

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
January 20, 2009

Attendance: Sheldon Ross, Boots Sheets, Chip Thomson, Tom Wright, Phil Terry, Tim Wood, Don Howard, Colleen Smith, Dan Huffman, Don Wolf, Hal Clase, John O'Brien, Larry Moreland, Jim Stimmel, Chip Hastings; Ex-officios: Laryssa Hook, Harold Wolford, Carolyn Riggle

Guest Comments: none

Chip Thomson moved the minutes from the December 16, 2008 meeting be approved as presented. Colleen Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried

Financial Report: Phil Terry explained the financial status remains the same as in December. He indicated that it appears we may receive \$13 – 14,000 from the state for cleanup cost incurred after Hurricane Ike. \$30 – 35,000 could come from FEMA. Our liability policy with Public Entities is also being reviewed. The premium runs close to \$30,000. Don Wolf moved the financial report be accepted as given. Larry Moreland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Administration Committee: Colleen Smith indicated she and Phil had met with the Health Department regarding the smoking violation imposed. The Fairboard will continue to dispute the violation. The lawsuit from Ballard Concessions over not offering them a contract in 2008 has been dismissed by the court.

Executive Committee: Kent Hastings has appointed John O'Brien as our delegate to the Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

Ag/Exhibits: Don Howard reported the 2009 fairbook has been added to the website. He reminded the board to encourage family patronage donations at \$25 and business donations at \$50. 4-H sale buyers will also be listed on the website to recognize their contribution to the 4-H program. Hal Clase explained the recommendation of the Steer Committee to terminate the Junior and Open Show Beef Breeding Class until it can be sanctioned. Currently, it is up against the Ohio State Fair Beef Breeding Show, which is the largest in the state and has limited participation here. Dan Huffman moved to accept the recommendation of the Steer Committee to eliminate the Junior and Open Show Beef Breeding classes at this time. Don Howard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Community Affairs: No Report. Kent Hastings reported that the Adopt a Garden Program has been assigned to the Community Affairs Committee.

Technology: No Report. The next meeting for this committee is January 29th at 7pm in the fair office.

Hospitality: No Report

Media/Advertising: No Report. Phil Terry indicated he has met with Gary Merrill of the Gazette. The same sponsorship/advertising arrangement as last year will be continued for 2009. Discussions included board members preparing articles on the different parts of fair operations for the Gazette.

Motorized Sports: No Report. A Lawn Mower Racing was aired on January 8th which was good promotion for that event.

Maintenance: Dan Huffman presented a cost-study he has done on water usage. Of our \$27,000 spent on water, he surmised 58% goes toward stabled horses, horse shows and Blooded Horse Sales. He has also been studying the other utilities. Discussion followed. The Gas and Diesel tanks are being locked every night for security and the grounds crews have started charting usage. Phil Terry has spreadsheets available on building repairs needed, with \$320,000 just for roofs.

Planning and Development: Phil Terry has the 90 page fair survey report done by OWU. The report is sorted 6 different ways.

Racing and Simulcast: Tom Wright explained the 3 year old and the Winbak payment status. He has reduced his ads to ½ page Black and White instead of the current full page color. He asked the board to remember Franklin Welker, currently in Delaware Court following back surgery; Dale Blackledge, who is home suffering from a brain tumor; and John Cross' son who is in a rehab facility following a stroke.

Phil Terry explained the discussions at OHHA regarding gambling at the tracks. A well-designed bill is expected on the Nov. 2009 ballot with Gov. Strickland's support. Discussion followed.

Security/Medical/Parking: No Report.

Special Events:

All Horse Parade: No Report.

Mayors Breakfast: No Report.

5-K Run: No Report.

Sponsorships: Phil has met with the Delaware Area Career Center who has been looking for another option for advertising thru the fair. They may be a Day Sponsor for Monday.

New Business: Phil Terry has applied for a grant for the Soil and Water Conservation Department which will add signage thru the new park on the fairgrounds. The grant comes from the Ohio Environmental and Educational Fund. If the grant is approved, The Soil and Water Conservation Department will handle the order and placement of the signs.

The next board retreat will be Saturday, January 31st from 10am to 2pm.

\$50 has been donated from the 4-H club, Won by One, for the Agricultural Hall of Fame. The use of the donation is not restrictive.

Dan Huffman pointed out the need for a permanent location for the "in memory of" headstones that have been placed around the fairgrounds. Discussion followed. Board was asked to present ideas at a later time.

Tim Wood and Larry Moreland reported on the good condition of the seats being donated by Germaine Amphitheatre. Discussion followed on the possibility of replacing the chairs in the box seats with the benches.

Tom Wood indicated the OFMA was a little chaotic with the tradeshow setup in the halls. The Governor and State Auditor showed up. Boots Sheets reported the meeting with the State Vet was 45 minutes and was a very informative. Sheldon Ross attended the Thursday mandatory meeting. 8 items were being recommended for the District to work on. One was the suggestion that fair's hire outside CPA's to do the audits instead of the State or have the ODA return to auditing the fairs.

Old Business: Hal Clase recommended inviting the new commissioners to a board meeting. Discussion followed. Carolyn Riggle expressed appreciation for moving the lights at the Euclid Gate.

It was moved by Hal Clase and seconded by Colleen Smith to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter dealing with compensation. All directors that were present moved “yes”. A motion and it unanimously agreed to come out of executive session. No decisions or votes were made in executive session.

Tom Wright made a motion that was seconded by Chip Thomson to approve Phil Terry as permanent fair manager and marketing director, effective on February 1, 2009 with a base salary of \$75,000.00 and an additional 10% net income from sponsorship revenue and 5% from “in kind” services to the fair after expenses and the deduction of the base salary.

A roll call vote was taken of those directors present as follows:

Hal Clase – Yes
Don Howard – Yes
John O’Brien – Yes
Sheldon Ross – Yes
Merlin Sheets – Yes
Colleen Smith – Yes
Jim Stimmel – Yes
Chip Thomson – Yes
Don Wolf – Yes
Tim Wood – Yes
Tom Wright – Yes

Larry Mooreland – No
Dan Huffman – No

Kent Hastings – Yes.

12 – Yes, 2- No. President Hastings announced that the motion carried.

Tom Wright made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Don Howard.

By Chip Hastings

Next meeting is February 17th, 2009.

Kent “Chip” Hastings, President

Phil Terry, Interim Fair Manager