

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 18, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

Present- Jeff Armentrout, Jennifer Brown, Adam DeMarco, Patricia Gladman, Mike Harter (6:16pm), Don Howard, Dave Laaksonen, Earl Lehner, Jon Melvin, Kevin Simpson, Colleen Smith, Chip Thomson, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Chris Welker, Tom Wright, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Benjamin Wenner, Diane Winters, Laryssa Hook

GUESTS: Jeff Crotty, Jody Bennett, Mike Knapp, Matt Yarnell

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Randy Turner introduced Jody Bennett as our new staff accountant. She has a strong background in accounting and knowledge of online Quick books.

MINUTES:

T. Thomson moved to approve the October 2025 board meeting minutes. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Chris Welker mentioned that most things have been captured in the minutes. He met with Tom Wright and Tim Wilson about advertising again this year. People are starting to ask about the Christmas lights.

FAIR MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jen McGowan updated on the Christmas lights. They will be starting on the 26th and will go up to the New Year. The cost will be \$30 a carload and it is starting to look really festive on the fairgrounds. Jen also passed around a signup sheet for the OFMA convention coming up January 14. We need to be signed up before December 1.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Randy Turner reported that the balance sheet is accurate as far as numbers but they are not all in the right places. We are still reconciling September and October bank accounts. Louise does not have the experience that Jody does with the online Quick Books and you have to match up what is sitting out there online with the bank. Louise is going to finish up September before handing everything over to Jody. We have journal entries that have been put into Quick Books after we closed the books and there is not actually \$104k in the purse account at PNC because that account has been closed. The goal is to get it fixed in November by fiscal year and have Jody in charge by the December meeting to have a real starting point which will be important for our audit. On the AP report, AEP and Acclarity have been paid.

We have done a good job in keeping up with our bills. We do have some outstanding on the AR side. Tom Wright had a question about speed fees and Randy mentioned that it was a difference of timing of when they were deposited. The 3700 account is the dividends from the Star account. The 1796 account are the bed tax reimbursements. That is where Louise put them but they may have been in a different place last year. Chip Thomson asked about Absolute Impressions and the amount they owed and was it for their sales. Jen responded that was for their RV and tent rentals for their space. They have not yet settled up for their sales. Chip mentioned we may want to take a look at their contract when it is up. Randy passed out an updated bed tax spreadsheet and went over the numbers there. He will continue to work on more detail for that report. He mentioned we will be soon paying for the AV and the sidewalk that the City put in. We have not yet received a bill from those yet. Randy went over the Star account information. We used \$71,200 in dividends to pay down the line of credit and it is now at \$14k. Colleen Smith moved to approve the treasurer's report. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Chris Welker reported that they had met twice before the board elected new people and no decisions were made.

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE:

No Report

FAC COMMITTEE:

No Report

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE:

Chip Thomson asked that we check on the 23 sign to see if it is working. T. Thomson mentioned that there was a meeting with Destination Delaware that he was unable to attend, but Tim Wilson has sent out a Power Point and he would like to get that out to everyone on the board. It is our feeling that we need to stay with them for another year. There are a few things to talk about there but overall they did a great job with our advertising. Chris Welker asked if it was something that we wanted to move forward with and work out the details as we go. Dave Laaksonen asked if they could offer us anything quantifiable, numbers that bumped or trends. Chris said that we can get reports from them to see what that looks like. It looked like our grandstand areas were up a little this year. Online ticket sales will help us get a better idea also. Randy Turner moved to continue our relationship with Destination Delaware with \$25k out of our advertising budget. Tom Wright second. Motion carried.

SECURITY COMMITTEE:

Mike Harter mentioned that we need to get something to the City and the County regarding the Christmas lights. They will need a map with traffic patterns and contact information for them. Jen will send an email out to them.

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE:

No Report

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:

Adam DeMarco reported that they met briefly about preparing waterlines and winterization and getting ready for winter and we are just about there.

RACING COMMITTEE:

Tom Wright mentioned that he will be going to the Race Secretary's meeting the week after Thanksgiving. He is about done with purse checks, there are about 10 remaining.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

Colleen Smith reported that they will be meeting early December to discuss ticket increases etc.

BED TAX COMMITTEE:

Tom Wright mentioned that he had sent out the minutes from the last two meetings. They are working on continuing the design on the new barns and are making some good progress. Pat Paykoff has been a huge help in this process. We will be communicating on Dec. 8 with the stakeholders for Jr. Fair at Bixby. Chip mentioned that he, Kevin, Benjamin, and Chris met about the north/south bike path and asked about using the Brownfield grant to clear out some of the junk in the back. Tom did not believe it could be used for that.

Jon Melvin gave an update on the HVAC in the grandstands. John with RDF came out and pointed out some things that were not per design. He is going to contact AON and get some documentation on that.

ALL HORSE PARADE COMMITTEE:

The 40th All Horse Parade will be Sept. 13, 2026 at 3pm.

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE:

No Report

OLD BUSINESS:

Chip Thomson wanted to make mention of the point of order. We need to remember that the President does not vote. We had a 10-8 vote for President. We do not need to make a big deal out of it, but we need to make sure that we know that the President does not vote unless there is a tie.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

Chris Welker will be working on committees and sending out a survey to the board and we will be keeping mostly the same structure.

Jennifer Brown moved to adjourn. Mike Harter second. Motion carried.