

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 17th, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

Present- Jeff Armentrout, Jennifer Brown, Adam DeMarco, Mark Fisher, Patricia Gladman, Mike Harter, Don Howard, Dan Huffman, Mike Knapp, David Laaksonen, Bryan Mellen, Jon Melvin, Tiffany Rankin, Colleen Smith, Chip Thomson, Randy Turner, Chris Welker, Benjamin Wenner, Diane Winters, Tom Wright, Laryssa Hook and Jen McGowan

GUESTS: Kevin Simpson, Jay Wolf

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chip Thomson called the meeting to order, Randy Turner lead the pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES

Benjamin Wenner moved and Mark Fisher seconded to approve the minutes from the board meeting on December 20th, 2022. Motion Carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chip Thomson Had a phone call with Preservation Parks with concerns involving their Tent during fair. The concrete slab on where the tent is located has become crack and uneven, and as a high traffic area it should be addressed. They also expressed the need for the golf carts the avoid cutting through in the area around the tent as it could be a hazard for walking patrons of the fair.

Jen's is working on soliciting bids for new carpet in the log cabin. She has one and expects to have a couple more. Chip Thomson also expressed that Tom Wright has worked on getting someone to repair and repaint the walls and rehang and organize the Hall of Fall and Museum aspect of the log cabin.

Chip Thomson reminded the board of the January 28th board retreat in the log cabin. He expects to have good attendance, and will call those can not attend and ask if they have any input that they would like to express to the board at the meeting. He will ask former Board Member, and County Commissioner, John O'Brien to be the moderator of the retreat. He asks that every committee have a wish list.

OFFICE REPORT

Jen McGowan reported that the office is currently working on organizing the lists and sending out W-2 and 1099s from the past year.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dan Huffman reported that we have \$140,000 dollars in working capital. We have received an \$82,000 tax bill, and it will continue to be an issue until a permanent solution can be found. Currently wait on our insurance from PEP to see what the increase in cost will look like this year.

Ben Wenner moved and Bryan Mellen seconded to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

No Report

GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Mike Harter reported that he is waiting on Kirby's Towing to call be to discuss extending the towing contract from 2022.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

No Report

FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Benjamin Wenner reported that they did not have a meeting, but that 3 Junior Fair Board at the OFMA conference, and our Fair Queen did not participate in the Ohio Fair Queen Contest.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

Patti Gladman reported that a meeting was held and they produced a wish list for the retreat. Dan Huffman asked if there was a plan to get a Full Page ads in some publication to advertise the availability of the Ag Center, and Tom Wright noted that we could include a QR code that would direct people to our website. This committee and Jen will look into this.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mike Harter reported that he talked with the Sheriff and the other public safety entities about and safety items that could be useful for us at the retreat.

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE

Bryan Mellen reported that a meeting was held prior to the OMFA convention to figure out what vendors we should talk with about utilizing their service for the fair this year.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Mark Fisher reported their meeting was focused on discuss the issues cause by a broken water line in the DACC barn. The estimate to fix all the problems will be between \$8,000-\$10,000. Knowing that this building houses a class and how that is important to us Chip Thomson suggest we could reach out to OHHA to help with further overall improvements to the building. Tom Wright suggest the USTA as well could be interested in help educate the future generation. Jon Melvin said the current class size is 12 and Laryssa Hook stated the max is 25. Class ends June 24th. Diane Winters moved and Patti Gladman seconded to spend up to \$15,000 to fix the issues in the DACC barn. Motion Carried.

Mark Fisher is currently working with Cory from Morco Electric to extend his contract from last year. Jon Melvin and Mark Fisher will meet with Cory to review the contract to make sure both size agree on the scope now that Cory has been through the fair and has a better idea of work the is required to get ready for the Fair. The committee would like to get a scope of work together for the plumbing contract. The Cleaning contract is up, and we should review the scope of work. Colleen Smith asked if our current company had a schedule? Jen McGowan said they do, and have been good when she communicates our event schedule. Potts Power Washing would be interested in a 3 year contract, and the price quoted last year, Mark Fisher will work on getting the details together. Other topics we review and can be found in the minutes from the meetings they were distributed with the board packet.

Monthly maintenance committee meetings were set for the 1st Wednesdays of the month.

RACING COMMITTEE

Tom Wright distributed a packet to the board. Last year he met with Pat Huber who told Tom, that the Little Brown Jug should be a \$1 million dollar race. And last fair when Governor Dewine came to present the Trophy, Hunter Wright introduce Mr. Huber to the Governor and asked for support in getting the Little Brown Jug's purse to \$1 million dollars, the Governor was receptive of a plan to help as long as the Fair Board would commit to the purse being \$1 million dollars. Jennifer Brown went over other races across the industry and how raising the purse to \$1 million dollars will make the top purse for 3 year pacing horses in North America. Tom Wright announced that Brian Brown has so far gotten \$90,000 in sponsorship dollars with the goal of raising the purse to \$1 million dollars. In order to show the Governor that the Fair Board that behind this goal Tom Wright asked that the Fair Board increase the purchase price of the race from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Jennifer Brown moved, and Colleen Smith seconded purchasing the Race for and Maximum additional \$50,000 to contribute to the purse to help get The Little Brown Jug to \$1 million. Motion Carried Unanimously.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Colleen Smith reported that the committee reviewed the profit of the Top of the Stretch and Backstretch tents. She is waiting for more information for the Hill. Benjamin Wenner asked about the catering for the Hill. Colleen Smith stated that it was the position of the committee last year to go with Berwick Catering, and that they want to see what they can do for us this year, they had agreed to give a \$13,000 sponsorship. Benjamin Wenner said that All Occasions was \$20,000 cheaper and that is larger than the potential sponsorship was, and he would like for the committee to get a bid from All Occasions this year. Colleen Smith agreed that they would.

BED TAX COMMITTEE

We issued an addendum to the bid packages, and the bids will be opened January 23rd. Our building representative from Regal, Kevin Wise has resigned.

ALL HORSE PARADE

Diane Winters reported that the Horse Parade will be on September 10th

HALL OF FAME/MUSEUM

No Report

TICKETS & ADMISSIONS/RV

No Report

HORSE CONTRACT

Mike Harter reported that there will be a meeting next Monday.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS.

Benjamin Wenner moved and Randy Turner Seconded moving into Executive Session for a personal matter. Motion Carried.

Benjamin Wenner moved to return to regular session, noting that no decisions were made. Dan Huffman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Benjamin Wenner moved to retroactively raise Jen McGowan's salary with up to 3% match on a IRA starting December 1st 2022. Jeff Armentrout seconded. Motion carried

Bryan Mellen moved and Jennifer Brown seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

