

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING
MAY 17, 2022

ATTENDANCE

Present- Jeff Armentrout, Jennifer Brown, Jackie Colflesh, Adam DeMarco, Mark Fisher, Patricia Gladman, Mike Harter, Don Howard, Dan Huffman, Michael Knapp, Bryan Mellen, Jon Melvin, Tiffany Rankin, Colleen Smith, Chip Thomson, Chris Welker

Absent- Benjamin Wenner, Diane Winters, Tom Wright and Laryssa Hook

GUESTS- Sara Steck, Nikki Steck-Raj, Roy Raj, Logan Mack, Amanda Mack, Jeff Stover, Sydney Vu, T. Thomson

Chip Thomson asked that Diane Winters be excused from the meeting, motion carried.

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

Jon Melvin moved and Jackie Colflesh second a motion to approve the April 19, 2022 board meeting minutes. Motion carried

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tiffany Rankin announced our scholarship award winners, Allison Beekman, Logan Mack, Sara Steck and Sydney Vu. Pictures were taken with VP Chip Thomson.

Tiffany acknowledged and thanked the committee for choosing the scholarship award winners and that the students were very deserving of these awards. Patricia Gladman went to Buckeye Valley, Benjamin Wenner went to Genoa Christian, and Chris Welker went to Hayes to present the scholarships.

Tiffany acknowledged and thanked Mike Harter, Mark Fisher, Chris Welker and Jen McGowan and everyone involved for their hard work they put in for the rally that was held on the fairgrounds.

Tiffany said that we are officially in fair mode and ideally everyone needs to come to the board meetings with their needs for fair.

Things are going smoothly on the backside now and thanked the horsemen for their understanding and patience. Jennifer Brown said the horsemen really appreciate everything we are doing. Tiffany said in the near future we would like to do a cookout for everyone.

Tiffany announced that we hired a new maintenance Foreman, Matthew Farmer. Mick Fisher's last day was this past Saturday so we are down to Matthew, Sandy, Colin, and Scotty and they are doing great at getting things done. We also have an intern, Kennedy Daub, starting tomorrow.

SERETARY'S REPORT

Jen McGowan said that our first horse show was a success and offered a huge thank you to Patty Gladman for getting a 4-H club organized to clean out the stalls.

Darrel Whitaker is going to work the horse show this weekend and has already reached out to them to set it up.

Jen said we have to interviews this week for maintenance laborer positions and we have had 2 new employees start since the last meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dan Huffman went over the financials and reported that ticket sales are going well. He said the credit card machines in the office are down and he is working on having those fixed by this week.

Don Howard moved and Colleen Smith second the motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tiffany Rankin reported that the met twice with the new management team and that they are lessening the need to meet as often.

We ended up getting 20k in total from the rally to cover our expenses.

She announced that with the office staff beefed up and in place, they will be handling entertainment this year.

Tiffany went over staffing for the fair this year and asked each committee to get employees for their areas since Deb Jackson and Linda Beach will not be coming back.

Chris Welker said that if anyone needs to know how many people they have had in the past in their area to reach out to the office for that information. The office is here to help with those needs.

Colleen Smith questioned the set up crew for the different events and areas. Chris Welker suggested using their own crew to do your own events rather than a dedicated set up crew.

Don Howard asked what they would get paid and Chris Welker said \$7 or \$8 dollars an hour.

Deb and Linda are coming in June to meet with the office and will have information for us on employees, parking etc.

Chris Welker mentioned that Melissa will still be doing the Grandstand area and we will ask Cindy Hempy if she would be willing to get employees for motorsports.

Tiffany said to all committees, just think what that would look like to lessen the load in the office.

Jen McGowan reported that the truck that hit the 23 gate is being taken care of and they are sending in a check to cover that repair.

Tiffany said that Bylaws were handed out and to please read them and if anything needs changed to get them to Benjamin Wenner. Changes will need to be voted on in the November election.

Chip Thomson gave an overview report on Rugged Maniac. He said it was cold and rainy and 600 beers went out. Tipco wanted to give away free beer and we had to tell them no. They are going to write a check for \$1000 to the 4-H scholarship fund since sales were down.

Tiffany Rankin reported that the towing contract needed to get out for bid and to G & A for review.

Tiffany went over the spending process and that each committee needs to submit a budget and spend within your budget. She asked the committees to please get their budgets in so that the board can vote on them. She said to please make sure that whatever you are spending, that the committee chair knows what is being spent. It then needs to go to the office and then to the treasurer to get checks cut and out the door so that we do not spend outside our means.

There has been an increase in tent prices for this year. If you have any changes in your tents, please let Jen know.

Tiffany also brought up the need for the blacksmith to pay rent to cover the cost of the building.

GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

No Report other than when you put your bylaw recommendations in, they will look at those.

FINANCE

Dan Huffman reported that the concrete issues continue to be ongoing with the lawyers. He has sent a letter for them to be replaced and is trying to get a settlement agreement right now. He is hoping to get done this summer. We will not be releasing the \$212,000 until this is resolved.

Dan said that Case farms had to build a big pad to hold our manure that cost them \$16k. They are asking us to either pay for part of the pad or charge us per load. Maintenance committee will need to discuss this and come up with a resolution. It is \$250 a load now for manure hauling because of fuel costs. Tiffany asked maintenance to discuss and Exec will decide on the 16k.

FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Benjamin Wenner is not present, Mark Fisher said a schedule was set and they are sticking to it. The goat committee will be painting their barn if we provide the supplies.

Tiffany asked for an update on poultry but there is not one yet.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

Chip Thomson reported that every action item from their minutes was taken care of.

He updated that the sign on 23 was still in the process of being set up. They were a few feet short of Cat 5 wire.

Chip said that Post Printing will be doing the exhibitor's handbook for \$75/hour.

Chip reported that Dotson received their 90 day cancellation and that we received an estimate from Bobby Oliver to take the website back. It would be \$3000 to change the page back.

T. Thomson suggested we give Bobby a one year contract. Chris Welker suggested Bobby get a contract until our fiscal year is up in November.

Mike Harter said we owe it to him to give him the contract. Chris asked if we want to go back to using him since we went with someone else for a reason. Chip said that Bobby put in a proposal for the new website and had redesigned and published it for free.

Don Howard motioned that we give Bobby a 2.5 year contract ending the fiscal year of 2024. Mike Harter second. Motion carried with Chip Thomson abstaining.

T. Thomson reported that everyone should have a copy of his sponsorship report. He just did a contract for Garage 36 thanks to Jeff Armentrout. The majority of the sponsors have been emailed and he is now working on cold calls.

Chris Welker reported that he found ceramic jugs. We need to find someone that can print on them. If we can find someone that can print on them, then we will ask the manufacturer to get us a cost on purchasing them.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mike Harter reported that he spoke to Chief Morris and we have gathered the fire extinguishers to the Coliseum by the last week of June to have them inspected.

He also said that they will still need somewhere to park their truck at night and also a place to sleep, either in the Mounted building or we will need to rent a tent for them to sleep.

Mark Fisher said he looked into renting an RV for the Stallman last year and it was relatively cheap.

MOTOR SPORTS COMMITTEE

Bryan Mellen reported that they have looked over the contracts and will get with Chris Welker and Jen McGowan later this week.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Mark Fisher reported that he is getting estimates on wash racks for the dairy barn. The Owen's barn is complete and everyone should go take a look. The next barn to be worked on is Barn 30. The barn is empty and we are working to update it.

Mark said there are 2 companies that are for sale. They had 15 dumpsters and a truck for \$125k last time he talked to them. Mark said that Sarge has no dumpsters right now

Dan Huffman said he talked to six major manufacturers and the soonest we would be able to get any dumpsters would be December.

Mark Fisher mentioned that we are looking at hiring an employee with a CDL to be able to haul ourselves. Right now we are spending 6 hours a day with 2 guys on horse manure.

Mike harter brought up that dumpsters during fair cannot be put in fire lanes. He also mentioned that he doesn't want the liability for our employees driving off grounds.

Dan Huffman mentioned that new dumpsters are \$5-\$6k a piece. We do not have permission to buy equipment with bed tax and he is working with the Commissioners on that. He has sent them the new wording with the revised code.

Dan reported that they have turned down the tax exempt status on our new building. He is working on that but there is a lot of red tape and legal fees that will be involved.

Mark Fisher discussed landscaping on the fairgrounds. Jen McGowan is working on getting estimates on what that would cost. We need our grounds to look good all year long. Chip Thomson suggested taking the beds out of the Jug and Juliette barns and planting grass.

Jen has reached out to Pony Landscaping, Ivy Tree and Benchmark.

Mark Fisher said one of our new mowers has showed up and that the other one should be here in 2-3 weeks.

Chip Thomson asked when the old fair office will be coming down. Mark said it will be down when Ben Lehner is done planting corn and will be gone by fair.

RACING COMMITTEE

Tom Wright had a work event and was not able to make the meeting. He said they have reached an agreement with OHHA to nominate horses into the Bucket and Buckette which will prompt them to make 2nd and 3rd year payments. Typically we get 250 nominations but we got 1900.

We will be holding qualifiers on June 20 & 26 this year.

There were 8000 horses logged in to the computer in May.

Tom expressed the need for a new computer.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Colleen Smith reported that she is getting her budget together.

She said that Two Caterers will not be catering this year. She is looking to get 4 bids and has met with 2 companies so far and is meeting with 2 more. She is expecting a 30% increase in food cost. All bids will include staffing etc. She will get the bids in and get them to the Executive committee. We would like to have this finalized by the June Board meeting. They went thru this same process 10 years ago and it should not be difficult.

BED TAX COMMITTEE

Jon Melvin Reported that Scott is working on the Grandstand project and that there is an update in the board packet on that. He mentioned that now is not the time to build anything.

ALL HORSE PARADE

Diane Winters reported that she is working on her All Horse Parade budget and will get it in to get approved.

HALL OF FAME/MUSEUM

Don Howard reported that nominees should be announced next month.

Chip Thomson mentioned that Doc Brown passed away recently.

OLD BUSINESS

Dan Huffman reported that the paving had to be rebid due to it being 10% over. He said all the documents have been updated and should come in next Monday. This project still should be done Aug. 1.

NEW BUSINESS

Tiffany Rankin reported that the way our bylaws read the Secretary is to sign all checks. Our Treasurer signs them now. At least thru the fiscal year she recommended giving Dan Huffman the title of Secretary/Treasurer and then in Nov. we can change the language. Chip Thomson moved and Chris Welker second. Motion carried.

Mark Fisher brought up the electric contract. The last meeting we talked about providing trees and wire. The cheapest estimate was from Ohio Power Tool. 25 boxes & 2500 cable is \$20,178.50 but we would own these.

Chip Thomson questioned the quality of the boxes and suggested Hubbell. Tiffany Rankin mentioned that this was the recommendation from the maintenance committee. Jon Melvin motioned and Jackie Colflesh second to approve the purchase. Motion carried.

Colleen Smith reported that the last 10 days she has been getting phone calls from residents of Hayes Colony about the campers that we moved back to the fence line. They are asking why we moved them back there. She mentioned they also have aggressive dogs back there and are now having issues with opossums and raccoons due to not having any trash cans over there.

Chip Thomson said that the Health Dept. established where we can park the campers and that we are aware that we need to work on a specific area for them to park.

Mark Fisher brought up that with all the horse shows coming in, we decided to utilize that space.

Jackie Colflesh asked why the campers have to be here at all. Mark Fisher said he felt the same way until he saw the income from them.

Mark Fisher moved to adjourn. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

Tiffany Rankin, President

Benjamin Wenner, Secretary