

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING

December 15, 2020 – Zoom Conference Call

ATTENDANCE

Present –Pat Allen, Jeff Armentrout, Jackie Colflesh, Mark Fisher, Mick Fisher, Mike Harter, Don Howard, Dan Huffman, Bryan Mellen, Jon Melvin, Joe McLead, 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 – None

GUESTS – None

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

Don Howard moved and Jackie Colflesh second a motion to approve the November 17, 2020 board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Benjamin Wenner reminded everyone that the committee assignments were sent out with the board packet and that committees should begin to meet to put together their 2021 plan. He also said that committees should follow the DGHD guidelines when planning for committee meetings, either in person or via Zoom. He is planning to get committee chairs together soon to set goals for their committees. He will have 1-2 meetings per year for goal setting and to benchmark progress. He reiterated that Sandy Kuhn is not on every committee so if she is not on your committee or attending your committee meeting please plan to have someone assigned to take minutes and if she is on the committee please ask her if she is willing to take the minutes. Minutes must be taken at each meeting and submitted to Sandy Kuhn for distribution.

He reminded the board that public statements need to go through the Executive committee.

He reported that the document to deed the county parcels of the fairgrounds have been submitted to the County Commissioners for their approval.

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 wanted to share two pieces of good news, the Bureau of Workers Compensations dividend came back and it was 372% of the 2019 payment so it was a nice reimbursement and the County Commissioners approved the Delaware County Fair's submission for a \$57,000 Community Enhancement Grant. Both of these will help a great deal to financially support the fairgrounds.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dan Huffman reviewed the financials with the board. He reported that we should be able to get through until spring without having to draw on our line of credit. Dan Huffman addressed questions in regard to the financials Chip Thomson requested a monthly list of bills that are paid, including total payroll, be included in the monthly board packet. Don Howard moved to accept the financial report. Jackie Colflesh second the motion and motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Benjamin Wenner reported that the Executive Committee met December 2 and minutes were distributed with the board packet. Executive Committee minutes will be taken and distributed to all board members after the meetings. The Executive Committee voted unanimously on the appointment of D.J. Young to fill Mike Conklin's remaining term on the board. Mark Fisher moved and Joe McLead second the motion for D.J. Young to be sworn in as a new board member. Motion carried. Benjamin Wenner then swore D.J. Young into the DCAS board of directors.

PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Don Howard said that he would probably call a committee meeting in the next two weeks. He is putting together a policy regarding COVID for employees and wants to have the committee approve it so it can be presented at the January board meeting.

Don mentioned that the board should consider eliminating the stipend for 2021 in lieu of the current financial situation. Colleen Smith moved that the board forfeit their stipend for 2021. Jon Melvin second the motion. Discussion was held. Motion carried.

Don suggested using the current pricing on contracts until Committee 51 gets new pricing completed. Discussion was held and this will be addressed in the Committee 51 report.

Tom Wright moved and Colleen Smith second a motion to give each employee working on the grounds a \$50 bonus for Christmas. Motion carried.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dan Huffman said that there is a webinar tomorrow for accounting changes for fairs. He, Lori Davis and Quita Hines will be participating. He will get a committee meeting date set after the holidays.

Tiffany Rankin reported that she and Lori are working on the ODA report and it will be filed before the January deadline.

FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

No report

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

Chip Thomson stated there will be a committee meeting Thursday at 5:30 p.m. The agenda is the web page so please come with ideas on how to improve the website.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

No report

MOTOR SPORTS COMMITTEE

No report. Joe McLead asked if there was a way to reinvent the wheel and do something off season back at the motor sports complex. Bryan Mellen said that the committee would explore off season options when they meet.

FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Pat Paykoff reported that he and Aaron Roll met with Columbia Gas about the new gas line for the Coliseum. The meter will need to be relocated to put the outside line in. The gas line will need to be extended through the Coliseum to the front of the building. Jon Melvin move to spend up to \$1,500 to put the gas line in the building. Diane Winters second and motion carried.

He reported that the storm sewer is being installed at Barn 34 and that the track stone has been delivered. Mick Fisher will try to get brine tomorrow. Parts have been ordered for the plow truck.

Sandy Kuhn updated the board on the findings regarding the sign on Route 23. She received estimates from Moore signs and will work with the insurance company to find out what they want to do to get the sign fixed. Discussion was held.

RACING COMMITTEE

Tom Wright reported that he sent a note out regarding Phil Terry's health and gave an update he had received from P.J. Terry.

He facilitated the North American Harness Racing Secretaries meeting virtually. He felt it was a good session. Slight adjustments were made to the race schedules. Jay Wolf has been helpful in getting advertising ready for the staking deadlines. The Advertising Committee should have Jay Wolf discuss this at its upcoming meeting Thursday

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

No report

BED TAX COMMITTEE

Pat Paykoff reported that the construction company has lost some days due to rain and wind. Some changes have been made but they have been small changes. They are currently having some issues with American Electric Power in getting equipment to them.

Tom Wright reported that he had a meeting with Commissioner Gary Merrill and the County Treasurer to discuss financing options through the county.

There will be a Bed Tax Committee Zoom meeting Monday, December 21 at 6 p.m.

He reported that they received good news regarding the State Capital Improvement Budget. Delaware County Fairgrounds is to receive \$500,000, with a \$200,000 match for grandstand improvements.

Tom Wright had a meeting with Scott Harper and received the initial estimate for horse barns but there is still a lot of work that needs done.

Discussion on the above items will be held at the committee meeting on Monday.

COMMITTEE 51

Mike Harter reported that the committee has reviewed the contracts for January and February and they are okay with them being approved by the board. He mentioned the agreement for the Race Parts Resell auction needs a mailing address on it. Bryan Mellen moved to approve these contractions. Mark Fisher second and motion carried.

Mike said that the camping and stall rental agreements would be sent to D.J. Young for review. He said the committee recommended that stall rent be increased to \$125 per stall and all stalls including tack and bath stalls would be charged this amount. Discussion was held. Discussion included holding a meeting with the horse owners/trainers to further discuss the expenses related to the track, developing a complete itemized list of expenses by the finance committee in cooperation with Committee 51, potentially having the trainer/owner pay for the campers to ensure that the bill was paid and they continued to work for someone with horses on the grounds, blacksmiths paying some type of rent, etc. It was decided to hold off on deciding on an increase in stall rent until after the two committees meet. Mike said that he had spoken with D.J. Young about legal items on the contract.

Mike Harter said that the motion passed was to review only new contracts and that if people had rented in the past those contracts did not need to come to the board for approval. He also said that Colleen Smith was helping to evaluate the current pricing structure for recommendations for a new rental pricing structure. Further discussion was held.

Sandy Kuhn presented an agreement for a drive-thru ice sculpture display for February. She quoted Rock on Ice the current prices for use of the midway. Discussion was held. D.J. Young moved to approve their agreement with the current pricing structure. Jackie Colflesh second and motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

District 6 meeting and OFMA Convention were cancelled as “In Person” meetings – queen competition will be held in spring 2021.

Reverse raffle tickets may still be available – call OFMA office if interested - 330-208-0372.

D.J. Young reported that the document for the deeding of the county owned land to DCAS was sent to the county attorney and they are awaiting their response.

Benjamin Wenner reminded board members that the committee assignments went out with board packet.

NEW BUSINESS

Diane Winters moved to give Sandy Kuhn permission to sign the Community Enhancement Grant from the County. Jon Melvin second and motion carried.

District 6 Zoom Meeting is December 16 at 5 p.m. – Sandy Kuhn will take notes and email to everyone by the end of the week.

Diane Winters moved to approve a donation of a 6 person box for the OFMA online auction. Colleen Smith second and motion carried.

OFMA Annual Meeting is January 9 as a Zoom meeting – Jeff Armentrout, Benjamin Wenner and Sandy Kuhn will be the three representing DCAS, there should be a link on OFMA website to follow along – Sandy Kuhn will send information out when it is received.

OFMA will have an auction via Breeders World – Sandy Kuhn will send information out when it is received.

Benjamin Wenner said that he will be looking for additional board members to meet with the horse owners/trainers in the future. Let him know if you are interested.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

Jackie Colflesh moved to adjourn. Jeff Armentrout second the motion. Motion carried.

Benjamin Wenner, President

Sandy Kuhn, Secretary/General Manager