

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 19, 2023

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Jeff Armentrout, Adam DeMarco, Patricia Gladman, Mike Harter, Mike Knapp, Bryan Mellen, Jon Melvin, Tiffany Rankin, Colleen Smith, Chip Thomson, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Chris Welker, Diane Winters, Tom Wright, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Jennifer Brown, Jackie Colflesh, Mark Fisher, David Laaksonen, Kevin Simpson, Laryssa Hook

GUESTS:

Marquita Hines, Thelma Knapp, Denver Davis, Zach Hill, Lisa Glass, Rob Stambaugh, Danny Jones, Don Howard

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chip Thomson called the meeting to order, Bryan Mellen led the pledge and Jen McGowan called the roll.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Guests introduced themselves

MINUTES

Chris Welker moved to approve the minutes from the December meeting with a name correction. T. Thomson second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Chip Thomson would like to get photos of T., Jackie, and Kevin for the website.

The fair office will be closed the week of Christmas. Jen will put a sign on the door with her phone number for emergencies.

Chip would like to do stall counts, maybe 2 times a month.

Chip announced the Queen has been taken care of and Jen can decide on parking for the convention for that.

Chip mentioned that he would like to combine the treasurer's report and finance report.

We will be going into exec session for about 4 minutes

OFFICE REPORT

Jen brought the golf cart proposal from Eagle Golf Car company. They would like to get an answer so they can begin to book other events.

Went over the solar eclipse event coming up in April. We will be working on camping.

Chip said the tickets and admissions committee can come up with pricing on the camping for that.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Randy Turner updated on the check that was washed and fraudulent. It was cashed in Detroit, we have filed a police report. The name on the check was most likely from an obit. The bank is working on this with us, but our account is now restricted. They are calling us with every single check we write to make sure it is legit.

We are working on getting a handle on what is going out. At this point we are spending more than we are bringing in. Our people are our most important asset. Do we really need to have mats cleaned every week? Jen is working on finding areas to cut some costs

Chip Thomson said that we have not received Budweiser's check yet. Tom Wright said that we won't be getting that in until January. Colleen Smith mentioned that it is normal for the 150 days to pay for them. Tom suggested that they start meeting with them earlier this year so we can get the payment sooner. Randy mentioned that we are going to be changing the way we submit to bed tax. We will be submitting some operating costs, but that this is not a long term solution. We do have 100k on the books, but it is for future rentals that are not paid yet.

Chris Welker moved to approve the treasurer's report. Mike Knapp second. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE

Chip mentioned that we had a fire alarm go off in the grandstand. He asked when we think is a timeline for occupancy there. Jon Melvin said not until we get a gas line. Chip mentioned that we had some change orders that were approved in Exec. Jeff Armentrout asked what the change orders were? Jon said they were all the additional things that we needed to get ready for fair. Randy Turner moved to approve the executive committee's actions. Mike Harter second. Motion carried.

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Mentioned Tidy Tim's, Golf carts, sound companies and rides. G&A will go over the contracts for these. We would like to get a couple more bids on sound. Chris Welker moved to approve going forward with Eagle Golf Car Company. Bryan Mellen second. Motion carried. Jennifer will get the other contracts together for the committee.

FAC

Chris Welker mentioned that the minutes are in the board packet. They will not be having a meeting in January. Chris asked if they could have the February FAC meeting at the Bixbe Center at 8am

ADVERTISING-No Report

SECURITY-No Report. Mike did mention poles have been poured for new fiber. Will check for updates next month in old business.

MOTORSPORTS-No Report

Chip mentioned that he thought the rodeo went really well. We earned about 3k short of the 15k that we paid out.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE-No Report

Chip mentioned that winterization is done on barn 34 and the Jugette is 90% done. Horse numbers are coming up a little. When barn 32 is done, the horses will move out of Jugette to keep that barn out of use.

RACING

Tom Wright mentioned that he had a race secretary meeting in Florida. They had a Grand Circuit meeting while there that was pretty productive. They had a couple rounds about simulcast and we will be making some changes there. Jen is working on a table for the OHHA banquet as well as a donation for that event.

HOSPITALITY-No Report

Chip would like to have a conversation about the fence on the hill. Colleen mentioned they will be having a meeting next month.

BED TAX

Tom Wright said they were due to meet again. Tiffany Rankin is working on a reimbursement policy with the county to streamline that process. Chip Thomson got a call from the County. It sounds like the state will give us some AARP money. We have to submit what our needs are. Tiffany asked if something had changed with that? Chip said he would send her the email that he received.

Chip mentioned that bed tax will definitely be up this year.

ALL HORSE PARADE-No Report. Parade is Sept. 8. 2024. Diane Winters offered some advice to other parades on line up etc. She thought that was a nice compliment that they asked us.

HALL OF FAME

Don Howard is waiting for a quote from Tackett for fencing to create some storage and work space up in the upper part of the Hall of Fame. Jen got his computer program working for the inventory software, so we can now get started entering things into the program.

OLD BUSINESS- The constiCabin Christmas party will be December 20 at 11:30am

NEW BUSINESS-None

Chip Thomson moved to go into executive session for a personnel issue. Chris Welker second. Motion carried.

Tom Wright moved and Patti Gladman second to give all employees a \$100 Christmas bonus. Motion carried.

Tom Wright moved to adjourn, Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.