

Northwestern Michigan Fair

Board of Directors Meeting

August 17, 2023

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Joe Hubbell at 6:57 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Frank Guerin
3. **Roll Call:** By Tom Looks
 - a. **Board Members Present:** Joe Hubbell, Sonya Youker, Al Henning, Erika Sprenger, Milt Lewis, Cody Foster, Clarissa Johnston, Mike Barley, Karen Zenner, Tom Looks, Frank Guerin, Tammara Sanchez, Jill Duell
 - b. **Board Members Absent:** Carlyne Woodhams
 - c. **Visitors Present:** Bud Strang, Susan Zenker, Pat McCarey, Laurie Ashley, MaryLynn Robertson, Kelly Saxton, Amanda Wilkins, Dale & Dorothy Fritz, Nicki Brown
4. **Review Agenda**
 - a. **Motion 8.17.23.1:** A. Henning/M. Barley made a motion to approve August 17, 2023 Agenda. **Motion Passed.**
5. **Correspondence:** Joe shared a Thank You card from Maddy Johns.
6. **President's Report:** 352 days until fair. Great week everybody!
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Tammara shared the treasurer's report. Joe reviewed the Arnold Amusements Report.
8. **Presentation & Approval of Meeting Minutes:**
 - a. **Motion 8.17.23.2:** C. Johnston/F. Guerin made a motion to approve minutes from July 27, 2023 meeting as written. **Motion Passed.**
9. **Public Comment:**
 - a. Nikki Brown – Shared how much she enjoyed being on the grounds because of all of the Fair Board members. She wants to say Thank You to everyone for all of the support during the last two weeks.
 - b. Mary Lynn Robertson – Shared a suggestion regarding garbage behind the barn. Asked that during the monthly livestock council meeting to share the small details during the meetings, for example moving garbage cans/dumpsters to the front so they can be picked up. Or possibly ask someone or a club to take on the responsibility of moving the trash dumpsters each day.
10. **New Business:**
 - a. Mike Barley
 - i. Asked about security personnel just letting people walk through with no passes or arm bands. Al said that the guards were doing great. Mike's sister was allowed to walk through the front gate without being challenged, she also witnessed multiple others walking through the front gate without being challenged or asked for a pass or arm band. EASE OF ENTRY TO GATES
 - ii. We all know volunteers are very important and hard to get. Mike has had two volunteers say they will not be returning unless something changes, for example accepting tips by shuttle drivers. After discussion, we will revisit this topic in the future for future instances. ACCEPTING OF TIPS
11. **4H Livestock Council:**
 - a. Nikki Brown – Grand total for the auction \$982,885.05. MSU Extension Emily Kotz has resigned and will be done as of Monday. Two work bees Friday, 8/18/20 at the swine barn

5pm-7pm and next Friday at the swine barn from 5-7pm. The next meeting is September 11 at the Redeemer Lutheran Church. Record books are due September 11. By-Law changes, applications for species chairs. Dairy Feeder, Large Beef, Lamb, Swine, Poultry chairs, and Teen Rep applications are due at 11:59 pm. There are 3 Executive board positions open, and applications are due Oct. 2nd. There was a question for AI regarding species chair and superintendent meeting scheduling. Thank you for allowing us to be guests on the grounds.

12. **Unfinished Business:** None

13. **Committee Reports:**

- a. Sonya – Ribbons went well. Camping has picked up again.
- b. AI – Better animal health this year. Asked if we can give Dr. Rabb a gas card as a thank you for his time spent out here. We do have a \$500 budget for veterinary care and will use that to purchase a Shell Gas card. Superintendents all survived. Veterans Memorial went spectacularly and appreciated the sound system.
- c. Erika – J&J Sports show has cancelled with hopes to return next year, they were scheduled for Labor Day Weekend. Erika reviewed upcoming rentals. The dog show has reached out to us again regarding renting next year. Erika has made notes on contracts for next year's fair rentals. Cody asked about the EMS contract for Grandstand events.
- d. Tammara – Jill and I have had people ask that the handicap ticket booth be configured differently for ease of access for people working the booth. Possibly a lean to or another type of covering. One of the volunteers donated an umbrella for others to use. Passes and registration asked about 4H parents being given an annual membership or band when their kids are registered. Annual meeting board application is on the website. The By-Laws would need to be submitted by September 2nd. Our next meeting is on September 14th. Budget meeting scheduled for September 7th at 7pm and the budget to be approved at meeting October 12th. Online registration MEGA band form asking about multiple names being submitted on the form but possibly not paying for the bands. Needs approval to write the check to the hockey association for Kevin the volunteer's kid. The amount is \$1995. **Motion 8.17.23.3:** A. Henning/C. Johnston Made motion to pay \$1995 to the Otsego Hockey Association for Kevin's kid's hockey and a \$100 gas card for Kevin. **Motion Passed.**
- e. Jill – Tickets and gates: Booths need another window cut out or a concave mirror to increase visibility from the side to check the line. Grandstand booths need to have lights added inside and outside. One door does not close properly and needs to be replaced. Home Depot moved to the tent near the Rosa Arena and he really liked the new spot this year. We do have a few golf carts that will not be welcome back next year. Karen suggested an IN and OUT sign for the cart corral.
- f. Karen – The week went well but we have a few glitches to figure out. Really liked doing manure duty in the evening rather than at 5:00 in the morning. After being out for the week before fair, we need to take a look at our fence line and possibly hire someone to weed whack everything two weeks before fair. The fence line is full of leaves, trees, shrubs etc. There are a few trees that need to be taken care of. We need to work with 4H Livestock Council and Arnold's coming in the gate on Saturday to avoid possible conflicts with animal back-ups.
- g. Clarissa – Info Tent & Volunteers – appreciated everybody pitching in and helping, especially at the last minute. Overall, every group that volunteered was thrilled with their activity and being out here. Multiple groups will be returning next year. Did request a light inside the tent. Non-Animal have a lot of exhibits left behind and have not been claimed

yet. We need to promote for more volunteers in the Heim building. Parade season has already started for Queen Kelsey.

- h. Caleb – Nothing major seemed to break. Bathroom #6 door is still locking on its own. Bathroom #11 still needs to be snaked. Poultry barn entrance pavement needs to be addressed. Joe talked to Medler electric about getting LED High Bay lights donated or at a discount. We will be looking into switching all of the locks on the bath house to a MK key. Joe did make a call about storage unit style roll doors for the goat barn. The cost would be \$8000 for two doors.
- i. Milt – Museum went well, we received a few donations. A 1908 Premium Book that is in immaculate condition along with a few other premium books from the 1930s and a few other items (pictures and posters). Social Networking had a lot of questions. Website has the Board Application, Queen picture and we will be adding pictures to the website. Had a question asked about the Grandstands being dark on the ends. There was an issue with the light tower not functioning. Winter storage is starting to pick up. Cherry Festival is looking for a place to store trailers from the end of August to June. They would need to be parked inside the pit area. They are looking to partner with us more.
- j. Cody – Grandstands went well. The night of the tractor pull we had the ends of the gates open and all of the volunteers were standing in the middle. We did have a very different atmosphere for the Demolition Derby. Grandpa's Garage is interested in bringing another 10 cars again next year. Todd from TNT was very good to deal with. Clarissa shared some issues with the free entertainment show leaving early, shows not being announced very well. Cody will talk with the vendor.
- k. Frank – Bingo was a huge success. The set up with the TVs was very popular. The group was very appreciative of having the tables set up by Dean and his crew. Vendors went well possibly will change a few vendor locations for next year. Fasel and Gibby's stepped in to help with senior day food. Thank you to Cody and Jack, Mike and Al for assistance with the food booth repairs.
- l. Frank shared for Carolyne that the Fire training academy group will be back again next year.
- m. Mike – Thought we were not going to have enough room for campers but we had space left over. Merchandise did quite well this year. We have two small boxes of merchandise left. Mike shared some acknowledgement for volunteers and VIPs around the grounds.
- n. Carolyne – Pancake Breakfast went awesome and the guys from the Regional Fire Training Center want to come back next year. Prairie Farms gave us a credit of \$218.42 for next year. Social Media, everyone loved the "Facebook Lives" that I did all week. It was awesome time and will keep it up. The "Vows with the Cows" was a hit and we will be doing it again next year. Advertising: The radio and TV advertising that we did along with the bus ads went amazing! We had a great response with the TV commercial. I think everything went extremely well last week and I thank you all for all your help with everything!
- o. Tom – Ticketing equipment has been shipped back. We will not be charged for the second kiosk that we were unable to use. The card reader still has not arrived. Have a few notes for additional equipment for next year, adding one for the pit entrance, and backups for all with the expectation that the batteries will not last the whole day.
- p. Joe – Talked about parking. Joe asked that we talk with BATA and that if they were not going to change their route they will not be asked to return next year. Their route was causing a huge problem with people coming into park. Asked about the idea of moving stock trailers and people staying on the grounds to park across Blair Townhall Road. We had a lot of people asking about sponsorships and getting banners hanging on the fence.

14. **Adjournment:**

- a. **Motion 8.17.23.4:** M. Barley/A. Henning made motion to adjourn at 9:17 pm. **Motion passed.**