

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 21, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

Present-Jeff Armentrout, Jennifer Brown, Adam DeMarco, Mark Fisher, Mike Harter, David Laaksonen, Bryan Mellen, Tiffany Rankin, Kevin Simpson, Colleen Smith, Chip Thomson, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Chris Welker, Diane Winters (6:05pm), Laryssa Hook, Don Howard, Patricia Gladman, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Jackie Colflesh, Jon Melvin, Benjamin Wenner, Tom Wright

GUESTS: Jessica Miller, Mike Knapp, Thelma Knapp

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:

None

MINUTES:

Chip Thomson moved to approve the September 2025 board meeting minutes. Adam DeMarco second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Chris Welker passed out a sheet of all the income that came in thru the money room during the fair. Based on our morning meetings, we ended up being an average fair. Mike Harter asked if there was a way to decipher how many people we have on the grounds attendance wise. Chris thinks that we can look at ways to start estimating people based on all the many ways they get in the gate. Chris used our new projector for his Leadership Delaware presentation and it worked great. We sent out a survey to people who bought tickets to the Jug Social tent. Out of 100 sent out he got 33 responses back. Everyone liked the spot and want to come back. We had a lot of first time people here. T. Thomson believes that was money well spent with Destination Delaware. The advantage next year with the advertising is that they will already have the footage they need to make the videos.

FAIR MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jen McGowan reported that New Era will be starting on Nov. 12 to put audio visual in the Ag. Center. Boat storage is getting full. We currently have 32, we will probably end up with a few more than we had last year. Christmas lights will start to go up next week for the light display. Jen passed around a sign-up sheet for the election coming up and asked for volunteers to work if they could.

Jen brought up that in the finance meeting the night before, they had discussed raising stall rent from \$175 to \$200 per month and also raising camping prices to \$1000 or somewhere between where they currently are and \$1000 for the week. A lot of discussion ensued around this and Chris created a

committee to review stall rent and camping. Randy Turner will chair that committee. Dave Laaksonen, Adam DeMarco, Chip Thomson, and Jennifer Brown will also be on the committee. Jenny Brown mentioned that we have to have a track. They are staying here this winter. She is ok with raising the price, we just have to make sure the amenities match.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Randy Turner mentioned that the balance sheet is in front of everyone. The reports will continue to look a little different, part of that is the new bookkeeper and part of that is the online Quick books. Also incorporating the racing into it this year as well makes a difference. Next year we will be bringing in the sale committee as well. Chip asked why we control the sale committee money. Tiffany explained that they operate under our tax ID and are not their own entity. Randy passed out and updated bed tax report. We need to generate an additional \$20k more in operational to maintain the fairgrounds long term. We are developing a master plan to generate income. We are not going to solve this overnight. The Star account includes the ODA grant of \$106,831. And the \$2.5 million that we got from the State. Randy would like a motion to pay down the line of credit with the remainder of the dividends from the Star account. Tiffany Rankin motioned to pay down the line of credit with the Star account dividends. Mark Fisher second. Motion carried.

Randy mentioned that Jennifer is our employee and needs to be aware of what money is being spent and that maybe our guys could be doing some of that work instead of spending that money. She can't run this place with 19 of us doing our own thing. Chip mentioned that if you don't have a PO associated with it, then maybe whoever authorizes it has to pay for it. Chris mentioned that at the beginning of the year, he had tasked Don and Jen to compile a policy manual. The idea is for board members to have it at the beginning of the year with the conflict of interest forms. In the draft that Don sent, it already has an adopted policy in it that says the same thing that Chip mentioned.

Colleen Smith moved to approve the treasurer's report. T. Thomson second. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Chris Welker mentioned that the minutes were in the board packet and that nothing crazy has happened from fair until now.

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

No Report

FAC COMMITTEE:

Mark Fisher reported that they met and presented to make 4H a week long for the kids and do the sale on Saturday. They would just do a one day sale. That would free up a lot of arena space. They are just in early talks but the committees liked the idea of that.

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE:

T. Thomson would like to do a follow up with Tim with Destination Delaware. We need to have a discussion on social media on the Jug side of things. The fair side looks good.

SECURITY COMMITTEE:

Mike Harter reported that the meeting with the County went well and they had no complaints. They raved about our staff and how well prepared we were. Mike held a slide show presentation of various aerial photos of the grounds during fair. We did not have as many problems at 23 this year. The parking crew did a great job this year. Chip mentioned that he would like to see the winners circle moved to the other side of the track for safety reasons. Jen will have the thumb drive of all the photos if anyone wants to see them.

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE:

Jeff Armentrout reported that the committee met and talked about the good bad and indifferent. They are discussing getting new food in there that the kids would like. They need to move the ticket booth due to safety issues. T. Thomson mentioned that when he was back there, he watched several people try to buy beer with a card and couldn't. Mark Fisher mentioned that we need to make it more inviting to people who are coming back from the midway with food and drinks, they are made to throw it out before they can enter.

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:

Adam DeMarco reported that they did not meet this month. Jeff has everything put away from fair. The grandstand is still an ongoing issue for heat this winter. Mark requested that we not spend a dime on that. We have already paid for a finished product and we have not received that and we are owed that. Jenny Brown asked if they are still going to do the drainage behind barn 32 that was started right before fair. Adam will check and see where we are with that.

RACING COMMITTEE:

Per an email from Tom Wright he is still mailing checks. They have not been given release of testing for Tuesday and Thursday races. He will be purchasing an airline ticket for the race secretary's meeting and would like to purchase in advance for better rates. Mike Harter motioned to approve up to \$3000 for Tom's expenses for the race secretary meeting. Mark Fisher second. Motion carried.

Tiffany Rankin mentioned that they are working on a hit by the bus book on the racing side should something happen to Tom. The tote bill this year is \$55k. All the money came in from wagering and we were a little heavy in our money room. T. Thomson motioned to pay the tote bill of \$54,629.27. Diane Winters second. Motion carried.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

Colleen Smith reported that all the tents went exceptionally well this year. They are going to address some entitled people. Chris Welker mentioned that they sold out the Jug Social tent. Jennifer Brown mentioned that the borrowed horse made it back safely to Scioto Downs.

BED TAX COMMITTEE:

Per an email from Jon Melvin, We have had two Bed Tax Meeting in the last month which Pat Paykoff has attended and shared information on the previous planning and zoning approved by the City with Pete Scott with Myers and Associates. Committee discussed looking at options to replace all barns in the row running north south which would include poultry barn10, horse barns 12, 13, 22, and 23, and the pig & lamb barn. The discussion also included a covered/indoor riding arena and how the barns work with it. Pete is working on options to maximize the barns sizes and how they could work with the different Fair uses (and non-fair), to use pre-engineered metal buildings, and cost estimates.

Chris Welker put together a committee to reach out to the City about the bike path. This committee will include: Kevin Simpson, Chip Thomson, Chris Welker, Benjamin Wenner, and Dave Carroll.

ALL HORSE PARADE COMMITTEE:

Diane Winters reported that the parade was a little smaller this year but they had 15 new units and they estimated 50k people in attendance. Next year will be the 40th anniversary. The parade will be Sept 13, 2026 at 3pm.

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE:

Don Howard reported that everything went well this year.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

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

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

Chris Welker has appointed Jeff Armentrout, Benjamin Wenner and Adam DeMarco for the nominating committee to select officers for next year.

Mark Fisher moved to adjourn. Colleen Smith second. Motion carried.

