

Members meet at fairgrounds and assess cleanup for the fair

By Linda Schneider
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Cheyenne County Fair Board members met at the fairgrounds for the June meeting on Thursday. It was a good way to get an idea of what needs to be done before the fair's opening day on Aug. 5. Lacy Reed, treasurer, reported on the account balance of \$7,164 and the bills that are due. After bills were paid, she said, there would be \$6,083 in the account. The board agreed to pay bills.

Opening day is approaching and members needing to purchase items, need to sign the invoices clearly, she said. She continued that it would help her by not having to make many calls to locate the signer.

President Dick Bursch asked Mrs. Reed if the motel room for Manzini, one of the entertainers, had been paid for. She said it had.

With most of the events and repairs discussed, the members talked about a check list of details that are completed or need attention.

Jaraed Douthit reported Candance Douthit was finished with planting the pots that had been approved at the May meeting. She

had been approved for \$315 and the total bill was \$289. He told the members, the planted pots could be used for other events.

Mr. Bursch had several items to report including: the hog water is in, the property exchange deed has been signed by the county commissioners then to be signed by Butch Ewing, ice for the fair has been taken care of, and Bill Johnson and Pam Stevens have been hired to do the janitorial work.

Dick said he had roofed his own barn and had enough tin left over to put a green roof on the office building, if the board agreed. He scheduled June 18 to do the roofing.

He continued the check list by saying he had talked to the county concerning mowing the grounds and was told the airport had the mower for the week. He told them next week would be fine but the mowing would be done by June 11, if possible.

He said the weeds needed spraying. Mr. Douthit said he had sprayed the weeds just before the last rains and will have to go back to spray again.

Megan Downey said Peggy Moberly is scheduled to do some

painting on the fairgrounds and the champion sign.

Shade for fairgrounds

Francis O'Leary, St. Francis Lions Club member, presented a proposed shade area.

Mr. O'Leary said the club wants to donate an 18- by 30-foot carport and showed a picture of the carport.

Mr. Bursch, mentioned any structure built on the fairgrounds becomes county property. Mr. O'Leary said it would be donated.

They talked about where the carport would be built and the insurance needed. Dick asked Mr. O'Leary to walk around the fairgrounds and look for a likely spot following the meeting. No further discussion.

Goat pens

Gary Cooper, member, mentioned the fair was four pens short for goats and suggested having Greg Walz, welder, build them.

"Do we have any materials left?" Mr. Bursch asked.

John Finley told him materials would have to be purchased and agreed to talk to Mr. Walz.

Mrs. Reed said some of the pens are presently using baling wire to keep them closed, why not have Mr. Walz install latches? However, there was no further discussion.

Tables and chairs

Mr. Douthit and Mr. Cooper were approached by a group to anonymously purchase much-needed tables and chairs for the fair building.

The board discussed the numbers needed and decided to let the group make the purchase based on 10 to 15 tables and 25 to 50 chairs.

Advertisement budget

After some discussion about the advertisement budget, the board agreed \$3,000 was enough to get started. Motion carried and adding the advertising issue can be revisited if needed.

Mr. Douthit discussed the idea of the derby being a type of "Triple Crown" and it would need the advertising.

Next meeting

President Bursch suggested having the July meeting closer to the fair day and take into account the harvesting. Members agreed to have the meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 16, at the fairgrounds.



GETTING INVOLVED. Chuck and Diane Kribs (right), co-directors of the Cheyenne County Development Corporation, are getting community members to help with an asset inventory. (left) Mary Lampe, Carla Lampe and Ernie Keztner attend their meeting.

Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

Group plans to get businesses

By Casey McCormick

The Cheyenne County Development Corporation is working on a plan to attract more people and businesses to the area. This is beginning with an asset inventory of the county.

Chuck and Diane Kribs, co-directors of the organization, brought several community members together last Tues. evening at the Church of Christ in St. Francis to get their help with the project.

The first stage of the plan will have people going to local business-

es to have the owners or managers fill out a questionnaire. The information will be used to find out what the strengths of local stores and services and where help is needed to improve business.

Community members will also be canvassing neighborhoods to record what properties are vacant and who should be contacted to make them available.

After the data is gathered a promotional package will be put together.

Mr. Kribs described how the in-

formation will be used.

"Diane and I will use it in a "road show" in various locations, to attract new residents and businesses to Cheyenne County," said Mr. Kribs.

The Bird City asset inventory for housing has already been completed by Hal Sager. The business surveys for the eastern part of the county should be finished soon.

"We appreciate the efforts of the people here who are gathering the information needed to move forward," said Mr. Kribs.

City moves ahead with project plans

By Linda Schneider
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For several meetings, the city council has discussed cleaning up and repairing areas in Bird City. One of the areas talked about was the downtown area. It was during the June meeting plans to move ahead began.

Dana Daniels, Miller and Associates, brought before the council a slideshow for the council to see the different construction projects Miller and Associates have done.

He discussed the different problems and successes with each project. The council was able to ask questions about coding, construction and financing.

The target for the removal and replacement of sidewalk, curbs and gutters would be a four-block area consisting of Bressler Avenue and Bird Avenue corners and streets, extending to south to Fifth Street and north to Second Street. In addition, west to Cave Street and east to Demick Street.

To give an idea of what would be the best design for street, gutter and curb design, Mr. Daniels said it would be similar to First National Bank parking and sidewalks, with some modifications. The estimated cost for the proj-

ect would be between \$981,800 and \$1,100,100.

"How did those other communities finance their construction projects?" asked Mayor Troy Burr.

Mr. Daniels said that a couple of the cities did not meet the requirements to apply for grants and had to have business assessments, which would mean business contributions; however, his understanding was Bird City was eligible to apply for grants.

Discussion followed concerning what was necessary and what was not, such as street lighting in front of each business door.

Mr. Daniels was instructed by the city council to research what funding was available, talk to Amy Griffey and start the grant application process. No further discussion.

Club Clip

McDonald Area Development

The McDonald Area Development met on Wednesday, June 3, with eight members present. All reports were accepted as presented. Lois Morelock reported that the Highway 36 meeting will be held at the "It'll Do" in Atwood on June 11 and 12.

The date of the Ice Cream Social was set for July 12 at 7:30 p.m. Kay Miller needs help to get entertainment for the evening.

Ray Johnson will check with Mayor Norman Davis to see if he will again be the Master of Ceremonies. He will also check with Bruce Nickel to help set up the speakers and the ice cream machine. Lois also asked if anyone had chicken wire and posts to be put around the new trees planted at Highway 36 Park. Bill Schaff said that he had the wire. She said they also need to get some material to wrap the trunks of the trees to protect them from the rabbits.

Joan Tongish reported on the cost of preparing the north wall of the post office for the mural to be painted there. The cost will be \$930. Joan will donate \$500 and McDonald Area Development will pay the remainder from the Jubilee fund. Kay Miller will paint the mural with the help of Holly Louderbaugh, Connie Sabatka, and Betty Knapp. If they do it this summer, Jan Curtin's daughters can also help.

The meeting was adjourned until the July meeting at which time the final plans for the Ice Cream Social will be made.



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Cost-Share Funds Available

The Cheyenne County Conservation District will be accepting cost-share applications for conservation practices, June 8 - June 30, 2009 at the Conservation Office in St. Francis.

Conservation practices include: Terraces, Terrace Rebuilds, Diversions, Livestock Tanks, Wells and Pipelines, Cross-Fencing, Pumping Plant for Water Supply, Rangeland Seeding, Spring Developments, Windbreaks, (i.e. Trees, Fabric Weed Barrier, Drip Irrigation Systems), and Failing Septic System Replacement.

All applications will be reviewed and ranked by the Conservation District Board of Supervisors and funded according to priorities recommended by the Kansas Water Plan. Cost-share assistance rates are 50%-70%. Deadline to complete work is December 31, 2009.

Funding for the cost-share programs is provided by the State Conservation Commission through appropriations from the Kansas Water Plan and administered by the Cheyenne County Conservation District.

If you are interested, please contact our office located in the USDA Service Center on West Highway 36 in St. Francis or call 785-332-2341, ext. 101.

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Keep up the good work

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