

# Northwestern Michigan Fair Board of Directors Meeting August 13, 2020

1. **Call to Order:** By Joe Hubbell at 7:05pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** By Sonya Youker
3. **Roll Call:**
  - a. **Board Members Present:** Joe Hubbell, Sonya Youker, Karen Zenner, Tom Looks, Joe Babik, Jason Neumann, Caleb Hubbell, Cody Foster, Mike Barley, Milt Lewis, Carolyn Woodhams, Frank Guerin, and Al Henning.
  - b. **Board Members Absent:** Tammara Sanchez
  - c. **Visitor's Present:**
4. **Review Agenda:**
5. **Correspondence:** We received several buyer letters this year. We also received a few thank you letters from Mary Dennis's family thanking us and the Livestock Council for all that was done for the Memorial. Also, money was sent to the Fair to be used for the Museum in memory of Mary Dennis.
6. **President's Report:** 359 days until 2021 Fair.
7. **Treasurer's Report:**
8. **Presentation & Approval of Meeting Minutes:** Motion 8.13.20.1: J. Babik/ J. Neumann made motion to accept July 9th Meeting Minutes.
9. **Public Comments:**
  - a. **There were a few people who stood up and asked questions and had comments who didn't give us their names. They didn't get added to the minutes.**
  - b. **Darrel Robinson:** Some items to think about. The \$1000 that the Fair is charging MSU to use the Fair Grounds this weekend for the animals/butchering. Please don't take advantage of 4H and MSU and wave the \$1000 fee for the use of the grounds. Rumors that the Fair wants to get rid of MSU and the Extension. Worried that it is moving forward and would like the Fair to rethink their stance. Without MSU and 4H, the Fair would lose a lot of community support and yes there are problems but people need to work together more. There are scholarships that are attached to 4H and MSU that the kids would miss out on.
  - c. **Mary Ann Robertson:** The kids wanted to be here this week. Thank you Darrel for coming here to the meeting and standing up for 4H and Livestock Council. The Fair Board needs to start working with the LC and getting along for the kids. Let's start and overcome the challenges and getting along with each other.
  - d. **Rudy Neumann:** Wrong for the Fair to charge MSU \$1000 for the use of the property. Look at all the buildings, road names, etc... the kids and their families and the community support the Fair Grounds and donate when needed. The Fair was built to support the kids and agricultural and we need to take care of the youth who are all suffering. We are lifetime members and we deserve better.

- e. **Tammy Nemeskal:** Was in 4H when I was younger, and my daughter went through the program. We need to keep 4H on the grounds. There is money in Heather Barley's name and we need to continue to have 4H and MSU and be able to spend that money in Heather's name to help other 4Hers.
- f. **Mark Barley:** Since COVID happened everyone wanted the Fair, but with the events happening the way it did we couldn't have the Fair. The Food vendors, the way things have happened since the Fair was cancelled is a slap in the face. Why can people camp on the Fairgrounds, and line up for Food Vendors during the week of Fair but we couldn't have the Fair. Asked if the Fair purchased an animal this year like it has in the past. Joe answered no because our biggest income source was cancelled this year.
- g. **Mary Ann Wilsey:** Read a post from the Facebook Post regarding when the Fair was cancelled.
- h. **Joe Hubbell:** Asked a question about the 4H Clover being part of the Fair. Explained about MSU renting the Fair Grounds so MSU would be liability would be theirs and not ours. It's a rental contract for the liability. The cancellation of 4H and MSU would be a lot to have happen and it's not even been talked about. There is a big difference between someone renting the grounds and 25,000 people visiting the grounds every day. Asked the people if they had any other questions that we could answer. The Board felt like it was an attack. D. Robinson: Rumors are rumors and it wasn't meant to be an attack but more of an informational time to let the Board know what was going on. Joe said please call him to let him know if there is any questions or comments that need answers and he will do his best to answer. Mark asked if the 4H emblem could be put back on the buildings. Joe said he would try but we only have Joel for 40 hours and his vacation time is ending. Joe brought up regarding the horse pens and putting them up. People said they would be here to help set them up but not many people showed up and asked where people were to help.
- i. **Rudy Neumann:** The Fair makes money off of the Winter Storage and you are making money off of buildings that the 4H and their families helped build and support.
- j. **Frank Guerin:** Rumor mills have to be shut down and squashed. This is the first time the Youth Fair vs 4H, Fair and Livestock Council has been brought up. COVID has an impact this year. We couldn't get volunteers to help with the gates, food booth, etc... If we would have had the Fair, it would have bankrupted us. Not having 4H and MSU is a rumor. There are other fairs that are discussing it BUT we are not one of them. Last year there were 406 animals in the auction and this year there was 190. Communication is key for everything! It's squashed right now. Financially it isn't a smart idea. I get the emotion of it and I've been in 4H for only 7 years. I haven't spent my life in 4H like some and most of you all. There are bumps in the road, absolutely but we have to give grace, receive grace and have grace. I have vendors that aren't coming back next year because they are bankrupt. I'd love to see these numbers at all of our meetings. We have many numbers in our Lifetime Members and only a handful every meeting. Let's ask

questions and have answers. Questions are getting noticed and are written down. I have questions myself and will ask them at an appropriate time at an appropriate place. Would like to see more of you come on a monthly basis. Please continue to ask questions so we can squash the rumors so we can continue to work for our kids and community.

- k. **Lauri Cederquist:** Anytime the Fair has asked for help from the 4H community, they are there to help out and assist where is needed.
- l. **Tony Saxton:** Question about the \$1000 rental fee for the MSU using the grounds this weekend. Frank: The rental is \$500 per day per building. Kayce: Rental is for 2 days just in case. Question: If this weekend only takes one day, can it be assumed that we could go down to \$500 instead of \$1000. Joe: MSU told me to his face that MSU would cover the kids in the show ring or getting ready for the show ring. This weekend isn't either so the only way to make MSU cover the kids is by charging MSU. Frank has questions and will ask them in an appropriate time and get answers. Kayce: This event this weekend is a 4H event, the Fair has it in writing. The kids and volunteers are covered during the event. The processing of bringing the animals in, and processing and/or putting the animals on the trailer are covered.

**10. New Business:**

- a. **Skipped**

**11. 4H Livestock:**

- a. **Kayce Caugh:** Auction stepped up and sold 190 animals. 13 animals went through the resale. Saturday will be a long day. Carolyn thanked Livestock and 4H community for all their help with Mary Dennis' Memorial and everything they helped with.

**12. Unfinished Business:**

- a. **J. Hubbell:** Steer barn isn't quite as progressed as we wanted due to COVID. Sheet metal was delivered and they will be out here working on it this next week.

**13. Committee Reports:**

- a. **None**

**14. Questions and Comments:** Renting the barns for bringing the animals in and hauling them out. Frank said the rental money covers the buildings. Lori asked if 4H pays rentals during the Fair Week. Answered with: No they pay pen fees not barn rental. Mary Ann Robertson: hooked Marty up with Joe who she knew wanted to spend money and set him up with Joe for a new steer barn. That wouldn't have happened if she didn't introduce them. There are a lot of community donors who spend money out on the Fair Grounds in some way. Darrel: With the new information, think about it and talk about it, and give the \$1000 back to the Livestock Council.

**15. Executive Session:**

**16. Frank Guerin:** Thank you for having patience. We as a Board have agreed that the value of the contract will be at \$0. There will still be a contract as that is needed for liability.

**14: Adjournment: Motion 8.13.20.2:** A. Henning/ S. Youker made motion to adjourn at 8:42pm. P.