

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING
August 16, 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, Chris Welker, Benjamin Wenner, Diane Winters, Tom Wright and Laryssa Hook

Absent- Chip Thomson was excused due to Covid exposure

GUESTS- Tom Lehner, T. Thomson, Jen McGowan

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Lehner presented a blueprint for a new green space area in front of the Ag. Center that needed to be landscaped after the paving was done. He asked the board to take a look at his design.

T. Thomson was asked to give his sponsorship report. He said Crawford Farms has pledged 10k for the Juliette race. He is working with a company that wants to rent the east side of the cabin on Jug day. He has sold \$180k as of right now and is moving forward. Colleen Smith mentioned it was nice to see the alcove on the hill being used again for sponsorship. Benjamin Wenner asked to see the sponsorship report. T. will get it to him.

MINUTES

Benjamin Wenner moved and Jackie Colflesh second a motion to approve July 19, 2022 board meeting minutes. Motion carried

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tiffany Rankin reported that things are progressing nicely .She asked that anything that we need please throw it out there so we can address it and get it done. She mentioned that she and Tom Wright did an interview with Paul Comstock with ThisWeek newspaper about fair stuff and it should be published in the coming weeks.

Tiffany said after the exec session last meeting, she adjusted the letter to the city and it has been mailed out. We have not heard anything back from the as of yet.

She thanked everybody for their hard work.

FAIR OFFICE'S REPORT

Jen McGowan mentioned that board packets are here and ready to take home. A sheet was passed around to get shirt sizes for all board members so that we can get new Directors shirts ordered.

As a reminder, there will not be an employment trailer this year to pull people from so if there are any needs please get them to us as soon as possible.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dan Huffman went over the balance sheet. Things are stable. He mentioned that all ticket sales except ground chairs are above last year. Benjamin Wenner asked about the 300k in payables. Dan said that the Marker money was still in there and he will talk about Marker in Old Business.

Dan reported that we are up in the air with credit card machines. We are no longer using TSYS and we are currently using Stripe for online sales and Square for office sales. Dan has a meeting with the bank on Monday.

Dan said we will be going to the downtown branch of First Commonwealth this year instead of the Central branch. We will be depositing every day instead of once a week. Things will be a lot different but we will make it work.

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tiffany Rankin reported that a gas line was hit during the demo of the old fair office and that it has been fixed.

She mentioned that we would like to ask Rob's crew to see if they would be available to help out with any repairs that might come up during fair and to be on site during the fair.

Tiffany said that Jen McGowan has been attending the monthly city meetings and they are going well. The Health Department showed up and did a surprise inspection of the camp grounds. We can't have the campers where they are along the back fence in the Jr. Fair area. They have requested we find a permanent place for them to go after fair. Jen is working with them on a 3rd location.

Tiffany discussed attaching a \$2 betting voucher to the race programs to generate additional funds and to encourage people to bet on the races.

She mentioned that the financial audit has started with the state. She is working on an AUP and that they have agreed that we do not need a full audit for 2019 and 2020. That will cost about \$1500 vs \$10k. Moving forward, we will probably have to have a full audit.

Tiffany brought up personnel needs. Tom Wright mentioned that he and Jen were working on filling positions for the cabin.

The Governor will be attending the races this year, as well as the Speaker of the House and several other dignitaries. Dan Huffman asked where they would be sitting for the races. Tom said they are still working out the details on that.

GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Benjamin Wenner talked about rain insurance and adding Sunday and Wednesday to the policy. We increased the amount for Sunday and changed the times of coverage on Wednesday and Thursday. We tried to determine what times would be the best times to have covered and decided on 7am to pm on those days.

Benjamin brought up the constitution updates and said that we need them sooner rather than later. He brought up the Towing contract, Ice contract, space rental agreement and Absolute Impressions contract extending it another year. He will bring these up in New Business.

FINANCE

No Report was covered in Treasurer's report

FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Benjamin Wenner said that the committee did not meet yet but will be meeting next week. The fairbook is live and online. He mentioned that we found a binder on layouts for the fair on the desk in the maintenance office.

Benjamin will reach out to the quilt department head and touch base for the fair.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

No Report

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mike Harter said there was no report and that there would be a meeting next Wednesday morning here at the AG. Center.

Mike mentioned that Miss Wright from the Caribbean Festival will be in pretrial Oct. 11. She had filed for a permit with the city of Columbus for an event at Goodale Park so Mike went down and talked to CPD. It was discovered that she had felony warrants under different alias's and that she was arrested and spent 2 days in Franklin Co Jail and 2 days in Delaware Co Jail.

MOTOR SPORTS COMMITTEE

Bryan Mellen reported that they had met back at the Motorsports area. He said the office back there was fine, however the raccoons have since destroyed it and they have torn it down. He said that the semitrailer is gone so it will no longer be an eye sore.

Bryan reported that we have finalized the rough truck rules and that Chris Welker has typed them up and they just need approved and put on the website.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Mark Fisher reported that they had a lengthy meeting with all of our subcontractors and employees. Since then we have gotten several projects completed. The wash racks are done. We have cleaned up the petting zoo area. Ben Lehner is clearing out storm drains in the horse barn area because the lines are completely full of track sand. We are working on the old tote board and it has been taken down. We are talking about power washing the Grandstands, Jug, Juliette, Coliseum, 11A, and 12A. We can discuss the bids in New Business. We are in full fair mode.

Tiffany Rankin mentioned that the goal was the end of August for completed projects and were they still on track with that? Mark said the goal was not to go into September but that we have 3 more mutual buildings we have added to the list to repair before fair.

Diane Winters brought up the block bathrooms and said they will need thoroughly cleaned inside and out.

RACING COMMITTEE

Tom Wright reported that they have done some hiring which is good. We have a stall man. We need more tellers but we will flip and use more self-automated machines.

Tom said we are all set for the breakfast in the AG. Center for the Jug Director's meeting.

Tiffany asked where we are on race programs. Tom said we are still looking for someone to head that up. Dan Huffman suggested Bill Anderson's wife. Chris Welker will reach out to her, but that we will need someone to do all the heavy lifting.

Dan asked who the new stall man is and Tom Wright said it will be Mick Fisher.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Colleen Smith reported that we have contracts for all three tents and they will need signed. She reported that All Occasions had been paid their deposit.

Benjamin mentioned that we can approve the amounts in New Business. G&A can then approve the contract and Exec can have the final approval.

BED TAX COMMITTEE

Tom Wright reported that the committee met Aug. 3. He said they went over the updates to the grandstand and had some good discussions on prioritizing what is bed tax and what is maintenance. Tom would like to make a motion to approve the barns that we have updated.

He asked do we pump the breaks for a minute and put a master plan in place. The Committee agreed that we needed to move forward with the master plan. Tom will be getting a quote for that.

Benjamin asked to move to Old Business the approval on barn repairs.

ALL HORSE PARADE

Diane reported that the cost of fuel has finally hit the horse parade. We are down to about ½ of the normal entries. Diane is working on getting more entries but it may be the smallest parade that we have ever had. Tom Wright asked if there is a sponsorship we can get to help pay for them to come or a fuel card. Diane said that yes they are working on some incentives.

HALL OF FAME/MUSEUM

Don Howard reported that the new cabinets will be here between 12:30 and 2:30 tomorrow. He has installed 4 display wall mount cabinets upstairs.

Don mentioned that he found some marks on the walls in the new building and that tape had pulled off some of the paint. He said we should have a pre inspection of the building before renting and a list of do's and don'ts for the building.

Don brought up the new floor cleaning machine and said he had thought it was approved after last fair. Dan will pull up the information on that tomorrow.

Mark Fisher said he would like a key card at the door by the counter in the fair office so that the general public can't just walk back in there. Dan said it would cost about \$2500 to do that.

Tiffany Rankin reported for the Wall of Fame that the food budget is under \$2000 and that All Occasions will be doing it. They will need a \$100 deposit sent to them. She will get the information to the fair management team to sign and approve. She said that invites will be going out.

She mentioned that the Tom White award is new this year and will be going to Dean Hoffman who worked for Hoofbeats Magazine.

OLD BUSINESS

Benjamin moved to approve the two buildings and the bathroom to be retroactive to bed tax. Jeff Armentrout second. Motion carried.

Mark Fisher brought up boat and RV storage. Do we want to do that this year? He expressed a concern filling the barns and maintenance not being able to do their job. We also have a liability of damaging them. Benjamin Wenner moved to suspend indoor storage. Chris Welker second. Motion carried.

Dan Huffman updated the board on Marker. He had a big meeting with them and our stance is still that we want a permanent repair. They met for over an hour and a half. Benjamin asked what would prevent them from leaving the \$200k and walking away. Dan said they could do that, but he thinks that they will sue us claiming a design flaw. Dan said it has not been fun and he is staying on it and sending them an email every Wednesday.

Dan said that everyone should have key cards in their board packet with 24/7 access.

All the padlocks are in the process of being changed out on the grounds. We should only have 3 keys for everything on the grounds.

Dan will get a price on a key card for the office door. Benjamin Wenner moved to approve up to \$3.5k for that. Jackie Colflesh second. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Benjamin Wenner moved to approve Heritage Catering for the Top of the stretch tent at \$8575. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

Chris Welker moved to approve Pig Foot Catering for the Backstretch tent for \$12,375. Diane Winters second. Motion carried.

Tom Wright moved to approve Kirby Towing for an all year round contract for \$1000 which will be good until Nov. 30. They will get up to 3 parking spaces for their vehicles. Chris Welker second. Motion carried.

Chris Welker moved to approve up to \$20k for rain insurance with the new days and times. Jon Melvin second. Motion carried.

Mark Fisher moved to approve \$4090 for radios for the fair. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

Jeff Armentrout moved to approve \$12,430 for Ice for the fair. We need to buy an ipad and square swipe to be able to take credit cards for this. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

Benjamin Wenner mentioned taking the board to 18 members. He asked why we went up to 21 and it was so that we would have more help. This would need to be put in as a constitutional amendment and voted on at the annual election.

Diane Winters moved to approve Absolute Impressions contract to 2023. Don Howard second. Motion carried.

Benjamin said the rental agreement for the Ag. Center had been rewritten by Eric Hostetler, and attorney for the County. He asked for a motion to approve the updates. Jon Melvin second. Motion carried.

Benjamin brought up creating a set group of agencies that could use the Ag. Center for the cost of the cleaning fee for their events or training. We need to come up with a plan of how many per year we would allow at that rate. Weekdays were not as much of a concern as if they would be taking up Saturdays. Chris Welker will put together a list to include local governments to approve for the next meeting.

Benjamin Wenner moved for EMS to use the building in Apr/May for the cost of cleaning fee. Jeff Armentrout second. Jon Melvin abstained. Motion carried.

Benjamin Wenner moved to approve a power washing bid to Potts Powerwashing for \$22.5k. Chris Welker second. Motion carried.

Benjamin Wenner moved to approve the new rough truck rules. Bryan Mellen got the rules from Hartford Fair. Mike Harter second pending a typo change. Motion carried.

Colleen Smith moved to approve Ivy Tree's new landscaping plan at \$21,880. Diane Winters second.

Tom Wright interjected with some questions and discussion followed. He asked if this was to be done before the fair this year. Mark Fisher said that yes it would be. Tiffany asked for a call all in favor and against. The board voted 14 in favor and 3 against. Motion carried.

Dan Huffman mentioned that in saving money for the Ag. Center, they left out the electric panel to feed the sump pump and the lights for the Euclid gate. He got a quote from Aria Electric for \$6600 to finish the work. We are still under warranty with Aria. Benjamin Wenner moved to approve pending approval from the Maintenance committee. Jon Melvin second. Diane Winters abstained. Motion carried.

Tom Wright reported that the simulcast company had requested that we bore under the track for the purpose of running video cable for simulcasting. This project is \$10,488 and will protect it from the weather. Benjamin asked if this will damage the track. Dan Huffman said it will not.

Jon Melvin moved to approve Central Ohio Gas line to bore under the track for this project. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

Benjamin Wenner moved to approve three new Honorary Directors. Larry Moreland, Pat Paykoff and Aaron Roll. Jon Melvin second. Motion carried.

Chris Welker motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jennifer Brown second. Meeting adjourned.

Tiffany Rankin, President

Jennifer McGowan, Assistant Fair Manager