

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 16, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Jeff Armentrout, Adam DeMarco, Patricia Gladman, Mike Knapp, David Laaksonen, Jon Melvin, Kevin Simpson, Colleen Smith, Chip Thomson, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Chris Welker, Jen McGowan, Mark Fisher arrived at 6:18pm

ABSENT: Jennifer Brown, Jackie Colflesh, Mike Harter, Bryan Mellen, Tiffany Rankin, Diane Winters, Tom Wright, Laryssa Hook.

GUESTS:

Cheryl Hagerty, Thelma Knapp, Rob Stambaugh, Jessica Miller

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Guests introduced themselves. Cheryl Hagerty introduced herself as a member of the 4-H committee. We had talked in the past about establishing something here on the fairgrounds with the fair board supporting them. They kicked this off in Sept of 2019 and then Covid hit, a new executive director, and then some personal issues. Now 5 years later she would like to get something on the grounds to represent 4-H. She recommended putting a committee together to get something in place. The 4-H committee probably has some money and then with the bed tax, the fair board might have some to put toward this as well. They originally talked about a plaza, but perhaps needs have changed. Perhaps a really nice shelter house for the buyer's dinner. There are a lot of unanswered questions and she does not expect the answers tonight, but maybe a sub-committee to come up with answers and ideas. Laryssa mentioned that Ralph Jordan created an endowment and they get interest off that.

Endowment funds help greatly for pins and other needs, also helping with state conferences. They are trying to grow the endowment to grow the interest.

Kevin Simpson asked about how many people this shelter house would need to hold. Laryssa mentioned it would replace the buyer's tent, so about 50 or so people seated at one time.

Chip Thomson asked for volunteers for this sub-committee to head this up. Kevin Simpson, Jeff Armentrout, Mike Knapp and Laryssa Hook volunteered to help with this.

Randy Turner asked if Cheryl was asking for a reset and a proposal. That is what she is asking for. Randy Turner moved to approve, Patti Gladman second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chip Thomson talked about grant money. The county is helping us work on State grant money to finish the grandstand. They have about 19 million dollars. We will send in our application around February. If we need to earmark this, we should put together our direct needs.

Chip updated on the eclipse. Jen has been attending the meetings. We have talked about opening the grounds up for camping. Kissel is interested in setting up a few rides and food vendors and sharing the profits with us. Kevin Simpson asked about a waiver for campfires. Chip said no, but we are working on getting a permit for tents, which is done thru the health department. The goal is to prevent everyone from leaving at once. Mark Fisher asked if this would impact our exemption for taxes. Chip said no that

this is educational. Chip asked Randy Turner to head up a committee for planning this event. Patti Gladman, Colleen Smith, and Mike Knapp also volunteered.

Chip mentioned that Tiffany Rankin has Covid, Tom Wright's mom is in the hospital and Diane Winters is also in the hospital.

OFFICE REPORT

No Report. Jen was going to go over the Solar Eclipse, but that was covered under the President's report

TREASURER/FINANCE REPORT

Randy Turner discussed trying to get a handle on budgeting. He will get a profit and loss for the committee chairs and the finance committee would like to have the budgets in to them by Feb. 15 which is the next committee meeting. If anyone has any questions, let Randy know. The budgets are our best guess for the year to get the finances in line.

Chip asked about Ohio Health still showing as owed sponsorship money from fair. Randy will give them a call. Everything else looks good as far as money in from sponsorships.

Randy Turner would like a motion that he become a signer on the PNC accounts. We do not want to take Dan off of it because checks are still out there, but if we need to reissue any checks, that should be done with Randy's name as a signatory. Chip Thomson moved to make Randy Turner a signatory on all accounts at PNC. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

Fraud insurance is in place on the First Commonwealth account and was approved in exec. Price will go up or down depending on usage. This all stemmed from a fraudulent check that was cashed in Detroit.

Randy found out that several other fairs were having issues with this as well.

Chris Welker moved to approve the Treasurer's report. Jon Melvin second. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chip Thomson mentioned that Randy had asked from fraud protection for the banking and also discussion of the solar eclipse. No actions were taken except for additional expenses for the bank.

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

Dave Laaksonen mentioned that we had gotten the golf cart contract signed. We need to reduce the numbers of golf carts on the grounds if possible. We need to talk about sound, radios, ride contract and others. We know that the ride company is wanting an increase on wristbands for this year.

FAC

No Report. Chris Welker said there will be a meeting in February. And they would still like to have it at Bixbe. It would be the first Sat. in February. .

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

No Report. They will have a meeting in the next couple weeks.

MOTORSPORTS

Jeff Armentrout talked about the schedule. They will need another Derby company, they are getting out of the business. Everyone agrees that we need to have the rodeo again this year. They are working on sponsors and maybe a concert afterwards. Colleen mentioned that you would have a concert competing with a concert on that Sat. night and maybe coordinating together on that. Chip mentioned that there were a couple of really good acts at convention this year.

Jeff mentioned that there is a stage for sale in Bucyrus from the Bratwurst Festival for \$3000. He will be meeting with them this weekend to go down to see it and motioned for up to \$3000 to purchase it. Mike Knapp second. Motion carried.

Jeff updated on the gas line. Ben Lehner is spotting utilities and that will cost 2-3k for that to be done. They are scheduled to be here sometime between Jan 17-22 to get it installed. 2K will then test it and get it up and running.

Mark Fisher mentioned he went on a walk thru with Harper's guys and 2K and went over a lot of space. Harper was going to go back and see if they were up to spec. Chip asked if there were any safety concerns. Mark said there a couple of issues with some metal etc. Jon Melvin mentioned that those things are on the punch list.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE

No Report

RACING

OHHA banquet was this last weekend and we were well represented. Randy Turner mentioned that it is \$25 for an associate membership for individuals to the OHHA.

HOSPITALITY

Colleen Smith mentioned that both the Top of the Stretch tent and the Backstretch tent made money this year. They had to increase food costs on Pavilion hill. They are looking for a new catering company for the Top of the Stretch and the Backstretch tents. Karen Hastings would like to increase alcohol costs. Talked about maybe raising beer \$1 and mixed drinks to \$10.

Mark Fisher mentioned he is worried we will price ourselves out of business by raising everything at one time.

BEDTAX

Randy Turner discussed that we will be submitting some percentages of operations for the Ag. Center and the grandstand. ORC says that we can do that. This will not be a long term fix.

Chip mentioned that they are projecting 2.1 million dollars this year. After this year, we will have 13 years left of the bed tax. Chip would like to have a budget cut and planning meeting on February 10 here at the Ag. Center. He would love to have a quorum and will be sending out an invitation.

ALL HORSE PARADE

No Report. Parade is Sept 8, 2024

OLD BUSINESS

Chris Welker mentioned that the constitution was sent out and he noticed that Don Howard was not officially made an ex officio. Mark Fisher thinks that this should be reviewed and further discussion to determine what benefits an ex officio receives. Colleen Smith called to question. There were 6 yes votes and 5 no votes. Motion passes.

Mark Fisher moved that Chip assigns a committee to better define the roles and benefits of an ex officio. If that committee is G&A that would be fine. Randy Turner second. Motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business

Chris Welker moved to adjourn and Jon Melvin second. Motion carried.

