

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 21st, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

Present- Jeff Armentrout, Adam DeMarco, Mark Fisher, Patricia Gladman, Mike Harter, Don Howard, Dan Huffman, Mike Knapp*, David Laakenson, 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

*Arrived after Roll Call. Will be indicated when they arrived in the minutes.

ABSENT: Jennifer Brown

GUESTS: Kirk Marker, Mike Girovard, Tyler Nanthum, Sierra Sparks, Mica Sparks, Savannah Durheim, Jacci Smith, Theron France, John O'Brien, Jessie Rice, Zak Beaver, Lauren Brunner, Addison Brunner, Cassie Rice, Gabrielle Beaver, Kylie Simpson, Jeff Stover, Dan Ernst, Tom Rozsits, Mason Phrazyn

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chip Thomson called the meeting to order, Diane Winters led the pledge of Allegiance and Chris Welker called the Roll.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jessie Rice and Zak Beaver presented a proposal for a Junior Fair Board Lounge. Currently there is not a space for members of the Junior Fair Board to meet to ensure all fair assignments are completed, and a quiet space for them to do to homework or class work that they are missing out to be at the fair. The Junior Fair Board would create a Lounge Committee to spearhead the task of keeping the space in order and clean. Chip Thomson said he would support approving this request and asked if there were any questions from the board. Dan Huffman asked where they would want it? Zak Beaver replied Benjamin had talked about the possibility of being upstairs in the Ag Center. It would be in the space building as the Junior Fair Office and if a member of the Extension office need a Junior Fair Board member they would be close by.

Jon Melvin moved and Diane Winters seconded to create a Junior Fair Board space, Motion Carried. Chip Thomson wanted to set a time line of accomplish this by July 1st. Members of the Junior Fair Board agreed to aim for that date. Jacci Smith thanked the Board for their support. Members of the Junior Fair Board and their supports left.

Kurt Marker introduced himself and the other guests from Marker, Dan Ernest of Ernest Concrete and Tom Rozsits of Ohio Concrete introduced themselves. Kurt Marker has an open proposal for the board of which corrective action they would like to take for the crack in the concrete on the exterior of the Ag Center. Benjamin Wenner asked which of the test options it was, Mr. Marker indicated that it was the further south one, the one with decorative flakes that seals cracks. Mr. Ernest said we believe that this option will be the best solution to the problem. Don Howard asked what Mr. Ernest believed caused the crack. Mr. Ernest explained their position, the process in which concrete cures causes its to shrink, in the design of this slab there is rebar on both sides of the pad, so when it dried it would 'stick' to the rebar on both sides and as it continue to dry both sides were pulling at each other and that created the crack.

Chip Thomson wanted to clarify who contracted Ernest Concrete. Chip asked Mr. Ernest, "It wasn't the Delaware County Agricultural Society?" Mr. Ernest responded, "Correct." Mark Fisher asked, "If this was a normal spec, and if not why didn't Marker ask for an RFI?" Mr. Marker responded, "We did not know it would be a problem." Dan Huffman added that our engineer says it's a solid design and that difference in opinions is where the disagreement between our counsel and Marker comes from. Chip Thomson commented that we were holding our final payment from Marker until this is resolved, and asked what Marker's proposal would be to resolve this. Mr. Marker stated the cost of the repair mentioned earlier would cost approximately \$63,000 and that we would share the cost 50/50. Colleen Smith asked if Marker questioned anything on specs? Were there other RFIs on this project? They believed that there were 60-70 RFIs on this project.

*Mike Knapp arrived

Dan Huffman said that he has the binder of the all the RFIs from this project in his office. Tiffany Rankin shared: "We clearly are at a stalemate here no one is going to take blame for this, but how often do you, Marker, ask the client for more money after a project is complete?"

*Tom Wright arrived

Tom Rozsits, the Executive Director of Ohio Concrete which is a non profit trade organization, expressed that they handle resolving issues like this one, and that while rebar is common in designs for frost protection, they tend to isolate it on 1 fixed structure. Chip Thomson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and said we would reach out to them when the board decided on what to do.

Chip Thomson then asked John O'Brien if he would like to speak about the next step from our board retreat. Mr. O'Brien shared that Chip and himself had collected all the comments about the projects in the future and created a survey. He passed them out and asked if everyone could fill it out so an action plan could be made. Everyone was asked to completed and give it to Jen by Friday.

MINUTES

Benjamin Wenner moved and Mark Fisher seconded to approve the minutes from the board meeting on January 17th, 2023. Motion Carried.

Benjamin Wenner moved and Mark Fisher seconded to approve the minutes from the board retreat on January 28th, 2023. Motion Carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chip Thomson asked what defines and excused absence and asked if there were any volunteers to meet and present the board with a recommendation for what constitutes an excused absence. Jeff Armentrout will lead the group and Mark Fisher, Colleen Smith and Diane Winters agreed to help answer this question. Chip shared that since both of the temporary committees had met that we could dissolve those committees now. The County is opening up community assessment grants submission window, and Chip would like to ask for help with security cameras. Chip asked for Jennifer Brown to be excused, no motion was made.

OFFICE REPORT

Jen McGowan reported that the office is currently starting to work on renewing sponsors from last year, and that Chris Welker has been helping. Jen has gotten a new day sponsorship from the Humane Society for \$5,000. Jen let go of Bev Tidd, she is work with Benjamin to make sure anything that needs done for Junior Fair will be taken care of. Cindy Flahive has put in her two weeks. Jen did a walk through in Barn 34 with Rob and there are only a couple of potential safety issues for them to fix. Guest Jeff Stover interjected that he was in the Hoop Barn and would like to move back in to Barn 34, Chip Thomson asked him to work with Jen. Jen continued that she would like to sell the frontage spots in the LBJ parking lot specifically as tent spaces. Chip asked that if she moves forward with this, to make sure people have a chance to get a spot if they have gotten one in the past.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dan Huffman asked that all budgets be turned in by March 9th so the finance committee could review them all together and then bring them all to the board. The finance committee would like them to be a detailed budget with how much money they plan on using for each expenditure. Questions were asked about some outstanding accounts, Jen said she has been reaching out to some of the larger one, and that one has already propped a payment plan and has started to pay on it.

Benjamin Wenner moved and Jon Melvin seconded to approved the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

No Report

GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Mike Harter reported sent out everything that would need to be approved in the board packet. Explained some of the details of the new horse stall contract and asked that this contract be looked at ever year so it stays current and asked to have a meeting with the Horsemen. Benjamin Wenner moved and Colleen Smith seconded to approve the updated Horse Stall Rental contract. Motion carried.

Don Howard moved and Jon Melvin seconded to approve the ticket price increases. Motion Carried.

The Buckeye Valley rental agreement is up for renewal, it has an increase of 3% each year for the 3 years of the contract. Benjamin Wenner moved and Colleen Smith seconded to approve the Buckeye Valley Contract. Motion carried.

Chip Thomson said that now both the Ticketing and Horse Stall committees were dissolved.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting minutes were in the board packet, the committee would like the boards continued help to improve our budgeting process. Jen will send out reminders for everyone budgets.

FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Benjamin Wenner shared that the minutes from the meeting were in the Board Packet, and the important parts were that there will be pen cleaning fees, set by each species committees this year, and the our complaint process will be updated and in rules to help have a more formal process. Benjamin also plans to solicit more sponsors for the barns to help offset some of their expenses.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

Patti Gladman reported that a meeting was held and they discussed how to increase our online presence and plan on submitting a budget of \$80,000.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mike Harter reported he was working on producing a budget and was continuing to work with the towing contract.

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE

Bryan Mellen reported that a meeting was held and the idea of potentially having a rodeo for the fair this year. The promoter has connections with the PBR circuit. Bryan will continue to pursue this option and have a report for the next board meeting.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Mark Fisher reported at their monthly meeting the budget was the primary focus. They focused on 3 separate budgets: training facility, year round maintenance, and a fair budget. There was also discussion on establishing a plan on equipment, to help get them updated and working properly and safely.

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

RACING COMMITTEE

Tom Wright reported that the money from the State for the purse is still in play, and with the news of the purse potentially reaching 1 million dollars for the Jug we are up on the number of horse this year compared to last year. Fox Sports wants to cover The Jug Race Day, and it will cost us \$17,000. Tom plans on asking the USTA to cover 1/2 of it and we have the ability to sell commercials for help us cover the other half. Jason has about \$150,000 already committed for this year. He has a goal of \$350,000. Jennifer Brown will insure that during the week of fair all deliverable items are taken care of with these sponsors.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Colleen Smith reported that this year there will be personal changes in the Top and Backstretch tents. There has been a meeting with Colleen, Tom and Budweiser.

BED TAX COMMITTEE

Tom Wright reported that there were meetings with 4 local banks and as of this afternoon we have 4 term sheets from them. Chip asked what kind of loans they would be. Tom clarified that it would be something similar to a construction loan, where we'd only pay interest on the money we have drawn until the project is done and then it would convert to a normal loan. Tom has been working with the county attorney and county administrator. Hope to have answer on how we can use the bed tax to pay debt. Tom also had a meeting with Bob Lamb and Don Rankey about potentially using bonds to pay for bigger projects. Benjamin Wenner moved and Bryan Mellen seconded to increase the amount of money that the executive committee can borrow for this project to \$3.5 million dollars. Motion carried.

ALL HORSE PARADE

Diane Winters reported the All Horse Parade will be on September 10th at 3:00pm and the Junior Fair Court will be a part of it, thanks to Benjamin Wenner.

HALL OF FAME/MUSEUM

Don Howard said the minutes from their meeting was sent out, there were no questions.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS.

Benjamin Wenner moved and Jon Melvin seconded moving into Executive Session for a personal matter and legal matter. Motion Carried.

Jon Melvin moved to return to regular session, noting that no decisions were made. Randy Turner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Colleen Smith moved and Jon Melvin seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.