

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING

May 18, 2021 – Merchant's Building

ATTENDANCE

Present –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 (arrived at 7:12 p.m.), Benjamin Wenner, Diane Winters, Tom Wright, D.J. Young, Laryssa Hook (Ex-Officio) and Sandy Kuhn (General Manager/Secretary).

Absent – Pat Allen and Joe McLead

GUESTS – Frenchy Fuller and T. Thomson

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Benjamin Wenner, called the meeting to order. The Pledge was recited. Roll call was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frenchy Fuller introduced himself. He told of his history on the grounds. He admitted he hit the front gate with his trailer because it sits too low and will pay to have it fixed. He has been to the doctor so he would like his driving privileges on the grounds back. Benjamin Wenner thanked him for coming and said the board would discuss this and get back with him.

MINUTES

Jon Melvin moved and Jackie Colflesh second a motion to approve the April 20, 2021 board meeting minutes. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Benjamin Wenner said that they met with MUDGIRLS and the dig locations were all worked out. If anyone has any objections to meeting in person for the meetings please email Benjamin.

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 Mazy started on Monday. The thought for 2021 is to combine the golf cart and concessions job into one job. Please let me know if you have any prospects for the job by the end of May. The Governor signed a bill to give each fair in Ohio \$50,000 for the 2021 fair and it should be deposited into our account within the next four weeks.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dan Huffman reviewed the financials with the board. He reported that the \$500,000 for grandstand improvements from the capital budget was deposited in our account. We are receiving \$50,000 from the State for the 2021 fair and we are starting to use the SBA loan money. The forms to get the \$50,000 refund for earned income tax credit will be signed and mailed in. Aaron Roll moved and Mark Fisher second a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

No report

PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

No report

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tiffany Rankin reported that the Hinkle filings were completed and filed. She reviewed the comparisons that were sent out. She touched on a few items: the income of \$1.3 million was all bed tax money; the receivables were up; the cash position is strong; fixed assets are up \$1.0 million because of the new building; expenses and liabilities were low; the SBA loan of \$150,000; PPP1 and PPP2 were each \$77,200; there was an

operating loss of \$400,000; we were down about \$1.8 million in revenue but were able to cut expenses by about \$1.7 million; we were able to be okay because of the money coming in from PPP; simulcast broke even (made \$8,000); Junior Fair broke even; and the unearned revenue of \$600,000 was from fair and racing money that people carried to 2021. The COVID footnotes are extensive. She made note that the verbiage in the footnotes was changed for the bed tax, extending it from the original five years to an additional 15 years. The language was expanded in our favor. Jackie Colflesh moved and Jeff Armentrout second a motion to approve the Hinkle Financials. Motion carried. Tiffany Rankin abstained from voting.

Tiffany Rankin reported that she had talked to Greg Trimble and they would like to have their event this year but will wait to hear from DCAS as to any type of protocols that might be in place before making their final determination.

FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

No report. Next meeting will be June 5.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

Chip Thomson reported on the meeting held April 29. Minutes were in the board packet. Chip Thomson shared a logo that he had Jane Hawes at the County develop for the Delaware County Agricultural Society. Discussion was held. There was concern as to what the logo would be used for, that it looked a lot like the County's logo and is similar to logos other entities are using. Discussion was held on possible changing the colors on the logo to brown. He explained the purpose was to give DCAS a professional appearance. Chip Thomson moved to adopt the new logo after it was changed to brown. Jon Melvin moved to table the motion and Colleen Smith second. Motion to table carried.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Jackie Colflesh reported on the meeting held May 17. The committee reviewed the schedules for both private security and sheriff's deputies. The committee will ask Captain Vance to come to a meeting to start to develop a better plan. The current budget for private security and deputies is \$60,000.

MOTOR SPORTS COMMITTEE

No report

FACILITIES/MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Pat Paykoff thanked the members of the facilities committee who came up and helped put up the horse stalls for the upcoming horse shows and for also helping with spraying and mowing.

He reported that the back flow pit was put in today and will soon be connected. The dumpster truck needs a bottom pan put in at a cost of \$1,300. The wash bay keeps plugging up and we will need to have it fixed. It was agreed to pay up to \$1,500 to get it fixed. There is still a water leak and they are narrowing down the location of it. It is somewhere around or in the grandstand.

RACING COMMITTEE

Tom Wright reported that Delaware will be hosting qualifiers in June per him confirming that with Renee Mancino at OHHA. The race payments are coming in. Bluegrass Events has 3,000 horses to nominate. He spoke in front of the Senate Committee for the Little Brown Jug license plate. Thanks to Chip and T. Thomson for attending the hearing. There were also some LBJ Society members in attendance. OHHA is changing how they arrange their funding to get more horse here at Delaware. The Ohio Racing Commission announced that no masks are needed in the paddock if you are vaccinated for COVID.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Colleen Smith reported that the Committee met twice. The entertainment for the 2021 is confirmed. The minutes from the meetings were distributed and included comparisons for similar rental venues to the Ag Center. She then reviewed the proposed pricing structure that was sent to the board. There was one change – the Ag Hall of Fame Downstairs and Upstairs pricing was switched on what was sent out. She said that a different rental agreement would be needed for the Ag Center and that D.J. Young would work on that. She mentioned hiring an event coordinator or management company for the Ag Center rental. Quotes for tables

and chairs were also included in the Committee meeting minutes. They ranged from \$30,000 to \$35,000. Discussion was held on whether to buy verses rent tables and chairs. There will be an Ag Center grand opening later this summer. It is probably going to be a 3-4 hour event. Hour one may be by invitation only and the next 2-3 hours open to the public. She may have a caterer interested in donating food for the first hour. The date and details still need to be worked out. More information to follow.

She reported that the Veteran's Dinner is a go for the Friday, September 24 during the Fair. Veteran's Affairs will sponsor \$6,000 for meals for the dinner. Jennifer McGowan is heading up the dinner for the Fair side and Harold Wolford is the representative collaborating on behalf of the veterans groups.

The Hospitality Committee wants to move forward with a full fair so tents can be at full capacity. T. Thomson is working to get a group for a fourth tent.

Dan Huffman brought up that there are procedural auditing issues as far as purchasing items for the new building prior to DCAS being turned over ownership from Marker. The building might not be turned over to DCAS in time to order everything needed for it before the Fair. Additional discussion occurred on ordering tables and chairs verses renting them, ordering office furniture and Junior Fair having to rent what they need for the 2021 Fair. It was mentioned that some items may not be available for purchase until next fall. Another issue is temporary verses permanent occupancy and what is allowed with temporary verses permanent.

BED TAX COMMITTEE

No report

COMMITTEE 51

Mike Harter reported on the meeting held May 10. Tack stalls will remain the same price as regular horse stalls. The graduation party request is okay to rent to.

OLD BUSINESS

Aaron Roll gave a report on the scholarship committee. Four scholarship applications were submitted by the following individuals – Heather Cade, Autumn Carsey, Jordan Kelleher and Kendall Sestili. These were scored by the committee and congratulations letters were sent to the recipients. Heather Cade and Autumn Carsey each will receive \$1,500 and Jordan Kelleher and Kendall Sestili will receive \$500. To note, Kendall also received one last year but the scholarship is set up so they can apply both their senior year and their first year of college. We had some very good candidates. They have been invited to attend the June meeting to receive a certificate and get their picture taken. Thanks to those who scored the applications.

Chip Thomson and the Friends of Your Delaware County Fair will be overseeing the beer/wine sales at MUDGIRLS (June 12-13) and Rugged Maniac (July 10) – he would appreciate everyone's help he can get.

The letter was given to the horse owner regarding the horse safety issue - horse was sent away for training and horseman has given his 30 day notice and is planning to move off grounds.

The letter was sent regarding the driving safety issue. The person has been seen by more than one person driving on the grounds. Mick Fisher moved to not allow person to drive on the grounds and if he is seen one more time driving on the grounds he is to be kicked off the grounds. Discussion was held. Mick rescinded his motion. Tiffany Rankin moved and Bryan Mellen second a motion to not renew this individual's horse stall rental agreement. Motion carried. Sandy Kuhn will send him the notification via certified mail and will post on the horse stalls. She will give the letter to him in person if he is there when she goes to post on stalls.

Update on status of new maintenance lead person. We are waiting on the background check to hire Adam Rice as the new maintenance person. He has accepted the offer pending the background check.

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Harter moved and Aaron Roll second a motion to approve spending \$27,970 with Gudenkauf for fiber for the new Ag Center. This was removed from the Marker quote and is saving DCAS over \$10,000. Motion carried.

Mike Harter moved and Collen Smith second a motion to allow Sportsman's Alliance to get a liquor license for their banquet at a cost of \$500. Motion carried.

Colleen Smith reviewed the Ag Center rental rates. D.J. Young moved to accept the rental rate agreement for the new Ag Center that was emailed out to the board with the switch on the upstairs and downstairs for the Ag Hall of Fame rentals. Discussion was held. It was decided these rates would be in effect until December 31, 2021 or until the Committee recommends new rates to the board. Mick Fisher second and motion carried.

Mike Harter moved and Diane Winters second a motion for the Fair office staff to be able to approve small, private events without them having to go to the board for approval. Motion carried.

Governor DeWine's health orders will be lifted effective June 2 so we should know more about what events will look like before the next board meeting.

If you have not received your Fair Director's pass please see Sandy Kuhn.

Mike Harter moved and Jon Melvin second a motion on behalf of Committee 51 requesting that the Executive Committee be given the authority to apply for a permanent liquor license. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Benjamin Wenner told the Fair board that there would be a meet and greet with the Junior Fair board on June 29 at 7 p.m., hopefully in the new building if possible. Please try to attend.

Benjamin Wenner said he had received a call from a horseman frustrated about receiving a late fee on his bill. Benjamin explained to the horse owner that the board put the new agreement in place and we are upholding the board's wish to enforce the contract and this specific instance of the late fee was enforced and has been handled.

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

Benjamin Wenner, President

Sandy Kuhn, Secretary/General Manager