



**South Dakota State Fair Commission
Minutes**

October 20, 2020 • 1 PM
Nordby Exhibit Hall



1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Dusty Anderson called the meeting to order. The roll call was called, and a quorum was present.

Members present: Dusty Anderson, Tom Harmon, Scott Cordts, Amanda Stade, Denise Muntefering, Jamie White, Jo Beal, Sherman Gose, Erin Yost, Faron Wahl, Justin Bell and via conference call, Gary Sharp and Loren Noess.

Others present: Staff members Peggy Besch, Candi Briley, and Linda Traver.

2. **Agenda Additions/Changes:** None.
3. **Approval of September 3, 2020 Minutes:** Motion to approve was made by Beal, seconded by Yost; motion carried by roll call vote.
4. **Public Comment Period:** There were no public comments.
5. **2020 SD State Fair**
 - a. **Measurable Outcomes:** Members reviewed preliminary numbers including:
 - Nearly 1,600 competitive exhibitors participated in various open class livestock and non-livestock competitions, entering more than 8,300 exhibits
 - Nearly 800 Future Farmers of America (FFA) entries
 - More than 3,000 4-H livestock and static exhibit entries
 - Open class exhibitors took home more than \$92,000 in premiums
 - 10% increase in livestock exhibitors with a 16% overall increase in entries
 - Attendance was 107,992 (down 47%)
 - \$1.3 million spent on goods, beverages, specialty concessions, and carnival rides
 - 290 commercial exhibitors, concessionaires, and vendors showcased
 - b. **Wrap-up Notes, Comments & Observations:** Members briefly reviewed items compiled by staff on suggestions for improvements. Cordts suggested something be done to the Tap Haus to aid with acoustics, install fans to help move air around and better signage for the building.
6. **2021 SD State Fair**
 - a. **Theme:** Members were given a list of potential themes for consideration for the 2021 State Fair and were asked to vote for their top two. Once the theme is finalized, work will begin on designing the logo.
 - b. **Gate Admission:** Members discussed gate admission prices. After much discussion, Bell and Gose were appointed to work with Besch on a proposal to submit to SD Department of Ag for consideration. Also discussed camping fees making mention that several of the campsites were being sold for three times as much on secondary market (subletting).
 - c. **Superintendent Vacancies:** There are three vacant positions: Horticulture, Women's Building and Equestrian Superintendents.

7. **Maintenance & Repair Projects:** Besch reported on projects for 2021 including roof repairs, asphalt replacement on Independent Midway, dehumidification and HVAC updates to the Beef Complex, grandstand east wing renovations, dairy barn ventilation fans, and bathroom fixtures replacement.
8. **Commissioner or Manager Reports:** Several commissioners applauded the staff and other commissioners on the 2020 State Fair.
9. **Executive Session:** Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss contractual matters, was made by Harmon, seconded by Bell, motion carried by roll call vote.
10. **Next meeting:** Tentatively scheduled for November 17, 2020.
11. **Adjourn:** Motion by Yost, seconded by Muntefering, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried unanimously.