

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 17, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

Present- Jennifer Brown, Jackie Colflesh, Mark Fisher, Mike Harter, David Laaksonen, Bryan Mellen, Jon Melvin, Tiffany Rankin, Kevin Simpson, Colleen Smith, Chip Thomson, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Chris Welker, Benjamin Wenner, Diane Winters, Tom Wright, Laryssa Hook, Don Howard, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Jeff Armentrout, Adam DeMarco

GUESTS: Jessica Miller, Jeff Crotty, Danny Jones

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Guests introduced themselves. Danny Jones wanted to discuss using the A Frame for the track so we aren't turning it to dust. He also mentioned wanting to get some stone for the back practice track and addressing drainage issues back there.

MINUTES:

Jackie Colflesh moved to approve the November minutes, Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Chris Welker mentioned that the craft show went well. The minutes from exec were in the board packet. Only one decision was made allowing Jon Melvin to authorize negotiations with the top ranked architect for the grandstand from the bed tax interviews.

FAIR MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jen McGowan reminded everyone of the upcoming OFMA convention and passed around a sign-up sheet for the OHHA banquet in January. Jen mentioned that with the weather, we did not have enough work to keep RLS on for the winter and we will reassess in the Spring for projects that might need done or bid on. We got an email from the juvenile involved in the incident during fair. We will read that email in old business.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Randy Turner updated on the Star Ohio account, there is currently \$53k in it from the ODA grant and interest. Morgan just finished up the end of the year and we will be taking that to Maloney tomorrow.

Randy met with Justin with the county and went over the budget for 2025. They would like to keep a reserve in the account. The question was asked as to why and it is probably because they get the interest on that. It is a work in progress.

Tom Wright mentioned that the red book says that the commissioners have to pay insurance on our buildings and all of the sudden that stopped and they are taking payments out of the bed tax account for that. Don Howard mentioned that there was something in the red book about if we sell alcohol that goes away. Tom is still looking into that.

Randy reported that the balance on our loan is now at \$1.9 million and is below the \$2 million mark. We have paid off \$1.2 million at this point. We pay \$50k a month and paid an extra \$750k toward the principal last year. The payables look great but we do not have the tote bill yet.

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

No Report

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

No Report

FAC COMMITTEE:

Mark Fisher mentioned that the minutes were in the board packet. Discussion was held on traffic patterns for dropping off and getting Sr. Fairboard members together for that. This would not affect horse parade traffic at all.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE:

No Report

SECURITY COMMITTEE:

No Report

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE:

Chris Welker reported that they discussed scheduling and sponsorships

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE:

Mark Fisher talked about sub-contractors and looking 30 days out to see if we can get some things done before fair. New garage doors for the maintenance shop have been ordered. We would like to get spray foam for the shop and office area. The bid for that was \$9200. We felt it was a capitol improvement so it was sent to bed tax for review. Discussed getting new man doors and getting them keyed the same as the Ag. Center. Mark went over trash at the horse barns and felt we could cut down some labor hours by having them take their own trash to the dumpsters. When you rent a place you are usually responsible for your trash. We sent Jeff out for tools to be able to complete projects and we will be keeping those locked up and they will need to be signed in and out.

RACING COMMITTEE:

Tom Wright attended the race secretary meeting 2 weeks ago. The newsletter was included in the board packet for those interested in reading that. Tom mentioned that there is a push for graded stakes, but he does not think it will make a big impact. The Jugette will probably have a couple grades and other races may not even get graded. Mike Tanner went thru the rule changes. A couple of them will affect us. Lexington will race the sire stakes on top of us again. We will work on getting a schedule together that works for everyone.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

No Report

BED TAX COMMITTEE:

Jon Melvin reported that we interviewed architect firms for the grandstand and ranked them. Myers and Assoc. was ranked number one. They sent the recommendation to exec and they approved it. We need to get a couple of roofs done and will meet again to go over those bids.

Jon brought up the log cabin. One company recommended we tear the whole thing down and rebuild. Another gave a quote on a repair and was confident it could be repaired. While we are we will then look at windows, flooring carpets etc. Bed tax recommends moving forward with spray foam for the maintenance shop at \$9200. Benjamin Wenner moved to approve, Jackie Colflesh second. Motion carried.

ALL HORSE PARADE:

No Report. Parade will be Sept. 7, 2025

HALL OF FAME:

No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

Jen McGowan read the letter from the juvenile involved in the incident during fair. Benjamin Wenner asked if there were any repercussions on the 4-H side. Laryssa said a letter of the code of conduct was sent to him to remind him of his 4-H status and being held to a higher standard. There was discussion held on trespassing until he is 18 but still being able to show.

Mark Fisher moved to not allow him to operate a motor vehicle on the grounds until he is 18 years old and take his 10 hours of community service that he recommended as his punishment. Benjamin Wenner seconded the motion. The vote was 7 yes and 7 no. Chris Welker broke the tie by voting against this motion. Motion failed.

Jon Melvin moved to keep him trespassed until he is 18 with the 10 hours of community service and still being able to show in 4-H. He would need to let us know if he would need to be attending any events on the grounds for approval by the fair manager. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Livestock parking is an issues. We need to come up with a solution for them. Mike Harter mentioned that we would be expanding livestock parking area. Benjamin invited Mike to the livestock meeting in February.

Golf carts are a huge issue on the grounds and we will be looking at solutions on that.

Chris Welker mentioned that he had presents for everyone and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Jennifer Brown moved to adjourn. T. Thomson second. Motion carried.