

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 15th, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Jeff Armentrout, Jennifer Brown, Adam DeMarco, Mark Fisher, Patti 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

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dan Huffman explained the current water leak issue that arose during work on the Grandstands that day.

MINUTES

Benjamin Wenner moved and Randy Turner seconded to approve the minutes from the board meeting on June 20th, 2023. Discussion followed as to which copy of the minutes was being approved, and Benjamin clarified the second copy that included Randy's edits. Motion Carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chip Thomson shared there will be a voluntary walk through on September 6th, with the regular monthly maintenance meeting.

OFFICE REPORT

Jen McGowan reported our racing sponsorship are at \$369,000 and our fair sponsors are at \$95,300. Jen also reported on the cost of rain insurance for the fair this year;

Saturday \$50,000 for 12pm-5pm

Sunday \$100,000 for 12pm-5pm

Wednesday \$100,000 for 7:00am- 1:00pm

Thursday \$200,000 for 7:00am-1:00pm

To have this level of coverage will cost \$13,500. Discussion followed about extending time and monetary coverage for the 1st Saturday to help cover the Rodeo. Jon Melvin move to approved the rain insurance with the increase in time on the first Saturday to 8:00pm and payout to \$75,000.

Benjamin Wenner seconded. Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Dan Huffman reported money has slowed down, and he is watching our spending. If we needed we could use some of the money we have allocated for the grandstand project to help cover our cost to start the fair. Tom Wright doesn't think we should touch any money earmarked for the grandstand project. Dan explained it takes a while for sponsor money to come in. Benjamin Wenner shared his example about an invoice from June 2022 that didn't get paid til April 2023 when he collected in person from the sponsor. General discussion was held on how benefits are given before payments are made.

Chip Thomson asked if paperwork for a line of credit has been filled out. Dan Huffman said no. Chip asked if we could start that process tomorrow. Tiffany Rankin will reach out to Adam Hansberry at First Commonwealth as soon as the board meeting is concluded. Mike Harter moved to open a line of credit for up to \$250,000. Diane Winters seconded. Discussion followed. Motion Carried.

Bed Tax account has \$1.235 million, and our next draw for the grandstand \$923k. Bed Tax appropriation committed \$500k. We only have had 2 draws from the Bed Tax account and were

looking at 3. This update would mean that we will have to take our first draw from the loan. Benjamin Wenner asked if we could get preapproval from the county before hand. Jon Melvin: No. Chip Thomson said it works out, everyone will get their money. Chip would like to know how much we have spent with 2K so far on this project. Dan: around \$1.1 million.

Tom Wright had questions about some line items on the report, grounds wages, property services, repairs and insurance are all up over last year. Dan Huffman is working on shopping our insurance but options are limited. Jon Melvin asked about how the RLS labor costs are divided since they are 1099s? Tiffany Rankin shared that Quita does a good job of keep everything in the appropriate places. Tom Wright asked with \$17,000 dollars in Ag Center utilities do we have \$17,000 in rentals? He expressed frustration that there are still no pictures on the website, there was a motion from a previous meeting to have the advertising committee further advertise the space and that hasn't happened.

Benjamin Wenner moved and Jon Melvin seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion Carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chip Thomson reported the Exec met twice, talked about ongoing work with the city. Pennsylvania Ave is being repaved in August 2024, we won't have to pay for the trees that would be lost with this project, and we will lose about 15 feet in the space from the road. These issues are along with standing issues, and the city engineers estimate the cost of a new sidewalk would be \$200,000. Chip has asked Dave Carrol for a resolution for the board to ratify.

GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

Mike Harter presented the plumbing contract, it will be less than previous years. Benjamin Wenner moved and Don Howard seconded to approve the plumbing contract.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tiffany Rankin said we had a clean audit with no findings.

FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Benjamin Wenner said minutes are in the packet. Sponsors are up and Awards are up.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

No meeting, they are looking at signs to replace the sign in Pennsylvania. Stickers are coming this week.

Tiffany Rankin shared that she presented at Rotary to help raise awareness about the Fair and our Million Dollar Little Brown Jug. Tim Wilson from Destination Delaware is helping promote the race as well.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mike Harter reported there was no meeting, he is planning on working with Bryan about the needs of motor sports. Dan Huffman said all of the fire extinguishers have been serviced. Mike Harter asked about having away to address the entire ground over the loud speakers on the grounds. Jen McGowan will do a test run with Pete to figure out what further work is needed.

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE

Bryan Mellen reported that a meeting was held and rodeo options were discussed, they sent a rodeo contract to exec and they approved.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Mark Fisher shared that the minutes were in the packet. We are working on getting ready for fair. Mark Fisher and Jeff Armentrout met with Diane Winters and there is a lot less confusion about the set-up the parade needs.

RACING COMMITTEE

Tom Wright and Jon Melvin met with a TV guy looking for a more local company. We might be getting a 42 inch riding mower and we like to give it away. Publicity for the Million Dollar Jug is going well. Stall man has been hired. Discussion was held on if we needed to have the overflow tent.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

No Meeting, Colleen closed a 3-year sponsorship deal with Chesrown.

BED TAX COMMITTEE

Tom Wright they are working on getting the Tote Board done. With the Grandstand remodel we will be losing some betting windows, with this in mind to ensure we have enough places for people to place bets, we have asked the same contractor who is doing the Tote Board to make a mobile self service betting windows. The cost will be about \$12,000. Colleen Smith asked how many windows did we lose? Tom Wright answered 18-20, but not all of them were used during the week. This will be a fix to help with this year. Chris Welker moved and Bryan Mellen second to spend \$12,000 to build a mobile betting window. Motion Carried.

ALL HORSE PARADE

Diane Winters reported that Miss Ohio is coming for the parade. This year the parade will leave and exit out of the Euclid gate. Chip Thomson asked who was Diane's contact at the Delaware Police Department, Diane said Captain Penrod.

HALL OF FAME/MUSEUM

Don Howard he is working on refinishing some pieces and getting the space prepared for fair.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS.

Randy Turner said, On behalf of the finance committee I move that the maintenance committee be authorized to purchase a truck and snowplow no sooner than October 1st, 2023 with unanimous consent of the committee member for not more than \$36,000. Chris Welker seconded for discussion. Mike Harter asked why we would need a 4-wheel drive truck? Mark Fisher said to plow snow to keep the roads clear so horsemen have access to care for their horses. Mike Harter shared he doesn't see a reason to buy a truck if we don't have anyone to drive it. We should spend it on a manager. Chip Thomson said he'd like us to get new stuff. Don Howard suggested we bid out snow removal. Jon Melvin said the county spend over \$100,000 on just parking lots last winter. Mark Fisher said new trucks from state bid are out 2 years. Benjamin Wenner moved to table, Jennifer Brown seconded. Motion to table carried.

Tiffany Rankin shared about asking Destination Delaware to help collect data during the course of Jug Day to make a study to help provide an economic impact report to help us share with people.

Laryssa Hook said that the Gazette had contacted her about the fair preview and that they were trying to reach out to Jen to get input from us.

Mark Fisher moved to spend up to \$270,000 for rehabbing barn 32 & 36. Benjamin Wenner seconded for discussion, then asked, why now? Mark Fisher said the reason to get this motion in the works now is to begin the prep work to ideal start on October 1st, so that both barns will be done when the bulk of the horse return from Florida. Tiffany Rankin said if Bed Tax receipts stay consistent we would have \$1.5 million over the course of this project. Mark Fisher said Barn 32 alone would be \$150,000. Chip said that he is worried about the current rate of spending. Mark Fisher amended his motion to be \$150,000 for rehabbing just barn 32. Benjamin seconded the amendment. Motion Carried.

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