

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 19, 2024

ATTENDANCE:

Present-Jeff Armentrout, Jennifer Brown, Jackie Colflesh, Adam DeMarco, Mark Fisher, Mike Harter, David Laaksonen, Jon Melvin, Tiffany Rankin, Kevin Simpson, Colleen Smith, Chip Thomson, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Chris Welker, Diane Winters, Tom Wright, Laryssa Hook, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Bryan Mellen, Benjamin Wenner, Don Howard

GUESTS: Jessica Miller, Don Howard, Rob Stambaugh, Jeff Crotty, Ben Thomson, Jack Summers

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Guests introduce themselves

MINUTES:

T. Thomson moved to approve the October minutes, Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Chris Welker passed around a committee preference sheet as well as the conflict of interest form and asked if we could get these filled out tonight, that would be great. He announced that the committee chairs would be as follows: G & A Dave Laaksonen, FAC Mark Fisher, Advertising T. Thomson, Motorsports Jeff Armentrout, Maintenance Adam Demarco and Mark Fisher, Finance Randy Turner, Hospitality Colleen Smith, Bed Tax Jon Melvin, Security Mike Harter, All Horse Parade Diane Winters, Hall of Fame, Don Howard. We are putting together a temporary committee for policies to be put together into a binder. This should help with future audits. Would like this committee to meet twice in the next few months. Don Howard and Jen McGowan will chair this committee.

FAIR MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jen McGowan passed around the OFMA registration form for the upcoming convention in January. We now have enough signatures to move forward with a Little Brown Jug license plate. The next steps will be getting artwork for the logo to the BMV. We got a call from victim services and the court system regarding one of the minors that vandalized the grandstand asking if they would be able to fulfill some community service hours at the fairgrounds during the turkey give away event. Jon Melvin moved to allow him to have supervised community service for the event. Jackie Colflesh second. Motion carried.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Randy Turner reported that the finance committee minutes were in the board packet and that we are in pretty good shape going into winter. We have paid \$750k toward the principal of our grandstand loan above the \$50k we pay every month. We are currently at about \$2.1 million owed and should be under \$2 million by the end of the year.

Randy reported on the safety deposit box at the bank. It was drilled open to find a piece of plastic that says The Bank on it. The expense for that box is no longer continuing. The last 2 people were in there in 2015, and that was Merlin Sheets and Bill Lowe.

Purse checks are going out. There are still some waiting on W9s. The labs are back on the drug testing and all the checks have been released. Everything that can be released have been.

We have 40 units in for winter storage which is just over \$16k.

Tom Wright asked about a difference in general admission, Tiffany reported that could be in a different account and needs to be reclassified. We will dig a little more on that. Tom also asked about 4022 and the higher amount on 1099 contract labor. Randy will check on that one too.

Jon Melvin moved to approve the treasurer's report. Diane Winters second. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: No Report

#### GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

Dave Laaksonen reported that Randy, Jon and himself discussed the performance review that Jen filled out and that they used the form that the county uses for their employees. They will have more details on that later.

FAC COMMITTEE: No Report

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE: No Report

#### SECURITY COMMITTEE:

Mike Harter reported on the juvenile involved in the incident at the fair with the reckless driving. He lied to the officers that night and provided a false date of birth which did not alert the activity on our grounds in August. He was caught by our cleaners in August and took off running. Three Sheriff's deputies came in and had a talk with him then at 10pm. From Aug 10-Sept 15, he has gotten his license and used our fairgrounds as a playground. The young man is a liability for us and we would have loved to have a conversation with him tonight. Chip mentioned that Tom had offered grace in the last meeting and that is nice but he did not show up tonight. Chris Welker will put this in old business to take action.

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE: No Report

#### MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:

Adam DeMarco gave an update on Price Farms taking our manure. We should be able to get rid of our dumpster truck and green dumpsters. We haven't used them since the Spring. We can have Sargents bring in dumpsters for the horse shows. Jen will check on that.

We got the old red dump truck fixed and put away.

Chip mentioned that we still have some grant money left and we want to make sure the spreader truck has everything that it needs and see how much we have left to spend. We could possibly look at a new front end loader.

#### RACING COMMITTEE:

Tom Wright reported that the OHHA board meeting was last week. He got a call from Scioto Downs and maybe as early as 2025 they would be reintroducing the Jug preview. We would need the Jug barn ready to go the next night and they would race Saturday night. Scioto will get the Breeder's Crown in 2026 and that could mean eliminations in October and November and that could be a mess.

Frank Voss is the new executive director for the OHHA and that is a good thing for us. He will be a help to us in the long run.

#### HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE: No Report

#### BED TAX COMMITTEE:

Tom Wright reported that the minute were in the board packet. Excel sheets were passed out and they discussed projects that were completed and what isn't done. They discussed next year and where to spend money. They talked about flattening 2 barns in 4-H and building 2 new barns and potentially in 2026 get an indoor arena. They would like to expand the pig and lamb barn and put new bathrooms and also include the 4-H pavilion in that project.

They will be interviewing 3 architects for the grandstand project. Also the log cabin has had some issues come up and needs some work so that will be a bed tax issue as well.

#### ALL HORSE PARADE:

Diane Winters reported that Brad Jennings will be the grand marshall for the parade in 2025. The parade will be Sept. 7, 2025

#### HALL OF FAME: No Report

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Chris reported that there are still some board members that owe for the Jr. Fair sale.

Chip mentioned that it costs the BOE about \$8k to help put on our election. He would like to start a tradition of signing a ceramic jug to give to people as a thank you.

Jackie Colflesh made a motion to trespass the juvenile involved in the incident during fair for 2 years until he is 18. Dian Winters second. Motion carried. .

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Chris mentioned that once he gets the committees set, he would like everyone to meet before the next meeting. We would like to set budgets by the December meeting.

Chip would like to get some bids to tear down horse barns 25 & 26

Mike Harter was approached about doing a stone in Jerry Ungashick's honor where they normally had their tent in the 3<sup>rd</sup> turn. Chip was worried about opening a can of worms and asked if we could do a bench that could serve 2 purposes, a memorial and also a place to sit.

The juvenile involved in the fair incident showed up to the meeting at 7pm to make an apology. Dad apologized for being late and had it written down incorrectly in his calendar. Mike Harter went over the concerns. The board asked him to shoot an email to Jen about what he believes his consequences should be. He will do that.

Randy Turner made a motion to reconsider our actions against the juvenile. Mark Fisher second. Motion carries.

Jen McGowan moved to strike the minor's name from the minutes. Diane Winter motioned and Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

T. Thomson made a motion to put signs on all the entrances and exits saying that the grounds are closed to the public at dusk. Jeff Armentrout second. Motion carried.

Tiffany Rankin addressed the board as a tenant of the Log Cabin and asked about the progress. She does not want it to be like this into the Spring. Mark will find out what we can fill the gaps with in the short term until we can get someone in there to repair it.

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

Jon Melvin moved to return to regular session, noting that no decisions were made. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

Dave Laaksonen motioned for a \$5k a year raise for Jen McGowan effective Dec. 1. T. Thomson second. Motion carried.

Diane Winters motioned to make Patricia Gladman an EX Officio Board member. Jon Melvin second. Motion carried.

Chris Welker would like to add Tiffany Rankin and Mark Fisher to fill out the exec team. Tom Wright motioned to add them to exec. Jackie Colflesh second. Motion carried.

T. Thomson moved to adjourn. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.