

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 15, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

Present- Jennifer Brown, Jackie Colflesh, Adam DeMarco, Mark Fisher, Patricia Gladman, Mike Knapp, David Laaksonen, Bryan Mellen, Jon Melvin, Tiffany Rankin, Kevin Simpson, Colleen Smith, Chip Thomson, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Chris Welker, Diane Winters, Tom Wright, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Jeff Armentrout, Mike Harter, Laryssa Hook, Don Howard

GUESTS: Jessica Miller, Rob Stambaugh, Brad Williams, John Horner

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Guests introduced themselves

MINUTES:

Jon Melvin moved to approve the September board minutes, T. Thomson second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Chip reported that the election for the Ag. Society will be Nov. 12 in the Ag. Center with 6 open seats. Voting will be 6:30a-8:30a and 2:00p-7:00p. The Board of Elections will once again be helping with our election and will bring markers and tabulators. Last day to purchase a membership will be Oct. 29 at 5:00p. The last day to turn in a petition to run for the board will be Nov. 5 also by 5:00p.

The nominating committee for officers will be-David Laaksonen, T. Thomson, and Colleen Smith.

We had good and bad at the fair this year, we had good weather and a great turn out from our politicians. We had a couple of incidents, but overall we are happy. We need to look at increasing our gate price and reducing some of our expenses.

Chip would like Tiffany and Tom to get with Randy and Morgan regarding the 1099's and cleaning up that process. Tom thinks it would be better not to accept them at the cabin. Randy reported that we are caught up at this point and there are only about 110 checks that do not have 1099's.

FAIR MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jen McGowan brought forward a cost to repair the track conditioner at \$4885, and also a quote for winterization for the updated barns. Mark Fisher suggested that we try to get a forecast on how many horses we historically have in barn 36 during the winter. Jen gave an update on the Christmas craft show that we are putting on, we are about full on vendor spaces. As of right now we have about 30 boats for winter storage.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Randy Turner reported that the financials are a work in progress. Morgan is trying to match things up. We changed the purse account from PNC to First Citizen's, and all of that will be reconciled. Morgan

wanted to have it all done for the meeting, but we are leaving it as is for now. The only account we have left at PNC covers past years' outstanding checks. We are earning 300 times more interest at First Citizen's bank.

Randy would like to talk about fair bonuses for employees, discussion followed on amounts. The recommendation was as follows: Jen McGowan-\$1000, Morgan Miller-\$500, Jessica Miller-\$500, Tabbie Gepper-\$500, Wayne Byus-\$500, and Danny Jones-\$500. Chris Welker moved to approve the bonuses, Jackie Colflesh second. Motion carried.

Mark Fisher moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

No Report

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

No Report

FAC COMMITTEE:

Mark Fisher reported that the minutes were in the board packet. There was an issue with not having enough of the green tables and possibly needing more built for 4-H. Parking was an issue. People were being towed while they were unloading their cars. Livestock parking was downsized this year and parking was taken away from other areas. This will need reevaluated for 2025.

We will need to replace the grit next year for the show arena, we were able to get 5 years out of it.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE:

Patti Gladman discussed working on more ways to get the word out to the school's/mom's groups in the area. T. Thomson suggested doing a flyer to get out to the different schools and PTO's.

SECURITY COMMITTEE:

Committee did not meet post fair. Adam DeMarco reported that most things went pretty well. We had a kid doing donuts in the 4-H area and he was also involved in an incident on grounds back in August. He was not trespassed at that time. We would like to have him trespassed for a certain amount of time. Discussion was held on various options. We need to not let the fact that he is in 4-H affect any decisions. Patti Gladman moved to trespass him until Aug. 1, 2025. Chris Welker second. Tom Wright made a motion to bring him here to the November meeting for a formal apology and to explain his actions. Patti Gladman rescinded her motion. Randy Turner seconded Tom's motion. Chris Welker moved to strike his name from the minutes. Motion carried.

Jackie Colflesh expressed a concern about golf carts and not having enough deputies on the midway. She also mentioned a situation where the city was refusing to transport and Tri Township had to get people at the bottom of the hill.

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE:

Bryan Mellen reported that the committee did not meet, but that they will be discussing the City FD

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:

Jon Melvin reported that the committee did not meet. Discussed the power wire incidents during fair that were related to 2k's construction project. AEP was not happy about getting so many calls. The rear end of the dump truck went out and Axhelm is working on that. The brine truck needs repaired. Mark was gracious to let us use his truck. We used 56,000 gallons of brine that week.

RACING COMMITTEE:

Tom Wright reported that he met with 6 folks involved in wagering and learned a lot. There may be a few things we do differently there. On track wagering, we were flat and off track we were up \$700k. Tom completed a grant today for \$2500 for a race next year. He does not think that we will have a problem getting it.

Roger Huston invited a guy to guest announce as a bucket list kind of thing. He called a race on Thursday and used a trademarked statement, "Down the stretch". We did it a few years ago and spent roughly \$500. We spoke to the attorney and he wanted \$10k. We have handed it over to our attorney. They said that they will contribute to whatever charity that we choose. We can possibly put it toward the 4-H pavilion.

Tom discussed simulcast and understanding how that works. We pay Tote roughly \$2k to figure out all of that for us. We would like to re do the race schedule for next year.

Tom would like a motion to go to Florida for the Race Secretary meeting for up to \$2k. Jackie Colflesh second. Motion carried.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

Colleen Smith reported that they had a follow up meeting and discussed different avenues for changes for next year. Attendance was good.

Jennifer Brown mentioned that an OHHA board member was turned down for bringing her 2 month old baby and was turned away. Colleen reiterated that 18 and under are not permitted in the tents.

Jackie Colflesh asked what happened to the last Saturday concert. Colleen discussed the situation with Don McCann and that we had recommended the concert be moved to increase attendance due to the fireworks being cancelled.

BED TAX COMMITTEE:

Tom Wright reported that he and Jon spoke and they did get a response back from one architect and hopefully a proposal will follow for the grandstand seating area.

We need to make sure the 2024 projects are completed and get started on a list for 2025.

ALL HORSE PARADE:

Diane Winters reported a good parade this year and thanked Mike Knapp, Patti Gladman, Jeff Armentrout and Mark Fisher for all their help. The parade will be Sept 7 in 2025

HALL OF FAME:

No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

The antique tractor display had a corn sheller and no security. Jessica Miller said that the tractor club had met and discussed that.

We ordered less race programs and did not sell out so that is a win, but we still threw away about \$6k in programs. There is still some room to cut for next year.

Chris Welker moved to go into executive session for a personnel matter. Jon Melvin second. Motion carried.

Chris Welker moved to return to regular session. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried

Chris Welker made a motion to allow the executive committee to set a salary for a future employee based on the completion of the job description. Jackie Colflesh second. Motion carried.

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