

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

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Jeff Armentrout, Jennifer Brown, Mark Fisher, Patti Gladman Mike Harter, Don Howard, Mike Knapp, David Laaksonen, Bryan Mellen, Tiffany Rankin, Colleen Smith*, Chip Thomson, Randy Turner, Chris Welker, Benjamin Wenner, Diane Winters, Tom Wright, Laryssa Hook and Jen McGowan

*arrive at 6:30pm will denote in the minutes when she arrived.

ABSENT:

Adam DeMarco, Dan Huffman, Jon Melvin

GUESTS:

Kelly Bell, Kevin Simpson, Denny Davis, Rob Stanbaugh, Marquita Hines, Tabby Gepper, Lisa Glass, Jessica Miller, Shawn Parffett, Nikki Parffet and Bill Lowe

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

Guests introduced themselves.

MINUTES

Benjamin Wenner moved and Diane Winters seconded to approve the minutes from the board meeting on September 12th, 2023. Motion Carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chip Thomson shared he felt that we held an overall successful fair. He also asked people to sign up to work at the election on November 14th. Chip appointed a nominating committee of Patti Gladman, Diane Winters, Mike Knapp and chaired by David Laaksonen.

Chip confirmed with Jen that we request the help of the Board of Elections to help conduct our annual election. Chip thanked everyone for their condolences for the passing of Sherry Thomson, Margaret is currently working on the planning of the Celebration of Life.

OFFICE REPORT

Randy Turner brought forth a plan for having winter storage on the grounds this winter, and it was sent to Exec for approval. Randy Turner worked off an old agreement to update for this year. The cost would be \$18 a foot. With the buildings we have we could potentially store the following number of units with the average size of 20 ft: 30 units in the performance arena, 30 in the poultry barn, 15 in the rabbit barn and 40 smaller units in the Arts and Crafts building. Currently there are \$7,300 worth of storage agreements, and there was a feeling that waiting until this board meeting (10-17-2023) would be too long and potential customers would find other storage solutions. Chip Thomson said time was of the essence so Exec needed to act. The whole idea was to get income. Questions were asked in exec to try to insure that we are covered both in liability and on firm entry and exit days.

Benjamin Wenner asked what the move in date is? Randy Turner shared that the plan was to bring everything in early November to stage everything and then pack them all away. Chip said this an opportunity to generate 11-15 thousand dollars. Discussion continued. Don Howard moved we move forward with this process ensuring the we take picture as we progress to help document the condition of the units and our buildings. Patti Gladman seconded, Motion carried, Mark Fisher, Bryan Mellen, Jeff Armentrout and Benjamin Wenner voted No.

Jennifer McGowan asked about plans to winterize Barn 34. There are some concerns that some barns have better amenities. Mark Fisher shared we did Barn 30 for \$10,000. Discussion followed. Mark Fisher moved to approve up to \$30,000 for Barn 34 winterization. Benjamin Wenner 2nd Motion Carried.

Jen McGowan asked if we needed a hotel room for OMFA, Chris Welker asked who used it last year? Chip said he did, and gave Jen the task of making the decision.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tiffany Rankin shared that the September Statement provided in the Board Packet is not a good view of our current finances. Quita and Tiffany worked this afternoon on where we currently stand. The overview is that while we had a good fair we are currently lean on cash on hand.

*Colleen Smith arrived

Tiffany Rankin also shared that our 1099 was turned in.

Tom Wright moved and Benjamin Wenner seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion Carried.

Chris Welker shared his report from cash generated at the Fair. A report was handed out to those present. Chris then reviewed the numbers and the sources from where the cash was generated.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chip Thomson shared that he is on the docket for meeting with County Commissioners on Thursday, he is also working on getting a utility easement for a gas line for the service to the Grandstands.

Jeff Armentrout moved to approve allowing an easement for a gas line to the Grandstands, Jennifer Brown seconded. Motion Carried.

Chris Welker moved and Randy Turner seconded to go into executive session for a Personnel reason. Benjamin Wenner moved to return to regular session, noting that no decisions were made. Mark Fisher seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

No Report

FINANCE COMMITTEE

No Report

FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tiffany Rankin asked who we send the checks to from the buying the animals at fair. Benjamin Wenner said the sale committee.

Benjamin Wenner shared the minutes were in the packet. And we past around the pictures from our purchases. Chip Thomson said if you agreed, pay because the money is spent.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

No Report

SAFETY COMMITTEE

No Report, Harter thanked everyone who helped out for him.

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE

No Report

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

No Report

RACING COMMITTEE

Tom Wright shared the sponsorship dollars were up and since Quita was here, He wanted to recognize all her work. And racing checks are going out quicker than last year. Tom explained how simulcast works, how on and off track betting works for us.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Colleen shared attendance was good in all the tents.

BED TAX COMMITTEE

Tom Wright shared the grandstands is finishing up. Mark Fisher asked if we could make a punch list of our own to reflect the final things that we would like done.

ALL HORSE PARADE

Diane Winters said the parade would be on September 8th, 2024

HALL OF FAME/MUSEUM

No Report

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS.

Benjamin Wenner explained the need to send a letter about proper animal care. Jaci Smith from the extension office will help draft and send the letter. But the board needs to approve of the action. Benjamin Wenner moved to send the letter, and Colleen Smith seconded. Motion Carried.

Benjamin Wenner shared a concern from the FAC committee that the handicap doors in the new building are not functioning. Jen will work on correcting this matter.

Benjamin Wenner moved to waive the fee for Sherry Thomson's Celebration of Life. Chris Welker seconded. Motion Carried, Chip Thomson and Tom Wright abstained.

Mike Harter shared his thanks to board for the flower and deli tray. Randy Turner shared we have some extra money that we collected for this, and it will go to the 4-H scholarship.

Tom Wright moved to adjourn and Colleen Smith seconded. Motion Carried.

