

Gratiot County Fair for Youth  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, March 7, 2024  
Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Conference Room

Members Present:

Chuck Efaw, Matt Jorae, Darcy Martyn, Kylie Acker, Andrew Lombard, Brent Skinner, Jack Butcher, Angie Lake, Shanna Smith, Adam Wood, Kent Humm, Keegan Humm & Martha Stellow

Guest: Larry Richards, Jami Bebow, Nick Lux, Bri Clark, Carrie Jolliff & Mason Jolliff

President Chuck Efaw called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Brent presented the secretary report. Martha moved to accept the minutes as presented and Adam seconded. Motion carried.

Martha presented the treasurer's report and mentioned that there was a meeting setup with the CPA for our 990 on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. She mentioned that donations are down from a year ago. Brent made a motion to accept the financials on file. Darcy seconded. Motion carried.

Fair Office Report –

- Hannah gave a recap on the in person Fair Entry training. Great experience and feels it would be beneficial to go again.
- The Hierarchy in Fair Entry is being reworked to help make registration easier.
- Last Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> Hannah went to the Roller Derby at the Pins as the club wanted to present a donation to the fair.
- On Tuesday Hannah went to do an on step at the radio station and highlighted different fair events to come.
- Camping registrations have been being turned in for 2024 fair. Due date is Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Public Comment –

- Nick Lux would like an opportunity at the Food Booth during the week of fair. He is willing to do it multi-year. This could be a way for him to give back and help. His thought was to be able to give back to the fair while also bringing more people to the fair. He would be willing to do a fundraiser in the future as well where we get a portion of the proceeds.

Committee Reports:

- 4-H Council – Bri Clark, the new 4-H Program Coordinator, introduced herself. She is willing to meet with whomever and discuss different ideas. She shared that 4-H does have some spring break activities coming up at the end of the month. It's open to everyone; you don't necessarily have to be a 4-H member. They recently had a fun day at the Breslin Center as well at a MSU women's basketball game.  
Mason Jollif, from 4-H teen council, talked about his Breslin Center experience as well.
- Horse Developmental – Meeting in April.
- Large Livestock – Brent reported on the recommendations that the Large Livestock Committee put together. Adam moved to accept the changes presented by large livestock to the fair book. Kent seconded. Motion carried. Then Brent presented on Jami's statement that it's hard to find dairy feeder calves. The recommendation Brent presented from Jami was to open up a feeder cross bred class. There would be a champion dairy feeder class and a champion crossbred feeder class. It was mentioned that you can get a calf fresh from the cow no problem but at 90 days it's harder to find. Matt made a motion to leave this year as is. If a high volume occurs then the board can review in September. Kent seconded. Motion carried.

- Exhibitor Dance Committee – Kent reported on the issue with the age limit at last year's dance. This year the committee will be sticking with ages 8-19 years old. The exhibitor's plus one need to be in that same age group.
- 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Angie reported that the committee met right before this meeting. The Gratiot County Herald will have an article every month leading up to fair. The golf outing will be at 9 a.m. on June 22<sup>nd</sup> followed by the picnic at 5:30 p.m. and live auction at 7 p.m. Past queens are being collected for the highland festival parade. Exhibitors are getting t-shirts. There is a schedule change recommendation to add Bossy Bingo in the schedule for 7 p.m. on Wednesday of the fair. Bossy Bingo & Family Fun night will be at 7 p.m. The raffle will cost \$75 and Jennifer Courter will do the work for Bossy Bingo. Martha moved to approve Bossy Bingo for Wednesday night. Kent seconded. Motion carried.
- Rodeo – Kent reported that they had a meeting. Sponsorship letters will be going out this week for the same donors as last year to start.
- Dinner Dance – Hannah reported that the event was a good outcome. There are definitely things to adjust for next year. For 2025 the plan is for Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> as of now at the PINS. Our net for the event was approximately \$8k.
- FFA – Ithaca has a state officer now. All schools did well at the next round of competition.
- Small Animal – Haven't met.
- Buildings & Grounds - Kent met with Town & Country. They would put in all 50 amps for the campground wire issue when all is said and done. The bathhouse project has started as of this week. Bids and applications have been collected for mowing the fairgrounds and possibly some general maintenance. Kent recommended that Rod Huss be offered the job at \$15 per hour. He would be covered by our workman's comp as well. Martha seconded Rod Huss to be our lawn and general maintenance employee. Motion carried.  
For the bathrooms during fair week we could try to find a fair family for the week and pay them to clean the bathrooms. On the picnic tables, Kent talked with Phil Maxwell at St. Louis Schools. Phil is willing to redo all of the picnic tables. He will come to look at them to see what he can do at the fairgrounds vs. take them all to the school. There has been an offer to pay for the table fixes. Kent will collect a price and pass that info along. Kevin Jerome is going to be starting on the horse announcer's booth in 3 weeks.
- Awards Committee – Angie reported that the committee met Tuesday night. Trophies will be coming from Action Awards this year. They will be around \$9 each and they can have the marble, wider base. Ribbons are going to be refilled as well. Award suggestions were gone through. Backpacks will be added for reserve champion sweepstakes is the hope. Quotes for other awards are being collected. The next meeting is April 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

#### Upcoming Rentals

- 3/17 – Kountry Kid's 4-H Meeting

#### Old Business --

- Camping Letters – As of today we have received around 60 of the forms and payment.
- 75<sup>th</sup> Polo – Hannah will bring some different polo styles to the next meeting. No need for women's styles. Looking to be at least \$25+ if embroidered.
- Rental Pricing – They're really only getting the shell of a building and a bathroom. The board agreed that the renter is to clean and restock the bathrooms during their event. Hannah will update prices.
- Fair Board Responsibility Agreement – Hannah collected the last few needed.
- Radio Advertisement Pricing for 2024 w/WMLM – Will be starting with this more in early May.

#### New Business—

- Parking Groups – one new group interested – Hannah discussed a new parking group wanting to volunteer for parking. The board suggested waiting to see if someone doesn't respond or plan to come back. Then the new group can fill in the spot.
- Winter Storage Removal – Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:00 a.m. ALL HANDS ON DECK!

New Business Continued:

- Road Sign Swap Out & After Fair Clean Up – We need a couple people to help with swapping out the road signs in July. For after fair cleanup we need to decide when we want to do the cleanup. We could also have 4-H clubs clean the bathrooms during the week of fair.
- WQBX Radio Ad – Last year it ran in June and July for \$832. Board agreed to not do this in 2024.
- Bdubs Fundraiser – Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at the MP Bdubs. Share with friends and family to help spread the word. We will get 20% of the sale donated back to the fair.
- Fair Book Changes Prior To Release Date on April 1<sup>st</sup> – Martha made a motion to accept Kristi and Hannah's recommendations for still exhibit categories. Brent seconded. Motion carried.
- Trash Removal – Doesn't seem like we need to keep the dumpster with no lid for everyone else to throw their trash in. Look at getting a dumpster with a locking lid or a rolling cart that Hannah rolls out each week. Hannah has reached out to Granger and King's Disposal to inquire.
- Zone 4 Meeting – Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.in Midland. Let Hannah know by March 21<sup>st</sup> if anyone else would like to attend so she can RSVP.
- Fair Board Photo

Brent made a motion to adjourn. Adam seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

The next meeting will be April 4, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Skinner  
GCFY Secretary