

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING

January 19, 2021 – 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, 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 – Joe McLead

GUESTS – Tom Downerd, Deb Jackson and Richard Leavy

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

Richard Leavy from the Delaware County Historical Society introduced himself and told the group about the Little Brown Jug History Project that he and others are working on. He reviewed the document that was sent out with the board packet. The plan is for a big celebration in 2021, as the one planned for the 75th in 2020 got postponed due to the pandemic. He reviewed with the group that the United States Trotting Association offers a matching funds marketing grant and he would like to co-write a grant proposal with the DCAS to get a \$2,000 grant. OHHA is planning to contribute \$500 but he needs an additional money for the match. The plan is to use photos and quotations to make pop-up banners that will be used to promote the Little Brown Jug throughout the county at events. He would also like to produce a timeline poster and possibly purchase equipment for a looped video of the project to run. Chip Thomson moved and Diane Winters second a motion to contribute up to \$1,000 from the advertising budget as a match for the grant. Motion carried. Tom Wright thanked Richard for all of the work he has done on the project.

MINUTES

Jackie Colflesh moved and Mark Fisher second a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the September 29, 2020 special board meeting. Motion carried. Chip Thomson moved and Colleen Smith second a motion to approve the December 15, 2020 board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Benjamin Wenner thanked Joe McLead for purchasing Zoom for the fair to use and that it has been used for numerous committee meetings held recently. He said that we will continue to use the board meeting link that he set up through the OSU account since it was set up as a reoccurring meeting and is the same link for each meeting. He reported that he was on WDLR to go over the talking points that were sent out in the board packet regarding Senate Bill 375. He reminded board members that some items that are discussed in board meetings require discretion so please respect that. He would like any motions that need made coming out of committees to be covered under New Business and not during individual committee reports.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (Full report in board folder)

Sandy Kuhn said that she had sent her report out with the board packet. She said that she has received requests for building and grounds rentals and is working with the current and potential future vendors on these events along with Committee 51.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dan Huffman reviewed the financials with the board. He reported that we will be applying for additional funding through the latest stimulus package. He thinks we should be okay until money starts coming in later this spring and early summer. Don Howard moved to accept the financial report. Bryan Mellen second the motion and motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Benjamin Wenner reported that the Executive Committee met January 13 and minutes were distributed with the board packet. Executive Committee minutes will be taken and distributed to all board members after the meetings. He said that they spent some time assembling the talking points/statement for the 2021 fair season and implications of the veto of Senate Bill 375, which was shared in the board packet.

PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Don Howard reported that the committee met on January 11 and the minutes were included in the board packet. He went over the discussion items at the meeting – the two proposed COVID policies, recommendations from the finance committee on staffing – both new hires and returning employees, exploring the possibilities of offering health insurance and retirement plans to employees, and reviewing the job description for the maintenance manager and the sponsorship manager.

Bryan Mellen moved to accept the two COVID policies that were sent out to the board – one for employees and one for people on the grounds. Jeff Armentrout second the motion. Discussion was held. Motion failed. It was decided that Don Howard would review Delaware County's policy and see if it was a fit for DCAS. Jon Melvin will get him the policy.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Dan Huffman reported on the meeting held January 7, 2021. Minutes were included in the board packet. Items discussed at the committee meeting included – salary information for Personnel Committee for maintenance position and raising admission and camping prices for the fair. Tom Wright moved and Mark Fisher second a motion to increase the fair admission price from \$6 to \$7 on every day except Jug Day, which is \$20, and to increase all camping spots by \$25. Discussion was held. Motion carried with two descending votes.

FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Aaron Roll moved and Mark Fisher second a motion to change the rules and require that any Junior Fair participant showing breeding rabbits, poultry and sheep must complete quality assurance. Motion carried. Aaron Roll reported that there would be an FAC meeting the first Saturday in February.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

Chip Thomson reported on the meeting held December 17, 2020. Minutes were included in the board packet. The main discussion at the meeting was around redesigning the website. Sandy Kuhn has applied for a \$25,000 grant from the county to redesign the site.

Tom Wright reported that a small group met regarding when and where to place stakes payment ads. Jay Wolf will be designing the ads.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

No report

MOTOR SPORTS COMMITTEE

Bryan Mellen reported on the meeting held January 12, 2021. Minutes were included in the board packet. Items of discussion were - the motorsports schedule for the 2021 fair, potential off fair events, scheduled work days in the summer and work requirements to receive a badge or weekly pass.

FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Pat Paykoff reported on the meeting held January 12, 2021. Minutes were included in the board packet. Items to note were – there is a water leak on the front side of the fairgrounds and they are trying to determine its exact location to get it fixed, they are still waiting to hear back from Columbia Gas on getting gas to the Coliseum, we are in need of a new dumpster truck so they will start to explore options and get prices and they recommend that we move forward in posting the maintenance manager position.

RACING COMMITTEE

Tom Wright reported that Cindy Flahive has done a great job working for the Race Secretary's office. They are down to five checks that need mailed. She is currently helping Quita Hines with the 1099 tax forms and getting ready for the February stakes payments.

He also reported that he was asked to join the Ohio Fair Racing Conference Board and is looking forward to the opportunity.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Colleen Smith reported that she has put together a small group to help provide information to Committee 51 for building rental rates.

Benjamin Wenner said he would like to hold some type of celebration when the new building is completed and asked the Hospitality Committee to spearhead the celebration. Colleen Smith said they would be happy to do that.

BED TAX COMMITTEE

Pat Paykoff reported on the meeting that was held December 21, 2020. Minutes were included in the board packet. He reported that the construction company is running one week behind. There have been some issues with the general contractor but they are dealing with it. DCAS should take over the building around June 1, 2021.

Tom Wright reported that it was decided to engage with an owner's representative if we move forward with any new projects.

COMMITTEE 51

Mike Harter reported that there would be a meeting held on Monday, January 25 at 6 p.m. at the fair office. A Zoom link is available to participate for non-committee members or those who don't want to meet in person. Discussion was held.

OLD BUSINESS

The District 6 Zoom meeting was held on December 16. Sandy Kuhn sent her notes from the meeting out to the board on December 18.

The OFMA Annual Meeting was held via Zoom on January 9, 2021. Jeff Armentrout, Benjamin Wenner and Sandy Kuhn participated. Sandy Kuhn sent out her notes on the meeting to board members January 19.

Sandy Kuhn let board members know that she sent an update on Senate Bill 375 and House Bill 665 in the board packet. Just a reminder – Senate Bill 375 would have rescinded the governor's orders which allowed for just a Junior Fair for 2021. This was vetoed by Governor DeWine. There are new legislators in 2021 so it could be reintroduced. House Bill 665 made changes on the legislative side of the Ohio Revised Code and Red Book.

NEW BUSINESS

Benjamin Wenner reminded board members that the Conflict of Interest form was sent with the board packet and to print, sign and email or drop off at the office. He said if you don't have a way to print then stop by the office and fill one out.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Colleen Smith moved and Mark Fisher second a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues. Motion carried. Discussion was held. Colleen Smith moved to return to regular session, noting that no decisions were made. Jackie Colflesh second the motion and motion carried

NEW BUSINESS

Colleen Smith moved and Mark Fisher second a motion to rehire Jen McGowan, office manager, starting back February 17, 2021. Motion carried.

Colleen Smith moved and Dan Huffman second a motion to rehire T. Thomson, sponsorship manager, starting back February 17, 2021 with the new employment agreement that was recommended by the personnel committee. Motion carried with one descending vote. Chip Thomson and Tom Wright abstained from voting.

Tiffany Rankin moved and Colleen Smith second a motion giving the Executive Committee the ability to approve moving forward with the maintenance manager position. Sandy Kuhn will get them a position advertisement to review. Motion carried with one descending vote.

Dan Huffman moved to reinstate the pay for the two employees who took pay cuts back in October effective the first pay in January. Jackie Colflesh second the motion and motion carried.

Don Howard reported that he just sent to the board the County's website page with their COVID policy on it. D.J. Young moved to accept the policy as DCAS's policy. Mark Fisher second the motion. Motion carried. Sandy Kuhn will get the information to the employees.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

Mark Fisher moved to adjourn. Jackie Colflesh second the motion. Motion carried.

Benjamin Wenner, President

Sandy Kuhn, Secretary/General Manager