

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 20, 2015

ATTENDANCE

Present – Jackie Colflesh, Dan Huffman, Don Howard, Brad Jolliff, Joe McLead, Larry Moreland, Al Myers, Pat Paykoff, Frank Reinhard, Carolyn Riggle, Aaron Roll, Tom Roll, Colleen Smith, Chip Thomson, T. Thomson, Diane Winters, Harold Wolford, Tom Wright and D.J. Young

Absent – P.J. Terry and Mark Wood

Ex-Officio – Laryssa Hook present

General Manager – Bill Lowe present

GUESTS

Phil Terry, Randy DeVault, Rex DeVault, McKinley Roll and Charles Miley

MINUTES

Al Myers moved and Harold Wolford seconded the minutes of the September 8th board meeting be approved as printed. The motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Chip Thomson asked board members to list 2 or 3 things that went exceptionally well for the 2015 fair and 2 or 3 things that did not go well and to submit them for the November 17th board meeting for the board to discuss.

Thomson discussed items that were voted on during the morning meetings during the fair. One was not to charge admission into the grandstand for the races on Monday. Another was not to pay Am Tote's bill until the dispute over Jug Day was resolved.

Next, Thomson appointed a nominating committee to propose a slate of officers for the upcoming board election. Harold Wolford was appointed chairman of the committee and Colleen Smith and Aaron Roll were also named to the committee. Thomson asked for volunteers to work the polls on November 10th. The following people were assigned: 6:30AM to 8:30AM D.J. Young, Chip Thomson and Bill Lowe; 1:00PM to 4:00PM Harold Wolford, Tom Roll and Jennifer McGowan; 4:00PM to 7:00PM Tom Wright, Colleen Smith and Don Howard.

Thomson reminded board members of the horse sale that will be held November 16th thru the 19th and how that will affect the entrance gates on the day of the regular November board meeting. He also reminded board members to be sure to purchase their membership for the new membership year once Jennifer has the paperwork completed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Bill Lowe reported on the recent unexpected passing of former board member Robert Whiteside. Lowe announced that the board needed to approve the requesting of fair funds from the Ohio Department of Agriculture. Tom Roll so moved and Colleen Smith seconded. The motion carried.

Lowe then brought up the huge number of golf carts on the grounds during the fair, particularly on Jug Day and how he felt it was a safety issue and the board needs to make some changes to the golf cart policy. A discussion then followed on the number of dogs on the grounds during the fair. Lowe also discussed the issue of thank you notes from Jr. Fair participants and how in many cases, it was not the participant writing the note, addressing the envelope or even delivering same to the fair office, but rather it was the parent doing so – the conclusion being the desired result was not being accomplished.

Lowe then handed out a memo regarding increasing the admission price to the fair for 2016, noting that prices had not been increased in the last 5 years. Thomson then appointed a committee to explore the issue with Al Myers as the chairman.

Lowe reminded the board of the District 6 meeting to be held November 5th at the Croton fairgrounds. Brad Jolliff, Dan Huffman and Bill Lowe indicated they would attend.

TREASURERS REPORT

Dan Huffman presented the report. He passed out a Balance Sheet, a Profit & Loss Statement, an Accounts Receivable Statement and Accounts Payable Statement and discussed each report. Don Howard moved and Harold Wolford seconded the report be approved as presented. The motion carried.

PERSONEL COMMITTEE

Brad Jolliff reported that the committee had two meetings thus far in October and were working toward having a formalized plan in November for the General Manager's position.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

No report

BUDGET COMMITTEE

No report

AGRICULTURAL/EXHIBITS COMMITTEE

No report

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

No report

SECURITY COMMITTEE

No report

MOTOR SPORTS COMMITTEE

Tom Roll reported and discussed how well received the week's events were. He wanted to also express his appreciation for all of the help from the numerous volunteers who donated their time and efforts for the events.

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Pat Paykoff reported and stated that the next phase of the water line project is ready to begin. This portion would be going to the west portion thru the grounds and would include the various animal barns in that area. He pointed out that ultimately when the project is finished, fire protection on the grounds would be improved immensely. Additionally, a huge savings on the fair's water bills is going to be evident when the project is completed.

RACING COMMITTEE

Tom Wright reported and asked Phil Terry to give a preliminary report on wagering and simulcasting. Terry noted that the fair's simulcast commission total for 2015 was larger than 2014, by about \$5,000 in spite of fewer races with off track wagering up by about \$150,000. On track wagering was down about \$70,000 from the previous year,

Wright discussed a thank you note from Wall Of Fame honoree Jim Buchy and how much he appreciated the honor and the events of the week. Wright also reported that a number of sets of sulky wheels had been stolen Jug Night and as of yet no suspects had been identified.

Wright announced the OHHA would be holding a meeting in the Log Cabin on

December 1st and hoped that a number of board members could attend. Wright then discussed the Race Secretary's meeting on December 2nd and requested a travel budget of \$1,000 to include flight and hotel. Don Howard moved and Joe McLead seconded the budget be approved. The motion carried.

Wright then discussed the tote problems on Jug Day and his letter to the Am Tote rep that we work with, requesting a substantial decrease in our bill as the result of those problems.

Joe McLead pointed out to the board that with the current exchange rate in Canada being so bad in comparison with the dollar, that if at some point the purse were increased by \$124,000, the Jug would be the richest race in North America.

Chip Thomson reminded the board of the need during the upcoming Annual Meeting for the fair to symbolically purchase the 2018 Jug for \$50,000 and the 2018 Jugette for \$25,000 from the Jug Society. The purpose of the symbolic purchase is those dollars become added money to the purse and can thusly be advertised to the industry in the conditions for the race in the spring of 2016.

SPONSORSHIP COMMITTEE

Frank Reinhard reported and asked Phil Terry for an update on racing sponsorship money. Terry noted that he had three outstanding fees that as yet had not been received (\$9,500 & \$10,000 & \$25,000).

ALL HORSE PARADE

Diane Winters reported and talked about the huge crowd that witnessed this year's parade. City Police personnel and parade participants all raved about the crowd numbers. Chip Thomson announced that he had recently met with City Manager Tom Homan and Police chief Bruce Pijanowski about traffic issues of the parade and the fair and how both individuals had pledged to work with the fair to improve traffic flow.

WALL OF FAME COMMITTEE

Chip Thomson reported and emphasized how pleased and honored the recipients and/or their families were at the Wall Of Fame reception.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

T. Thomson reported and the discussion centered around internet connections for vendors and fair participants and what a good revenue stream it could be.

NEW BUSINESS

Laryssa Hook talked about the upcoming 4H banquet on November 16th at All Occasions Catering at 6:30PM. Board members attending should RSVP to Laryssa by no later than November 2nd.

General Manager updated the board on the busy month of October in regard to rentals of buildings and the grounds.

Don Howard asked President Chip Thomson to make a presentation regarding the Hotel Bed Tax at the Annual Meeting on November 10th.

OLD BUSINESS

Colleen Smith brought up the subject of moving the start of the board meetings in the months of November thru March back to 6:00PM as the board had done in those same months last year. Following a short discussion, Colleen Smith moved and Aaron Roll seconded the time change be implemented. The motion failed by a 10-9 vote.

Carolyn Riggle asked the board to waive the normal fee for the use of a building for the Veterans Parade on November 8th with need to get some of the elderly veterans out of potentially bad weather at the parades end and into the Merchants Building. Tom Wright so moved and Don Howard seconded. The motion carried.

There being no further business, Don Howard moved and Frank Reinhard seconded the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried.

Chip Thomson, President

Bill Lowe, General Manager