

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
February 20, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Jeff Armentrout, Jennifer Brown, Jackie Colflesh, Adam DeMarco, Mark Fisher, Patricia Gladman, Mike Harter, Mike Knapp, David Laaksonen, Bryan Mellen, Jon Melvin, Tiffany Rankin, Kevin Simpson, Chip Thomson, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Chris Welker, Tom Wright, Laryssa Hook, Don Howard, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Colleen Smith, Diane Winters

T. Thomson left at 6:35pm. Jackie Colflesh left at 7:15pm

GUESTS: Jonathan Owen, Danny Jones, Rob Stambaugh, Marquita Hines, Drew Kissell, Randy Kissell

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chip Thomson called the meeting to order, David Laaksonen led the pledge and Jen McGowan called the roll.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Guests introduced themselves. Danny Jones inquired about track material

MINUTES

Tiffany Rankin moved to approve the January minutes with the change that the County is helping us work on State grant money. Mike Harter second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chip Thomson discussed partnering with Tracie Davies with regard to finishing the grandstand, and with the help of the County a form was filled out for State grant money. We started with 3 million, they came back and said that was too much. They settled on 1 million. As it stands, the House approved it.

Discussion on the details and matching funds. We are not to the point for a board vote yet.

Kissell has provided us with a new contract which was provided in the board packet. Drew Kissell went over the details of the contract. In previous years it was signed under Triple Treat. The new contract will be signed under Kissell. Ride bands will increase to \$22 this year. Chris Welker moved to approve the contract, Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

Chip introduced Jonathan Owen with the city to talk about the sidewalk on Pennsylvania Ave. It was initially thought to be concrete and has evolved into a multi-use blacktop path. Jonathan brought drawings to look over. The path will be 120' long. Last year they selected Pennsylvania Ave. as their 20241 paving project. They are starting at the railroad tracks and going east. The large volume of asphalt with the repaving is a good time to talk about the path in front of the fairgrounds. It should come in around 100k. The city has paid for the surveying and inspection and will not pass that cost on to the fairboard. They are asking for a 15' right of way. Mike Harter asked who would maintain the path. Jonathan said he would view that as something that the city would maintain. He will see about getting

that in writing if needed. They would also replace any damaged trees. Any mowing would be the responsibility of the fairgrounds. They will email a copy of the plans to the fairboard to look over.

#### OFFICE REPORT:

Jen McGowan updated on the eclipse event and reported that invoices will be going out for tickets in the next week.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Randy Turner went over the minutes from the finance committee meeting. We got our insurance bill for 75k and we have a little time to pay that. Financially we are still a little slim.

We had to pay real estate taxes and we then got the exemption. We have not gotten that back yet. The administrators with the bed tax wanted that back to put in the bed tax account. They will release our money, but we are to send their check to them as soon as we get it.

Randy discussed asking for operations costs from bed tax. This is a first step and we recognize that it is not a long term fix. We need to focus on buildings and grounds rentals. Dave Laaksonen asked if Randy could tell the board how much he asked for operations. Randy said it would change month to month depending on percentages of utilities, insurance, etc. For December it came out to about 18k.

Tiffany brought up that the maintenance budget is six figures and generates zero dollars. We need to make more to cover that budget that generates no money. Chip mentioned that he wanted to have a retreat and several board members were unable to attend, but he wanted to discuss all of that. He will propose another date where we can sit down on a Saturday to discuss. Jon Melvin moved to approve the treasurer's report. Bryan Mellen second. Motion carried.

#### EXECUTIVE

Chip reported that exec had met a few times to discuss the eclipse and that Jon Melvin had a change order that was discussed.

#### GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Discussion on Tidy Tim's contract and the pumping charges. Contract was sent back to G&A to get some more work done on this.

#### FAC

Chris Welker reported that they had their meeting at Bixbe and the minutes were in the board packet and he would be happy to answer any questions that anyone had. Chip asked if they had any room for movement in their budget. The answer was possibly.

#### ADVERTISING

Patti Gladman reported our budget was 87k last year and is 67k this year, but that does not include a new digital sign. They are working on getting some companies in here to give us some quotes.

#### SECURITY

Mike Harter addressed some concerns from private security. Mike, Jon, and Jen went around and looked at areas to put new cameras up. Most of that will be capital improvements. The camera company will be in here the first week of March to get us a quote on cameras. Jon Melvin is working on pricing on switches with the County. Chip believes this is an investment to protect our assets.

#### MOTORSPORTS

Bryan Mellen reported that they had a small meeting and talked about budget. They are trying to get some numbers in. The rodeo company that we used last year is by far the cheapest.

#### FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE

Adam Demarco reported that the Kubota repair bill will be coming up. They talked about budget. He was not sure what the budget was last year, but they should be under it this year unless something catastrophic happens. Jon Melvin said that they will be focusing on cleaning up the pit area. Discussion was held about moving from barn 32 to barn 36. Jenny Brown said that if we don't have the budget to do barn 36 but if we can't do it, let's give it a break. If it isn't in our budget then let's not do it.

#### RACING

Tom Wright reported that right now he is doing the payments, but we will see how long he can do that. He will have to figure something out and get someone to help out with that. Payments are looking good. The Bucket and Buckette look terrible, but they looked bad last year as well. He is working with Jason on sponsorships.

#### HOSPITALITY

No Report

#### BED TAX

They will be meeting on March 3 and barn 36 will be the topic of discussion

#### ALL HORSE PARADE

No Report. Parade is September 8, 2024

Discussion on board absences was held. Mark Fisher moved to excuse Diane Winters from meetings from January forward until she is able to return. Jon Melvin second. Motion carried.

#### HALL OF FAME

Don Howard mentioned that he had turned his budget in in December. They are out of storage space. He has a quote from Tackett fence for \$6000 to secure a storage area upstairs. Chip wanted to give it a month and table it for 30 days, would like to have an answer by next board meeting.

#### OLD BUSINESS

The definition of ex officio was discussed in G&A and presented to the board for adoption.

Definition: An Ex Officio member of the board of directors for the Delaware Agricultural Society shall be as designated in Ohio Revised Code, Red Book, or appointed by the president and approved by a majority vote of the board to a specific office or position in service to the Society (See sections 3.1.7 and 3.1.8 in the Delaware County Agricultural Society Bylaws)

Term: One Year (renewed each year at the annual meeting)

Responsibilities: Attend board meetings and participate in discussion. Ex Officio members do not have voting privileges. Ex Officio members may approve expenditure of funds, chair a committee, and perform other board functions required to fulfill the duties of the office or position assigned.

Rights: Ex Officio members are entitled to all the perks of a regular Director for attendance and participation in the Delaware County Fair activities. Ex Officio members are not eligible for a stipend.

Chris Welker moved to approve. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

Jeff Armentrout gave an update on the gas line. It is in and they are waiting on a meter. They will repair the blacktop when the weather is nicer.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Bryan Mellen moved to adjourn. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.