

DELAWARE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 21, 2026

ATTENDANCE:

Present- Jeff Armentrout, Jennifer Brown, Adam DeMarco, Patricia Gladman, Don Howard, David Laaksonen, Earl Lehner, Jon Melvin, Kevin Simpson, Chip Thomson, T. Thomson, Randy Turner, Diane Winters, Tom Wright, Laryssa Hook, Jen McGowan

ABSENT: Mike Harter, Colleen Smith, Chris Welker, Benjamin Wenner

GUESTS: Jeff Crotty, Jody Bennett, Todd Everingham, Brian Lorenze

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Jeff Armentrout called the meeting to order, Jeff Armentrout led the pledge of allegiance, and Jen McGowan called the roll.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tom Wright introduced Brian Lorenze. He has been a State rep for three years and is on the ballot again for State rep. He is a huge proponent of ours. Brian was on city council in Powell for 14 years and is in his official first term in the House of Representatives. Brian expressed that he is grateful to represent the City of Delaware and that the fair is an important part of our community.

Randy Turner introduced Todd Everingham with First Citizen's Bank. Todd discussed doing a 403B for our employees. He talked about the simple IRA's and the differences. He has put together a proposal and sent it to Randy. This will cost the board roughly \$1600 annually plus a one-time fee of \$1250.

Laryssa Hook gave a brief description of her experience with a 403B.

MINUTES:

Jon Melvin moved to approve the March 2026 minutes, T. Thomson second. Motion carried.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

None

FAIR MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jen McGowan reported that she and Don Howard had attended the District 6 meeting and she has fair manager's passes to hand out after the meeting. She announced the 2026 Jr. Fair scholarship recipients as follows: Micaela Cress \$1000, Cassidy Rice, \$750, Eavan Clark \$750, Addison Brenner \$500, Jessie Rice \$500, Laren Brenner \$500, Molly Hobbs \$250, and Joseph Yerian \$250.

RACE SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Tom Wright reported that they are about the same money wise. Pam is going to start helping him work on things. Tom received a check for \$5000 from the USTA for a grant for marketing. All the sponsorship letters went out last week and we have already gotten 3 or 4 responses back. Tom mentioned that he had found replacements for Phil Terry and Dick Norris in the cabin.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Randy Turner reported that we are still working thru the finances and getting closer all the time. Jody has made a few adjustments on the report since the financials went out to the board. All of our 91 days and over have already been paid, we just need to match it up with the bank. Tom Wright asked about some of the numbers being identical year after year. Randy mentioned that part of that is due to the changeover from desktop to online. It has been kind of whack a mole getting things in the right order. Both the staking and operating accounts have accounts behind them. Diane Winters thanked Randy for acknowledging the parade but she does not see any income showing. Randy mentioned that should be documented under support/sponsorships and that he would get her that info from last year. The expenses showing on this year are bills that were not paid last year. Randy reported that we have paid \$600k on the grandstand loan so far this year and we are now below \$1 million. We currently have \$1,742,939.60 in the account.

Tom Wright moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Jennifer Brown second. Diane Winters abstained. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Jeff Armentrout mentioned the minutes were in the board packet. No Report

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:

Dave Laaksonen reported that we had one contract to present to the board on the recommendation from the maintenance committee. The contract is for Delhi Landscaping for a one year contract for the upkeep of the bed on the fairgrounds. Dave Laaksonen motioned to approve Delhi Landscape for a one year contract. T. Thomson second. Motion carried.

FAC COMMITTEE:

No Report

ADVERTISING COMMITTEE:

T. Thomson mentioned that they had not met, but planned to meet next month to go over advertising ideas for fair.

SECURITY COMMITTEE:

No Report. Committee will be going over bids for security systems

MOTORSPORTS COMMITTEE:

No Report

FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:

Adam DeMarco reported that the committee discussed landscaping bids. We have also developed a sink hole on the 4th turn of the racetrack. We did get it fixed and had it tied in to an existing pipe. We have been watching the maintenance building for a roof leak as there has been some standing water. It seems to be ok now.

Adam mentioned that we are having issues with the bath stalls with design, materials, and construction. Fraker is going to be writing us a letter of recommendation on how to fix the issues. His thought is to take it back to the cement block and sealing it. The demo would be pretty straight forward and painting can be done in house. Cory can put some exhaust fans in the ceilings.

We had wind damage to the tarp on the hoop barn and discussion has been turning that into a storage building for maintenance.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE:

No Report

BED TAX COMMITTEE:

Jon Melvin reported that the committee met and we got a bid from ACI for \$713k for the grandstand ramps. This technically would be coming out of the Star Ohio account. We had a bid review meeting that went well and we are up against the clock. Jon recommends awarding the bid to ACI and authorize the executive committee to enter into the contract. T. Thomson second. Motion carried.

We are also having discussions with Meyers and railing design for the front of the grandstand. We would add that as a bulletin to add onto the bid. So there will be a change order coming for the railing.

Tom Wright mentioned that Mike Harter had send an email out to the board and he had talked to Pete with Meyers this afternoon. We need to get a more realistic number so we can have better discussions on the plans for the 4H area. Discussion on the construction of the barns and what zoning permits us to build in the city was had.

ALL HORSE PARADE COMMITTEE:

Diane Winters reported that she was scheming to get some Clydesdales here for the parade. Not "The" Clydesdales, but others in Central Ohio. The parade is September 13th at 3pm

HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE:

Don Howard mentioned that he had picked a few new things for for the museum which included a showcase for \$30. He mentioned that at the District meeting they said we had to submit a report on the grant money that we received by June 1 or we will have to pay that back.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Dave Laaksonen wanted to propose a stable pass to all the non-electric sites in the north lot behind the horse barns. Those lots require a stable pass to park back there. The electric sites currently already receive one with their camping permit. Don Howard moved to approve to add a stable pass to the North lot RV's. Jennifer Brown second. Motion carried.

Adam DeMarco moved to go into executive session for a legal matter. Randy Turner second. Motion carried.

Adam DeMarco moved to return to regular session noting that no decisions were made. Jon Melvin second. Motion carried.

Jennifer Brown moved to approve \$3500 to settle the Skyworks lawsuit. Jon Melvin second. Motion carried.

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