

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 18, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

Present- Jeff Armentrout, Adam DeMarco, Mark Fisher, Patricia Gladman, 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, Laryssa Hook and Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Tom Wright, Mike Harter

GUESTS: Kevin Simpson

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES

Diane Winters moved and Colleen Smith seconded to approve the minutes from the board meeting on March 21st, 2023. Motion Carried, Jon Melvin abstained.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chip Thomson gave various board members homework to help get the signatures needed to continue the process for the Little Brown Jug license plate. Chip asked for an update on the roofs of some barns and buildings, Jon Melvin is working on the plan going forward. Chip shared that the Log Cabin is in rough shape and would like to move it up the priority list on making it better. The roof would need to be addressed first. The designs for the smaller infield tote board are completed, we need to get this built before fair. Chip wants to form a special committee for the furtherance of planning for a riding arena. He appointed Jon Melvin, Mike Harter, Kathy Melvin and Rhonda Harter, then he asked if there were any other board members who would like to be on the committee, Diane Winters and Patti Gladman agreed to join the committee.

Don Howard shared with the board the Jackie Colflesh had a heart attack, and was recovering at Riverside, and hoped to be home later in the week.

OFFICE REPORT

Jen McGowan gave a sponsorship update, the fair has \$51,750 committed of which \$7,750 has been paid. Racing sponsors total \$163,000 with \$41,500 been paid already.

Delaware County Soil and Water would like to join with Preservation Parks and move from beside the Pig and Lamb Barn over to where Preservation Parks currently is and make a welcoming space near the main gate and the Arts and Crafts building. Their time frame for the move would be in about three years.

Sportsmen Alliance needs approved to have a liquor license for their event in May, Chris Welker moved and Jennifer Brown seconded, to allow Sportsmen Alliance to procure a liquor license for their May 20th, 2023 event. Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dan Huffman financial were sent out in the board packet. We have reached a resolution for the concrete around the Ag Center. Jen will be working with the contractors for the agreed upon fix to schedule it around our building needs with the event calendar. Once it's done, we will pay out our remaining balance to Marker.

Benjamin Wenner moved, and Colleen Smith seconded to approve the finance report.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

No Report.

GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting was held yesterday. Jen provided a contract for the general pest control with Project Pest for the grounds and the Fair, the total for the contract is \$5,800 for the year. Mark Fisher moved and Jon Melvin seconded to approve the contract for pest control by Project Pest.

Demo Derby contract was given to G&A, the company is Demolition Derby Inc.(DDI) , which is the same company we have used for the Derby most recently. The cost this year will be \$7,000. Mark Fisher moved and Benjamin Wenner seconded to approve the contract for the Demo Derby with DDI. Motion Carried.

Jen worked with Todd Thomas of Sunshine Cleaning LTD, to produce an agreement for the cleaning needs during the fair, and for the rates of cleaning areas around the grounds for the rest of the year. The price for the fair is \$19,000. The contract will be for the 2023 & 2024 fairs. Benjamin Wenner moved, and Don Howard seconded to approve the contract with Sunshine Cleaning LTD. Motion Carried.

Jen got bids from a few landscaping companies, Ivy Tree submitted the best bid. Mark Fisher asked who handles the front gate? Jen shared it was the Master Gardeners and that they have been in and started working on it. The total for the bid from Ivy Tree is \$26,499. Jon Melvin moved and Jeff Armentrout seconded, to approve the contract from Ivy Tree for landscaping at a cost of \$26,499. Motion Carried.

A rodeo contract was submitted to G&A, Diane Winters questioned the cost, and brought forth another option. Jen called and they have the dates available, she also called other fairs who have worked with this company and they all have had good experiences. Bryan and Motorsports will meet with him in the coming weeks.

We reviewed the sound contract. Some members felt that it lacks details. Jen, Mark and Jon met with Pete to go over his needs to help update our infrastructure to keep our sound working. Jon stressed to the board that we provide companies with the infrastructure and they use it to provide us with quality sounds. If we can continue to update and strengthen our infrastructure the sound will only get better. Benjamin Wenner moved and Jeff Armentrout seconded to approve the Contract from Signature Sound for the sound for the 2023 fair. Motion Carried.

Truck Pull contract was submitted from On The Mark. We have used them for previous fairs. Mark Fisher moved, Jon Melvin seconded to pay \$2200 to On the Mark, for the services they provide to run the Truck Pull.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tiffany Rankin shared that the Tax commission has released their decision on our property tax, and we are retroactively tax free. So that issue should be resolved.

FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Benjamin Wenner stated the minutes were provided in the board packet. The Fair schedule is ready. There is a need for a weigh master. The plan to move animals to new barns will happen this year, and Benjamin plans to begin working with some Junior Fair Board Members to get all the barns sponsored this year. David Laaksonen asked if this would affect any of the current signage? Benjamin responded that beside the Performance Arena all the signs are faded and worn.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

No Report

SAFETY COMMITTEE

No Report. Benjamin Wenner asked if there was a plan to make handicap parking better? Jen will talk and work with Tim Rick.

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE

Bryan Mellen said they met and sent the contracts to G&A.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Mark Fisher shared the minutes were in the board packet. Some highlights were, action will need to be taken to convert the dairy barn into the poultry barn, DACC will help fix some old gate, we should consider hiring a contractor for the tote board, Barn 34 update has started, looking for quotes to reside the coliseum, talk about a lean to on the new maintenance office to help safely store more stuff, and Jen has hired 2 mowers.

RACING COMMITTEE

Tiffany Rankin shared payments are up over last years at this time.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Colleen Smith reported minutes were in the packet, they have 1 caterer for both the Top of Stretch Tent and the Backstretch Tent, there wasn't a decision made for the Hill catering, Chip called a joint meeting of G&A and hospitality to review the competing bids for the Hill.

BED TAX COMMITTEE

Jon Melvin updated the board on the Grandstand project, it won't be 100% complete by fair. The plan would be to have electric and all the back of house rooms done for fair, but the bathrooms will not be done in time for fair. Jen will work with Tidy Tim's and the Health Department to insure we have enough temporary toilets for the patrons in the grandstands during fair.

ALL HORSE PARADE

Diane Winters has her want list of space they would like to use during the prep for the Horse Parade. Benjamin Wenner and Diane will work on this to see if it will work with the barn switch it could affect the barns that they have historically used.

HALL OF FAME/MUSEUM

No meeting, Don Howard is currently working on inventory.

OLD BUSINESS

Dan Huffman reported on the quotes he was asked to get for new bleacher in the Pig and Lamb barn.

Jen reported on the scholarship recipients. They are Abby Sapp, Noah Hildebrand, Shannon Barr, Clay Whitaker, and Natalie Homan.

NEW BUSINESS.

None.

Chris Welker moved to adjourn, Adam Demarco seconded. Motion Carried.

