

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING
April 19, 2022- Ag. Hall of Fame

ATTENDANCE

Present – Jeff Armentrout, Jennifer Brown, Jackie Colflesh, Adam DeMarco, Mark Fisher III, Patricia Gladman, Mike Harter, Don Howard, Dan Huffman, Michael Knapp, Jon Melvin, Tiffany Rankin, Colleen Smith, Chip Thomson, Chris Welker, Benjamin Wenner, Diane Winters, Tom Wright, Laryssa Hook (Ex Officio)

Absent – Bryan Mellen

GUESTS - Sierra Sparks, Mica Sparks, Jennifer McGowan

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Tiffany Rankin called the meeting to order. The Pledge was recited and Roll call was taken by Jennifer McGowan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES

Jeff Armentrout moved and Jackie Colflesh second a motion to approve the March 15, 2022 board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Tiffany Rankin discussed as a result of the special board meeting that was held March that she was tasked with selecting a board member to serve as an interim fair manager alongside Jennifer McGowan as our new fair management team. She asked the board to welcome them and added that the board is here to support them.

She mentioned that State of the County was held this morning in our new Ag. Center with 210 in attendance. Commissioner Jeff Benton gave accolades to the fair and personally thanked Chip Thomson

Tiffany said that the Save America rally was this Saturday and reminded the board that we are not promoting this event. She apologized for the delay in getting an email out to the board sooner but she had been asked to keep it quiet until the press release came out. She mentioned that the community liaison for Save America has sent a link for stakeholders for reserved parking and special guests. Chris Welker will send out the email link to board members after the meeting.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Chris Welker reported that the horse stall placements are coming together. We did have to evict one horseman from the grounds.

He reported that we cancelled our agreement with our website company and gave them 90 day notice.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dan Huffman reported that there is a \$500,000 budget for paving. They will tear up 10in of pad and put in RCC and asphalt on top that should last many years. This will be a tremendous addition to this year's fair. The first 6 conduits were put in across the main entrance so that the paving can begin. Ben Lehner worked on that project. Bryan Miley will finish what they started last fall along the fence. That was postponed due to wire not being available.

Dan said that we brought in more than we spent this month in bed tax and ticket sales and we have had several great days.

Tiffany added that she knows her payment is late on the financial statement but that she has paid in full. Benjamin Wenner moved and Mark Fisher second the motion to approve the Treasurer report. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tiffany Rankin reported that Jen McGowan and Chris Welker have been participating in the weekly meetings the last two weeks. The goal is to keep everything transparent and the hope is with the new management team in place, the meetings will not have to be weekly anymore and can be monthly.

GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Chip Thomson reported that minutes from the G&A meeting were sent out with the board packet. The committee met this evening before the board meeting to discuss hiring Jessica Miller as a full time office employee. Jennifer McGowan reported that she interviewed her and it went very well and we would like to bring her on board. Dan Huffman said he highly recommends Jessica for the position. He also acknowledged Kaitlin Neeper and all of her hard work the last couple weeks.

Benjamin Wenner brought up that the Fair Manager should be able to make decisions on hiring and firing. The board had no objection.

Chris Welker presented an updated price list for building rental to get the building rented for the rest of the year. We have had to lower our pricing every time. He asked that the board approve the new fee schedule with 10% wiggle room to cover our utilities. Chip Thomson asked to move this to Old Business. Chip Thomson brought up that we had a bid from MoreCo electric to do the electric at the fairgrounds and during fair. Colleen Smith expressed concern about the electric on Pavilion Hill with this new company and not having the equipment to be able to handle it and the entire fairgrounds. Mark Fisher said he will cover that in the Maintenance Committee section.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dan Huffman reported that we are in good shape financially right now and will have some items in New Business

FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Benjamin Wenner reported that everything is in the minutes from their last meeting.

Chris Welker asked if there was any concern about the bird flu. Benjamin said that yes there was extensive concern. The committee will be meeting again the first Saturday in May.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

Chip Thomson reported that at the next meeting we will have to pay a down payment on new software for the digital sign.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mike Harter reported that as of tomorrow there will be 24 hour security on the grounds for the Save America Rally. We have scheduled a meeting with the horsemen tomorrow at noon to discuss set up with them. As of Thursday there will be no vehicle traffic west of the Ag. Center and they will need to use 23 gate. On the day of the rally, we will need to use Liberty Street gate or 23.

Chip Thomson reported that we do not have to do anything for the event it will be completely self-contained.

Chris Welker said that when the event is over we will assess the damage and work out a cost for repair to any damage done to the grounds.

Mark Fisher stated that he will make sure that all of our buildings are locked and that we will be using 53' trailers to line our fence for security. He mentioned that security has a list of all of the RV's on the grounds and they will be doing a sweep of that area on Saturday morning.

Laryssa Hook mentioned concealed carry is not allowed on Federal grounds.

Mike Harter said that if any of the above changes, he will get an email out to everyone on the board.

MOTOR SPORTS COMMITTEE

Jeff Armentrout reported that they are waiting on all the motor sports contracts to come back in.

Mark Fisher said they are looking at possibly adding some classes.

Payouts have been an issue in the past and Chris Welker suggested writing one check to the company and they do the payouts themselves.

Jeff mentioned a need for an announcer for this year

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Mark Fisher reported that we have contractors here fixing things up. Ben Lehner has taken the old Jr. Fair office down.

Mark said the drains are all backed up again and we need stone to prevent that from happening and not track sand that will keep washing away.

The offseason RV's that we have on the grounds will all need to move to the back fence of that camping area and spaced every other spot so that they are out of the way of the upcoming horse shows. Mark said there is no water in the 4-H camping area and they are currently running off the horse barns so we need to look at the water situation.

Dan Huffman reported that we are only permitted for camping in the 4-H lot and the midway for offseason. We would need to get permits for camping anywhere else from the Health Department. We can only permit two areas at a time and we would have to have a variance to add a third lot. He said we will be losing a lot of camping spots in the 4-H area along the fence when the bike path comes through there.

Mark Fisher reported that we will need someone to work the rings for the horse shows. No one is applying for these positions.

Mark Fisher said he had an estimate from Central Gas Line Services for conduit to feed more power to the Coliseum.

Mark reported that only one electric contract came in with a bid. To answer Colleen Smith's question he said that this contract is for labor only and that we will be buying all of our own equipment.

Dan Huffman said that we will need to buy wire and distribution boxes. We took pictures of all of our electric during the fair last year and have put together a reference book. The electrician will also do all of the permitting for the tents.

Colleen mentioned that the cabling on Pavilion Hill alone is wired through the betting booths, TV's lighting etc. She is just trying to prevent any issues from coming up. Dan Huffman does not feel like this will be a problem. Mark Fisher said he feels it will run as smoothly as it possibly can for this being their first year.

Colleen Smith asked if MoreCo had the staff. Mark Fisher stated that he had himself and four employees.

Chris Welker said this is a one year contract. It is either going to work or it isn't and asked to move forward.

Mark Fisher discussed the details of the contract and will ask for a vote in New Business.

RACING COMMITTEE

Tom Wright reported that money is coming in. He mentioned that he met with a sponsor that would like to see the Jug at 1 million and really wants to help us.

Tom reported that Andrew Brenner proposed an LBJ license plate and we will need to have 150 signatures on a petition to move forward with that.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Colleen Smith reported that Steve Kline from SKP would like to be able to work with us on entertainment this year. He would be able to install and set up a stage for two Saturday night events and the Veteran's dinner. They will manage the entire atmosphere of all entertainment at the fair. A sheet was handed out with details. Colleen asked for an increase in the budget for entertainment of \$5,000, raising the budget to \$40,000. Colleen stated that the front office does not have the time handle everything entertainment wise, contracts etc at this stage in the game and that now is a good time to move forward in this direction.

Chris Welker stated he will make a motion in New Business to approve the \$40,000

BED TAX COMMITTEE

No Report

ALL HORSE PARADE

Diane Winters reported that they are working on sponsors and that the State of the County used the All Horse Parade video in their presentation.

HALL OF FAME/MUSEUM

No Report

OLD BUSINESS

Mark Fisher reported that we have received a signed contract from Emmons Pest Control.

Mick Fisher has been made lead maintenance foreman.

Mark Fisher moved and Jon Melvin second that we approve the new Ag Center rental rates. Motion carried.

Dan Huffman reported that we should have the Mounted Deputy building transferred over to us by July 1.

Diane Winters had to leave the meeting before Old Business.

Laryssa Hook mentioned Jr. Fair Scholarships and needing a committee to review the applications. Chris Welker, Benjamin Wenner and Patricia Gladman volunteered to be on the committee to review applications. Laryssa said that by waiting until the May Board Meeting, we miss an opportunity to go their schools and present the scholarships.

Benjamin Wenner moved and Mark Fisher second the motion to use \$4000 for scholarships. Motion carried.

No further business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark Fisher brought up accepting the MoreCo electric contract as written. Chris Welker moved and Benjamin Wenner second. Motion approved. .

Mark Fisher brought up approving the Central Gas Line Services bid. Chris Welker moved and Jon Melvin second. Motion approved.

Dan Huffman reported that we cannot get a liquor permit without a full kitchen in the Ag. Center to serve and store it in the building. We would need \$130,000 worth of equipment for a full kitchen and \$60,000 for a warming kitchen. The liquor permit would need to go on the ballot in November.

Mark Fisher said we should hold off for now on the kitchen and monitor our temporary permits. He would like to move forward with getting it on the ballot.

Dan Huffman mentioned that the furnace in the Merchant building is shot. We also need to figure out what we need to do to put insulation in and fix all the doors to bring the building up to code.

Discussion was held on the entertainment contract with SKP. Chip Thomson wanted more details as far as what is in the contract and what type of entertainment. A motion was made to amend the motion to approving the budget of \$40,000 and having Jen McGowan and Chris Welker work out the details on where that money is spent. Chris Welker moved and Mike Harter second the motion to approve the \$40,000 budget for entertainment. Benjamin Wenner questioned the call and requested a roll call vote. Roll call vote was 9 for and 7 against. Motion carried.

Tiffany Rankin brought up that the Executive Committee is made up of President, Vice President, Treasurer and 2 others that are nominated by the president. Tiffany called to formally nominate Mark Fisher and Jon Melvin for the Executive Committee. Chip Thomson moved and Adam DeMarco second to approve. Motion carried.

Mark Fisher moved to adjourn. Jon Melvin second. Motion carried.

Tiffany Rankin, President

Benjamin Wenner, Secretary