

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING

April 20, 2021 – Zoom Conference Call

ATTENDANCE

Present –Pat Allen, (left at 9:10 p.m.) Jeff Armentrout, Jackie Colflesh, Mark Fisher, Mick Fisher (arrived at 7:10 p.m.), Mike Harter, Don Howard, Dan Huffman, Joe McLead, Bryan Mellen, Jon Melvin, Larry Moreland Pat Paykoff, Tiffany Rankin, Aaron Roll, Colleen Smith, Chip Thomson, Benjamin Wenner, Diane Winters, Tom Wright, D.J. Young, Laryssa Hook (Ex-Officio) and Sandy Kuhn (General Manager/Secretary).

Absent –

GUESTS – Tom Downerd and T. Thomson

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Benjamin Wenner, called the meeting to order. The Pledge was recited. Roll call was taken. The meeting was held via a Zoom conference call.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES

Jackie Colflesh moved and Diane Winters second a motion to approve the March 16, 2021 board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Benjamin Wenner said thanks to all who submitted committee reports to be sent out with the board packet. He asked that any action items be brought forward in New Business.

SPONSORSHIP MANAGER REPORT

T. Thomson gave the board an update on the work he has been doing. He is currently sending letters to old sponsors including a newly developed sponsorship opportunity packet with the letter. He is also working on potential new sponsors. Budweiser has signed an agreement for their sponsorship and we should receive their money within 90 days of the fair. Next week he will be going to Miami Valley. He has reached out to the manager for the new Sheetz store as a potential sponsor. He is trying to design creative ways to add value to the sponsorships – ideas like putting the sponsor’s name on the televisions, updating the graphics on the simulcast show and others.

SECRETARY’S REPORT (Full report in board folder)

Sandy Kuhn said that she had sent her report out with the board packet. In addition, she reported that Aubrey Mazey was hired as the summer intern. The money for the website should be received soon so the RFPs will be sent out when the money is in the bank. She reported that she received an AED as a donation and will work with the local fire/ems to get it certified. Colleen Smith asked about training on the AED. Sandy will ask fire/ems about that.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Dan Huffman reviewed the financials with the board. He reported that round 2 of the PPP money came in. He said that we are getting ready for the fair. The money situation is stable at this point in time. Jon Melvin moved and Jackie Colflesh second a motion to approve the treasurer’s report. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Benjamin Wenner reported that the Executive Committee met once and the minutes were distributed with the board packet. He mentioned that it was nice not to have to meet every week.

PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

No report

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dan Huffman reported that he had put together the budget and that he based any numbers he had not received from committee chairs on 2019 numbers.

Tiffany Rankin reported that DCAS received a \$28,000 rebate from quarter one for the Employee Retention Tax Credit. They are working on revising the three quarters of 2020 that we are eligible for and DCAS should receive an additional \$55,000 rebate for those.

Dan Huffman reported that he had applied for an additional \$350,000 SBA loan with a 1.99% interest rate over a 30 year term. It was questioned as to if this money was needed and the response was that we are being prudent and trying to take advantage of the money that is available, especially since it is at such a low rate of interest.

FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

There was an FAC meeting held April 3 and minutes were distributed in the board packet. Items discussed were the changing of the Junior Fair schedule to allow for additional shows to be held in the Performance Barn Show Arena. In addition, there was a proposal from the alpaca and llama committee to reconfigure their barn so it would have a show arena in it. This will be brought up under Maintenance and/or New Business.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

Chip Thomson reported that there will be an Advertising Committee meeting on April 29 at 5:30 p.m. in the cabin. He also mentioned that the RFP for the website will go out when the money to fund it is received.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

No Report

MOTOR SPORTS COMMITTEE

Bryan Mellen reported that the schedule is set for Motor Sports for the 2021 Fair. It is the same as 2019 except the tractor pull on Monday is being replaced with straw stacking and tug of war.

The schedule is:

Sat. Sept. 18 – Garden Tractor Pull followed by Mini Tractor Pull

Sun. Sept. 19 – Truck Pull

Mon. Sept. 20 – Straw Stacking and Tug of War

Tues. Sept. 21 – Rough Truck

Weds. Sept. 22 – Motor Cross

Fri. Sept. 24 – Figure 8/Trailer Races

Sat. Sept. 25 - Demo Derby

They will be requesting a budget of \$38,000 in New Business.

FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Pat Paykoff reported that a very extensive meeting was held on April 13. Minutes were included in the board packet. He reported that the dumpster truck is almost ready for use again

RACING COMMITTEE

Tom Wright reported he is speaking at the OHHA April board meeting to request funding for the 2021 races. He will discuss this with Joe McLead before the OHHA meeting.

He reported that he has been working a lot with Cindy Flahive to get entries entered. Tiffany Rankin requested that Cindy Flahive and Lori Davis, with Maloney and Novotny, talk after the May 15 deadline.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Meetings were held April 1 and April 19. The minutes for the April 1 meeting were in the board packet.

Colleen Smith reported that the 2021 entertainment schedule has been set and the budget will be submitted in New Business.

The committee is still working on the pricing structure for the Ag Center and it will be proposed at the May board meeting. There will need to be a different rental agreement for the Ag Center. Discussion was held on hiring an event manager for the venue. There will be a grand opening held in the summer. They are proposing a three hour event, with the first hour being invitation only guests, and the next two hours an open house for anyone to attend. Colleen is exploring a possible food sponsor for the event. She asked that all committee members please try to attend the next meeting as there was low attendance at the meeting held on Monday.

BED TAX COMMITTEE

Tom Wright reported on the meeting that was held before the board meeting. The minutes will be distributed in the May board packet. The committee met in the new Ag Center and it is awesome. Tom thanked Pat Paykoff and Jon Melvin for all of the work they have put in on the Ag Center. Tom reported that the committee discussed Marker, updates on the building, paving and that the keys should be handed over in June. Sandy Kuhn is currently working on getting bids for furniture, tables and chairs for the building. Colleen Smith has also gotten a quote on tables and chairs.

A brief discussion was held on the grandstand project. There will be a meeting on Friday with the Owner's Representative. The capital improvement funds for the project should be in DCAS's account in early May. The project will not happen before the 2021 Delaware County Fair. There was concern over whether or not the money could be lost if it wasn't spent in 2021 but Dan Huffman said that was not the case. The money will be put in a designated account and tracked only for the grandstand project and reported to ODA accordingly.

COMMITTEE 51

Minutes from the March 25 meeting were distributed in the board packet. Mike Harter reported that the new rates sheet was sent out but it had not been sent out so it was distributed during the board meeting. The committee developed a questionnaire that they would like used when a new contract is acquired.

Upcoming events the committee approved include: an auction on May 27, the Veteran's using the Merchants Building for their Veteran's Day event, and Ohio Wesleyan University using the east lot for parking for the 2022 Ohio High School Athletic Association track and field events. Two DinoSaur drive thru events have contacted the fairgrounds about having an event but that will need to be further discussed at a future committee meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

The Districts 3, 4 and 6 meeting was held April 11, 2021 at Fayette County Fairgrounds, Washington Court House. Sandy Kuhn and Don Howard attended. It was explained that the current orders allow for groups of 10 people six foot apart in outside venues (grandstand) and open air venues (tents with no more than one side).

A reminder was given that ticket/camping invoices went out March 5-11 so please tell people to pay their invoices by the May 1 deadline to avoid losing their tickets for 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

Tiffany Rankin moved and Bryan Mellen second a motion to spend up to \$4,000 to support DCAS scholarships for 2021. Motion carried. Benjamin Wenner asked for volunteers to review and score the applications. Diane Winters, Aaron Roll and Mark Fisher volunteered. Sandy Kuhn will get them the applications and score sheets.

Chip Thomson moved and Tom Wright second a motion to allow the Friends of Your Delaware County Fair PAC Committee to sell beer/wine at MUDGIRLS (June 12-13). Motion carried.

Tiffany Rankin moved and Jackie Colflesh second a motion to allow the Friends of Your Delaware County Fair PAC Committee to sell beer/wine at Rugged Maniac (July 10). Motion carried.

Bryan Mellen moved and Mark Fisher second a motion for the Motor Sports budget to be \$38,000, the same as it was for 2019. Motion carried.

Colleen Smith moved that the Entertainment budget be set for \$34,000 for the 2021 Fair. Pat Allen second and motion carried. Colleen reminded the board that this amount does not include the budget for the hospitality tents. It will come forward at a later time.

Sandy Kuhn brought forward to the board that there have been numerous, at least 10, complaints from horse stall renters regarding the increase in tack stalls. They are fine with the increase in horse stall rent but the tack stalls saw a very large increase and they would like that addressed. Benjamin Wenner referred this to Committee 51 for further discussion.

Joe McLead asked the question about who should be paying when hot water tanks have to be replaced back in the barns as he was told that DCAS doesn't pay for the tank or installation. Dan Huffman said there could be potential safety issues regarding the installation of hot water tanks in the older barns as DCAS did not originally install them in the barns. The only barns that DCAS will pay for them is in the Jug, Juliette and Perfect Barn as they were built by DCAS or a donor, in the case of the Perfect Barn, and are up to code. Benjamin Wenner asked that either Committee 51 and/or the Facilities Committee have a discussion on the matter.

Mick Fisher brought up a safety issues regarding a horseman. He has a mare that is unsafe, some of the practices he is using are unsafe and she has been loose on more than one occasion. This has been reported to the office and numerous people have witnessed it, including Mick and Sandy Kuhn. Colleen Smith moved and Pat Allen second a motion that Sandy Kuhn draft and give said horseman a letter telling him the horse had to be removed from the grounds and could not return until she was deemed safe. Motion carried.

Mick Fisher also brought up the fact that a horseman hit the front gate center chain link fence and didn't know he hit it. He also has had numerous other traffic incidents. The thought is that for safety reasons he should not be driving on the fairgrounds. Mick Fisher moved and Pat Allen second a motion that Sandy Kuhn send said horseman a letter that states that he cannot drive a vehicle on the fairgrounds. Motion carried.

Aaron Roll reviewed a rule change that the Pig Committee wants made regarding length of hair. It is an old rule that needs revised. Aaron moved that the new rule would read "All market hogs must have a measurable ½" of body hair, underline included. Ears and tail may be a shorter length." Mark Fisher second motion and motion carried. It was noted that the pig committee would have OSU students checking the hair length at weigh in.

Mark Fisher moved and Jackie Colflesh second a motion to allow the Llama and Alpaca committee to rework their barn removing up to 1/3 of the stalls, building a show arena in the barn, and allowing them up to \$2,000 for a new lighting package. Motion carried.

Chip Thomson moved and Larry Moreland second a motion to approve a quote from Clearsky Communications up to \$2,500 to fix the two cameras that are not working and to put all cameras on the same network. Motion carried. It was requested to get a service agreement quote from Clearsky Communications. Sandy Kuhn will follow up with that.

Chip Thomson moved and Colleen Smith second a motion to hire two part time mowing people on an as needed basis. Motion carried.

Bryan Mellen moved to add an additional \$6,500 for the repair of the Volvo loader. Dan Huffman second the motion. Motion carried.

Sandy Kuhn gave an update on the Maintenance Supervisor position. She reached out to five candidates to set up interviews and only one was interested in the position. The interview committee – Pat Paykoff, Mick Fisher, Jon Melvin and Sandy Kuhn will be interviewing the candidate on Thursday, April 22.

Tiffany Rankin moved and Mark Fisher second a motion to allow Personnel, Facilities and Finance Committee to reevaluate the job description if needed.

Tom Wright moved to approve up to \$25,000 for switches and network upgrades through the County. Pat Paykoff second and motion carried. It was requested that T. Thomson be included in the meetings with the County on this.

Tom Wright moved and Jackie Colflesh second a motion to approve a contract with Linxus Communications to do the data cabling in the Ag Center. It was noted that this was taken out of the Marker contract at a cost of \$40,000 and the new agreement is for \$10,659 so a considerable savings. Motion carried.

Tom Wright moved and Pat Allen second a motion for the County to install a fiber line into the Ag Center for a cost of up to \$15,000. Motion carried.

Mike Harter moved that we allow the Veteran's group to use the Merchant's Building on November 7 after the parade at no charge to them. Tiffany Rankin second the motion and motion carried.

Mike Harter moved to allow Wilson National LLC to rent the Merchant's Building for a real estate auction on May 27. Mark Fisher second the motion and motion carried.

Mike Harter moved to allow Ohio Wesleyan University to use the east area for parking for the 2022 OHSAA track and field state meet at a cost of \$3,000. Colleen Smith second the motion and motion carried.

Mike Harter wanted to remind the office staff to please use the facilities questionnaire when talking to new vendors about rentals.

Mike Harter moved to accept the proposed facility rental rates that were emailed out earlier in the meeting. Bryan Mellen second and motion carried.

Diane Winters moved to go to in person meetings in May provided we can have a safe location for everyone to be in. Colleen Smith second the motion. Exploration will be done on using the Merchants Building. Motion carried.

Colleen Smith reported that she has spoken with Harold Wolford and he said the County is going to fund the Veteran's Dinner at the fair. She said that the money needs to go through the Fair Office and Jennifer McGowan is in charge of the event. It was mentioned that the County has not yet notified the Fair Office on the funding portion yet.

Diane Winters reported that she is moving forward with planning for the 2021 All Horse Parade. She said they are planning a July 4th and Veteran's Day parades so it looks like parades are a go this year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jackie Colflesh moved to adjourn. Jon Melvin second the motion. Motion carried.

Benjamin Wenner, President

Sandy Kuhn, Secretary/General Manager