approached by several groups on growing the contestant payouts. "We have the best attended rodeo in Montana, I want us to have the best cowboys and cowgirls too," he said. Christina said we have the revenue to add money to the pots. Ryan said Eureka adds \$3,000 to everything. Christina said, "We added \$2,000 to roughstock and \$1,500 on timed events. If we increase ticket prices by \$5, we could support \$3,000 added money." There was discussion regarding raising ticket prices. Some members said they understood we had not raised them in quite some time, but wanted to keep this a family-friendly event (that's why food prices were not raised for so many years). Christina said the Valley View Rodeo charged \$30 every week. She suggested keeping the kid tickets the same and raising the adult tickets by \$5 only. Adam asked what the redemption rate was. He found on Event Groove roughly 80% had scanned their tickets. He wondered what number of physical tickets were unused, and what the minimum to order was. Christina and Adam discussed a cut off/break point so we truly know how many online tickets to sell and physical tickets to purchase so when we actually are "out of tickets" we are truly sold out. The Board agreed for 2026 to raise the adult ticket price to \$25.00.

There was discussion on the new shirts for chute volunteers. Good feedback, want to get more and Crystal to work with Murdoch's to get thinner material, preferably same colors, two for each board member so they don't have to do laundry Friday night, and have the board members' shirts embroidered with "DIRECTOR" and not just the "Three Forks Rodeo Committee".

50/50 ticket sales were down. The sellers were quiet and only garnered about \$1500 each night. Crystal to relay to the two groups, and future groups, some suggestions.

Committee Reports

Master Plan: New electrical worked great for the vendors - there were no trips or loss of any power. Whobee Hughes had complained the water truck is taking a long time to fill up and perhaps the pump or well were dying (40-45 minutes for the 2200-gallon tank). Crystal to reach out to Red Tiger and have them do a pump/flow test. Crystal to look at how much bulk water the City has sold and see if the City should cover some of the pump (Northwestern Energy) bill.

Ryan said it is time to get some work done on the bucking chutes. Ryan also reported the fencing is too high, it's worked well for our volunteers but we should reach out to Sayers Fence to see if he can remove the top rung. Ryan will get a quote from Prefert and H&W to see what the bucking chutes would cost.

Bleacher Addition: Gene to meet with Ahren Hastings tomorrow.

Special Projects: Nothing at this time.

New Business

There was no new business.

The next meeting will be 10/6/2025 at 5:30 at the Cook Shack, warmer weather still permitting.

With no further business, Ryan Hamilton moved to adjourn. Mike Lane and Gene Townsend seconded in unison. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:16pm.