

Northwestern Michigan Fair

Board of Directors Meeting

January 20, 2022

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by J. Hubbell at 7:00 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Lead by Frank Guerin
3. **Roll Call:**
 - a. **Board Members Present:** Tammara Sanchez, Carolyne Woodhams, Milt Lewis, Cody Foster, Joe Hubbell, Mike Barley, Caleb Hubbell, Tom Looks, Erika Sprenger, Clarissa Johnston, Karen Zenner, Sonya Youker, Frank Guerin, Al Henning
 - b. **Board Members Absent:** Jill Duell
 - c. **Visitors Present:** Amanda Wilkins, Robin Gildner, Mike Forton, Ben Walker, Rose & JoAnn Bohrer
4. **Review Agenda:**
 - a. **Motion 01.20.22.1:** M. Barley/A. Henning made motion to approve January 20, 2022 Agenda. Motion Passed.
5. **Correspondence:** Tom shared Holiday Card from Convenient ATM Services. Joe read a letter from Brent Edgecombe.
6. **President's Report:** Joe H. - 204 days until fair.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Tammara reviewed the Treasurer's report.
8. **Presentation & Approval of Meeting Minutes:**
 - a. **Motion 01.20.22.2:** A. Henning/M. Barley made motion to approve December 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes as written. Motion Passed.
9. **Public Comment:**
 - a. No public comment.
10. **New Business:**
 - a. **Cody F:**
 - i. Spoke with Kathy at Super Kicker Rodeo regarding a second rodeo. We would be adding a matinee show at 1:00pm.
 1. **Motion 01.20.22.3:** Clarissa /Tammara made motion to bring the rodeo for a matinee show at the cost of \$6000. Motion Passed.
 - b. **Tammara S:**
 - i. We have a need for a Deputy Treasurer. Erika has agreed to take on the role of Deputy Treasurer.

- ii. We need to figure out computers. Tammara/Erika feels that their personal computers are being used for fair business. Trooper Seymore recommended all fair business be performed on fair owned computers. We do have money in the budget for iPads for the Tickets and Gates that we could possibly allocate for 3 laptops through TechSoup. Tom will look into the pricing of a Google Business account to utilize the cloud platform for fair business. Per Joe and Trooper Seymore. Rentals and Contracts has a lot of moving parts and needs to be performed on a fair computer.

c. Joe H.

- i. Chief Parker of Blair Twp. Fire contacted Joe about expanding their parking lot. After digging into it, neither the Fair nor the fire training facility own land in which the parking lot is currently sitting. Blair Twp. Fire wants to know if we would be willing to expand their space into the woods on our property. They are a good tenant/neighbor, they helped with seasonal campers during fair week last year. They want to move their fence, and some structures onto the land.
- ii. Joe also talked with Arnold's Amusement about the changes to the hours of the Midway, and they have not had a chance to talk about it yet.

d. Robin G.

- i. Here representing herself and no other organization. Involved in 4H since she was 4 years old. Raised rabbits, poultry, goats, and cattle. Currently her husband and her have 8 different breeds of goats that they are raising. Growing concern about horned goats in the goat barn. The only answer she received when asking about it was that it was a "safety issue". Robin explained some safety concerns regarding steers and how they are secured to the wall in the steer barn. Horns on goats are used for temperature regulation especially in working goats. The goat program is not exclusive to the fair, why are goats and kids being excluded because the goats have horns. We need to follow the facts and industry standards of working goats. Horns are not just for decoration. Robin can no longer sit back and let kids be excluded because the goats have horns.

We are not doing our jobs as mentors to the kids if we cannot give them a response as to why some goats have horns and others do not. All animals on the fairgrounds pose a safety issue, bites, kicks, drags. It is not appropriate for open classes to have to change to match 4-H rules. Working class goats need horns but dairy goats by breed need to be disbudded.

- ii. Kayce via phone call– goats were discussed at team meetings. Species chair and superintendents only, it was decided as a group that no dairy goats could not have horns. Fiber and meat goat shown in the open showmanship class could have horns.

11.4H Livestock Council:

a. Amanda W:

- i. 75 large beef registered, first meeting at beginning of month, swine registrations due beginning of next month, Cloverbuds age 7 can bring own pig if capacity allows, 5-6 yr olds will have to share, super seniors will be allowed again this year. Discussion points at all meetings – last month was 4-H By-Laws, currently following the 2021 By-laws after the votes for the new changes were voided.

12.Unfinished Business:

a. Cody F:

- i. Asked if there are enough funds remaining in Winter Storage budget for the trailer mover previously discussed. Tammara advised that monies are available. **Motion 01.20.22.4:** A. Henning/M. Barley motion to purchase the trailer for \$1,300. Motion Passed.

b. Joe H:

- i. Discussion about leasing a second tractor, we need to decide because there are limited tractor supplies. We may be able to get it by May. There is someone interested in buying the tractor we are currently using but we have a lease until July. They do not currently have one for us and we would be unable to renew our lease. **Motion 01.20.22.5:** C. Foster/M. Barley Motion to lease a second New Holland tractor. Motion Passed.
- ii. Milt mentioned security cameras during the last meeting. They were a benefit during fair. We can slowly build back to where we were during fair week. Question to the board. How many

cameras do we want to start with? 186Networks can get us wireless cameras to cover the entire grounds. We would want to try to get a minimum of 10 cameras. Joe will get updated pricing from 186Networks for the security cameras.

- c. **Mike Forton:** Julie's estate was settled. Mike provided a check of \$500 to add to the Julie Nowland Goat Barn Pen Fee Fund. Will have an update next month for the specifics of the funds

13. Committee Reports:

- a. **Sonya:** Campers have started calling. Will start running deposits. Ribbons not ordered due to the amount of stock that we currently have and want/need to use up.
- b. **Al:** Judges are being sought. Swine tags will be an issue because we cannot get free tags. 4-H families can get a premise ID and tag their own pigs. Watching for some current diseases in animals, avian flu is on the increase with wild birds, African Swine fever, rabbit hemorrhagic fever
- c. **Erika:** Lots of interest in the grounds. Need to figure out the Screams in the Dark contract. Joe has amended the Screams contract so he can start to set up August 20, if he understands that there will be other people using the grounds and that he does not rent the grounds until August 30. Joe H is still working through the contract with Joe from Screams. We need to figure out the Red Dresser contract and what changes we need to make to it. One weekend in May and June, 2 weekends in July and 1 weekend in August open. If anything extra is needed for rentals or companies to possibly rent through, let her know.
- d. **Tammara:** Front ticket gates possibly covered by Frank's hockey contact. Also, the three gates may be covered by Frank's veteran group. The referee group wants to do grandstand for the rodeos, needs to reach back out to the bus drivers, some of them are interested in coming back again this year. Erika and Tammara went to the electronic ticket and grandstands workshop at convention. Waiting for a quote from Hometown Ticket Sales. Sapphire Ticket sales is a second company that has been emailed but have not heard anything back yet. Both companies use Apple based equipment.
- e. **Carolynne** Talking with the guy for the BATA busses again. We are on Twitter, TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram

- f. **Tom:** Passed on convention communication awards. Asked the board for reports of classes attended at convention. Have received some Premium Book changes and still waiting on additional changes from a few people. Asked about premium book advertising and if anybody had anybody interested. Was advised to call previous advertisers first. Tom will contact Bay Supply to get pricing on getting a few new shirts for everybody. We will be trying to switch to a cotton material rather than the spandex material we currently are using. The current shirts do not breath and are hot to wear.
- g. **Clarissa:** Nothing to report.
- h. **Milt:** Let Milt know if we get any sponsors or signed contracts for grandstand events. Winter Storage only 3 spots left, barns are filled up.
- i. **Karen:** Asked about Breanna returning. Tammara has not heard officially if she will be coming back. Went to the Covid-19 Vaccination class at convention – it was based on county fairs.
- j. **Caleb:** Will be meeting B&G in the next few weeks. Moving snow for the fire lanes.
- k. **Frank:** Getting a lot of concession interest, one big interest is Dippin' Dots. Frank will talk to Bruce and Josh Hansen first for their intentions. Went to a MDARD Food Safety and Licensing class at convention.
- l. **Cody:** All contracts signed for grandstand entertainment and free entertainment, need to reach out to bands to see if they are coming back. Ogemaw county fair class at convention was very good. They talked about the type of free entertainment that they use, one price fits all for the fair. The walking around entertainment was approximately \$60,000. Their grandstand event budget was approximately \$35,000.
- m. **Mike:** Sent Christmas cards to two volunteers for merchandise building. Will be getting with them to put together a list of merchandise for next summer. They will be looking at items that people form last fair were looking for or were interested in. Attended convention class on communication Who Speaks for the Fair. Our location would be a good spot for a tornado siren. Merchandise class. Attended Fair Book Rules and Grievance process. Parent and kids sign sheet, when a grievance is filed it also has a filing fee of \$100.

MDARD Food Licensing, De-Escalation Series class. Think we need to increase fair week camping fees, we are shorting ourselves during fair week camping.

- n. **Joe:** Working on sponsorships. Went to the Embezzlement class at convention and was not impressed. They were concerned about people taking ticket money and not turning it in. There was zero discussion about actual embezzlement. Other class was the Electrical upgrade class. Compared to other fairs we have more power offered. Midland Fair was 435 sites but limited electric power supply. Mentioned Tom looking for new fair week shirts.

14. Adjournment:

- a. **Motion 01.20.22.6:** S. Youker/M. Barley made motion to adjourn 8:49 pm. Motion Passed.