

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 16, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Jeff Armentrout, Jennifer Brown, Jackie Colflesh, Adam DeMarco, Patricia Gladman, Mike Harter, Mike Knapp, David Laaksonen, Bryan Mellen, Jon Melvin, Colleen Smith, Chip Thomson, Randy Turner, Chris Welker, Tom Wright, Laryssa Hook, Don Howard, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Mark Fisher, Tiffany Rankin, Kevin Simpson, T. Thomson, Diane Winters

GUESTS: Allison Boggs, Bob Boggs, Jessica Miller, Thelma Knapp, Tom Lehner, Mike Sweeney

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Guests introduced themselves. Attorney Allison Boggs introduced herself and asked what she needed to do to get Brevin Lupton back on the fairgrounds. She mentioned that the charges against him were dropped. The vet Margaret Mitchell had cleared the horse. There was no injury to the horse during the training incident. They also dismissed the trial. She was wanting to know what the next steps were. Chip Thomson addressed that we would be going into exec session tonight to discuss the incident. He mentioned that we had not made any decisions yet and gave her our attorney's information.

MINUTES:

Colleen Smith moved to approve the March minutes. Randy Turner second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Chip Thomson updated on the bike path. The city needs to see a final draft and it sounds like it might be June. They will want a resolution from the board and we may need to call a special meeting for that. All of the details will be in the agreement. They will want a full board approval. We will get our own quotes on moving the fence to possibly save some money. Colleen Smith asked when they anticipate it being completed. Chip said it was assured to be done by September 1.

Chip mentioned that looking at the August board meeting being on the 20th that he thinks that is too late. He would like to move it up to the 13th and then hold a special meeting on September 3rd. Chris Welker moved to move the August meeting, Randy Turner second. Motion carried.

OFFICE REPORT:

Jen McGowan mentioned that she hired Helen Thomson to update our social media and help with some digital design projects and that she has been a huge help.

Jen and Don Howard attended the District meeting and had the fair manager's passes to hand out after the meeting.

We hired Morgan Miller to replace Quita Hines and she will coming in next week to fill out paperwork and get acclimated.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Randy Turner reported that money is coming in from tickets and vendors. Insurance was able to be paid without using the line of credit. Randy met with Justin at the commissioner's office. They would like for us to do the ODA grant. Chip mentioned they will need someone from maintenance committee to let us know what kind of sand truck we need. If we need a lift, we should put it in there, but main priority would be the sand truck.

Randy updated on the eclipse and estimated we had 2500-3000 people here and the weather was beautiful. The vendors and food trucks were happy. There are still some invoices on the income side that need to come in. Randy gave a shout out to Jessica's mom for selling T-shirts for us.

Chip asked about a 32k electrical bill on the financials and if that was bed tax. Randy explained that it is the total on electrical installation and that it is all bed tax projects.

Bryan Mellen moved to approve the treasurer's report, Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE:

Chip reported that all the minutes from the exec meetings were in the board packet and asked if anyone had any questions and there were none.

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE:

No Report. Dave Laaksonen mentioned they would be having a meeting soon

FAC:

No Report

ADVERTISING:

Patti Gladman discussed that they are working on quotes for a digital sign out front.

SECURITY:

No Report. Mike Harter mentioned that cameras have been ordered.

MOTORSPORTS:

No Report

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE:

Discussed getting quotes on barriers for all the hydrants. Bryan mentioned they were working on that. We would also like to get a quote for concrete barriers for the 23 gate due to it being destroyed by the semis at the hotel. Bryan recommended they look into getting the type of barriers they use on the highway.

RACING:

Tom Wright reported that they did not meet. They did have a sponsorship meeting in the last month. Tom mentioned he had consulted a few trainers from Hambletonian and changed the payment structure on the Jug. This will increase the purse by \$65-\$70k

HOSPITALITY:

Colleen Smith mentioned they had met last night and reviewed catering bids and unanimously decided to go with a new caterer for the Top of the Stretch and Backstretch. They will get the contracts to G&A. All Occasions has been the caterer for the last 2 years on Pavilion hill. The committee is recommending that we lock in a 2 year agreement for them this year.

BED TAX:

No Report

ALL HORSE PARADE:

No Report. Parade is Sept. 8, 2024. Tom Wright will get with Pat and see if they have met and what they might need help with.

HALL OF FAME:

Don Howard discussed needing to come up with a location for the 4-H pavilion

OLD BUSINESS:

None. Jeff, Chris, and Jackie will meet after the meeting to review Jr. Fair Scholarships

NEW BUSINESS:

None

Mike Harter motioned to go into executive session for a legal and personnel matter. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

Randy Turner moved to return to regular session noting that no decisions were made. Jackie Colflesh second. Motion carried.

Mike Harter moved to adjourn the meeting. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.