

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 16, 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, Colleen Smith, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Diane Winters, Don Howard, Jen McGowan

ABSENT-Chip Thomson, Chris Welker, Tom Wright, Laryssa Hook

GUESTS: Jessica Miller, Darren Dowler, Larry Bettler

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Mike Harter called the meeting to order, Bryan Mellen led the pledge of allegiance and Jen McGowan called the roll.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Larry Bettler introduced himself and Darren Dowler. Discussed not having a tack room in barn 37. They have used the facility for 30 years and have a lot of harness tools and equipment. Mike Harter asked what was preventing them from making it a tack room. Larry offered to pay the additional cost and have it taken off of his stall rent until it was paid off. The board did not want to do that. They were offered a couple of options, making the stall into a tack room themselves that could be turned back into a horse stall when needed or to move to the southeast corner of barn 36 where they would have a newly renovated tack stall and stalls for their 2 horses. Mike asked that they work with Jenny Brown and Jen McGowan to get something worked out.

Jessica Miller introduced herself as office staff.

MINUTES:

Colleen Smith moved to approve the June board minutes, Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Mike Harter discussed some things that Chip had asked about. He asked the board to be thinking about any special needs that the committees will need for this year's fair. He would like every committee to hold at least one meeting per month from now until the fair. Please consider what you need to be successful and also items that we can eliminate to reduce our expenses. Bed tax receipts continue to be at/or close to all time highs. May was almost \$220,000 with a few payments yet to be made. Discussed possibly tearing down barn 25 before the fair. The board felt we would need these stalls for the Jug and that was an after fair project. The sidewalk project is underway and on schedule. Discussed power washing and which barns need done and what can we do ourselves.

OFFICE REPORT:

Jen McGowan asked the new board members if they will need a golf cart for fair so we can get everything ordered. There was a water leak outside the merchant building that Wells will be working on

this week to fix. Will be meeting with 99.7 and 103.9 radio station next week to start promoting the fair and the Jug. Discussed that the blacksmith came in and wanted to know if he replaced the roof on the shop and paint if he could trade for a year of stall rent. The cost would be \$2100. Jennifer Brown motioned to approve, Jon Melvin second. Motion carried. Jen will be out of the office this week, Wednesday-Friday but will be available by phone or email.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Randy Turner reported on the money coming in. We are in better shape than we were last year at this time. An account was closed at PNC bank and opened at First Citizen's. Tiffany reminded him to order checks for that new account.

We are also opening an account with Star Ohio with a 4.5% interest rate. As a semi-public entity, we are able to do that. We will put the 2.5 million from the grant into that account so we do not have to worry about being over the FDIC amount.

Our new bookkeeper, Morgan is doing a great job and is a quick learner.

There will be a language change to our constitution for tax exempt status and that will be discussed in new business.

Randy is still working with Justin on the principal payments for the grandstand. We will be making a \$400k payment before the fair and an additional \$350k payment before the end of the fiscal year.

Jennifer Brown moved to approve the treasurer's report, T. Thomson second. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

No Report. The minutes are in the board packet

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

Committee met right before the board meeting to discuss the Ag. Center floor proposals. Discussed both company's proposals and the differences. Committee recommended Concrete Flooring Solutions for the project. They will need to be done by Aug. 31. T. Thomson moved to approve Concrete Flooring Solutions for the project, Jon Melvin second. Motion carried.

FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Mark Fisher discussed meeting with the goat, lamb, and pig committees regarding a handicap exhibitor at the fair this year. We will have to move the sale block. In order to be ADA compliant, there will have to be a 16' ramp. Sale block will have to face the seating. We will need to remove a pole and reconstruct the sale block and will probably require a permit from the city. Bed tax supports funding this project. Mark will get with Harper and get things moving. This would be movable for the future. Jon Melvin moved to approve up to \$5k for this project, T. Thomson second. Motion carried.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE:

The sign company will be submitting to the city for a permit for the sign at Pennsylvania Ave. Waiting to hear back on that.

SECURITY COMMITTEE: Meeting for the 22nd of July was cancelled and rescheduled for July 30th at 1pm

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE:

No Report. Committee is working on sponsorships

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:

The committee met and approved bollards and covers. Ben Lehner will be putting those in.

We have a major cat population problem in the infield that we need to address. Committee asked for information from Racing on a spreader truck.

The whole fairgrounds was surveyed except for the 23 entrance. Kleingers will come and do that for a cost of \$2,900. We need to have that surveyed and marked so that we can move forward with sending a letter to the hotel to let them know we will be blocking the driveway to keep the semi-trucks off of it to protect our pavement. Jackie Colflesh motioned to approve the survey, Mark Fisher second. Motion carried.

RACING COMMITTEE:

There will be a few changes this year. 1st and 2nd finishers in the Meadowlands Pace are now eligible for the Jug. This will be the 1st year where OHHA starting paying nominating fees. We are seeing that eligible are now up about 10% because of this.

We almost have all the May payments entered. Morgan is going to Tom's once a month to help with that.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

No Report. Finalizing sponsorships

BED TAX COMMITTEE:

Minutes are in the board packet. The project with the stairs in the grandstands was approved to have Brian Fraker turn them east and west by the betting area. This will improve flow and increase safety. With the \$2.5 million from the state for grandstand renovations, we need to start thinking outside the box to get more people in there. We are going to invite 3 design firms to come to the races to come up with some ideas for us.

ALL HORSE PARADE COMMITTEE:

Diane Winters reported they are working toward Sept. 8. If anyone has any ideas for a Grand Marshall, let her know.

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE:

Don Howard reported that the diorama is being worked on and he would like to get a glass covert for it so it does not collect dust. He mentioned that he got a sizable donation of 75-100 horse related books for research.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Tiffany Rankin reported that we will need to sign up for our own tax exemption and that she will be handling that. There are 2 sections in our constitution that will need to be updated in order for that to happen. We have 2 years to get this done. We will need to tighten up some of the language. Section 2 of our constitution and also the dissolution. We have to state where our stuff will go. Currently it says it will go to Delaware County. Tiffany motioned to add IRS language to our constitution to comply for the tax exemption. Jackie Colflesh moved to approve the section 2 changes, T. Thomson second. Motion carried. Jon Melvin moved to approve the section 11 changes, Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

Jennifer Brown moved to adjourn, Mark Fisher second. Motion carried.