

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 18th, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Jeff Armentrout, Jennifer Brown, Adam DeMarco, Mark Fisher, Mike Harter, Don Howard, Dan Huffman, Mike Knapp, 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

ABSENT: Patti Gladman, David Laaksonen

GUESTS: None

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chip Thomson called the meeting to order, Tom Wright led the pledge of Allegiance and Chris Welker called the roll.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MINUTES

Benjamin Wenner moved and Bryan Mellen seconded to approve the minutes from the board meeting on June 20th, 2023. Motion Carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chip Thomson shared that all the loan documents are signed, Chip Thomson, Tiffany Rankin and our legal counsel Dave Carroll were present at the signing at First Commonwealth. Chip asked if Randy would work with Dan to help better understand our finances. Jon Melvin gave an update on the Grandstands; they are on schedule for fair and the building should be dried in by the end of the week.

OFFICE REPORT

Jen McGowan reported that if we want to have Tidy Tim's hold bathrooms on standby for if the bathrooms are not ready, we'd have to pay \$15,000 to hold them. Chip Thomson asked Jen to work with Jon Melvin to come up with a plan to hopefully cancel them.

Jen reached out to our normal supplier of benches and they do not have any to borrow. We can get benches built, for \$1,450. Jen plans on having some more staff in the office starting in September 1st.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dan Huffman said financials are in the board packet. Money is steadily coming as we get ready for Fair. We will need to rent lifts for fair this year, Dan has a quote for \$10,000 for 6 separate lifts that we need for our fair prep, and the running of the Fair. Jon Melvin moved, Mike Knapp seconded to approve spending \$10,000 for renting lifts. Motion Carried.

We also will need to buy cord covers this year, we will no longer be able to borrow them. Rent them would cost more than buying them outright. Don Howard moved and Jennifer Brown seconded to approve spending up to \$12,000 on cord covers. Motion Carried. Benjamin Wenner moved and Colleen Smith seconded to redact a statement for security reasons. Motion Carried.

With renting equipment, Dan believes we should add a rider to our insurance for rental equipment. The Board agreed to give Jen McGowan the authority to work with our insurance to add the rider.

Jennifer Brown moved and Randy Turner seconded to approve the Treasurers Report. Motion Carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mike Harter reported that the committee met and decided to not fill the empty seat on the board at this time.

GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

No Report

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mike Harter reported that he has been in contact with Captain Vance to have a meeting to go over our security needs for fair this year.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

No meeting. Tiffany Rankin said the auditors will be back on Friday to finish up the field work. Colleen Smith asked how much the audit will cost, Jen McGowan said \$16,000. Tiffany Rankin said we have been saving money this year by keep more of the work in house. Tiffany also reported all in there was around \$40,000 in legal fees for due diligence on the loan. With the amount of due diligence done for this loan, any future loans should have less due diligence because we have done it for this one. Bailey Cavalieri donated a lot of time.

FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes are in the packet. Chip Thomson asked about scales. Chris Welker told the board, that the Pig and Lamb scale was serviced, and he tested with Rob Leeds and Jacci Smith from Extension with his dog, Hank.

Jeff Armentrout asked about the sign on Pennsylvania. Chip explained to the board about the meeting with the city about the plans for a sidewalk on Pennsylvania. Jon Melvin shared the details of the path of a potential bike path. Chip believe we need to check off all of the outstanding needs with the city before we move on the sign.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

No meeting, No report.

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE

Bryan Mellen and Jeff Armentrout met with a fence company about quotes for multiple fences on the grounds. The Rodeo contractor we were going to work with, now wants an additional \$3,500. The committee will look at other options.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Mark Fisher shared that the minutes were in the packet as well as the list of project to be completed before fair.

RACING COMMITTEE

Tom Wright shared that we will be racing for \$1 Million Dollars. The language has been changed in the Ohio Revised Code to allows us more options for borrowing money for improvements to the grounds. This year's Wall of Fame inductee will be Bob Schmitt.

An employee's health has taken a turn, and that leaves our track crew as a team of 1. Tom has reached out to one of the people who help with the track during fair to work from September 1st through the fair. In order for him to work we'd need to put him up in a hotel, and get him a rental vehicle. The total cost would be about \$6,500. Mark Fisher moved and Diane Winters seconded to pay for his transportation and lodging. Motion Carried.

Race Sponsorship update: We are up to \$350,000 with 60 different sponsors. Meeting every 10-14 days to insure we are covering everything as it comes up. Colleen Smith asked who was taking care of stuffing envelopes and shaking hands. Tom Wright said the plan is for Jennifer Brown to help as much as she can, as long with the office. Then during the fair, Diane Winters and Phil Terry have offered to help.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Colleen Smith has a quote to seal and fix the asphalt on the Hill.

BED TAX COMMITTEE

Tom Wright said they will be meeting after the board meeting to talk about the tote board. May's receipts were \$250,000. Jon Melvin presented in the form of a motion, to approve the fiber project for \$341,000, Benjamin Wenner seconded. Jon clarified that the project would likely not be completed by fair but some key elements could be done. Motion Carried.

ALL HORSE PARADE

Diane Winters said she has lost 5 wagons, she is working on getting replacements. During the day of the parade, they will be using barn 11 after discussions with the beef and dairy committees.

HALL OF FAME/MUSEUM

Don Howard shared that the minutes were in the packet. We have had some damage to our new building during rentals, and we need to have someone on premise.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS.

None.

Mike Knapp moved and Colleen Smith seconded to adjourn. Motion Carried.