

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

Members Present:

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

Members Remote: Kent Humm

Fair Office Present: Hannah Reeves

Guests: Larry Richards, Kipp Krenz & Amiee Minnick

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

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

Martha presented the treasurer's report. Hannah is going to make a couple adjustments from miscellaneous fair week expenses to accounts that the board agreed upon. Brent made a motion to accept the financials. Shanna seconded. Motion carried.

Fair Office Report –

- We had a few more campers and boats join winter storage.
- Buyers from the auctions have now all paid and the exhibitor's all have their checks.
- Hannah applied for a Rural Readiness grant with a 10% match. We should know week of November 11th if we get to apply or not.
- Superintendents have been being contacted for any updates to Fair Book or classes.
- The 120-day report is in progress.
- Hannah will be going to a program next week that the Gratiot County Community Foundation is putting on.

Public Comment –

- Kipp Krenz shared with the board how the awards committee talked about the wooden grand and reserve signs. He talked to Phil Maxwell at St. Louis High School to see if making new ones was something the woodshop class would be able and willing to do. The group does accept donations. Kipp will get Phil dimensions for boards and wording. Money will come out of the awards budget line.

Committee Reports:

- 4-H – No report.
- Horse Developmental – Haven't met.
- Large Livestock – Brent reported that the committee met and went through the Jotform info along with going through all species superintendents. The committee did have two recommendations for scheduling but will discuss during the schedule report.
- FFA – No report.
- Small Animal – No report.
- Buildings & Grounds – Haven't met. Kent inquired on a meeting Sunday, November 10th. It was mentioned to wait until we had all the numbers needed for the projects to discuss at once. Hannah gave an update on where the fan project is currently. Mills Construction will be putting the J channel up over the weekend. Hannah shared the communications that she's had with Jami and Ryan from inBarn on payment. inBarn is to be refunding the 50% payment to the fair so the second vendor can be paid the remaining balance.
- Schedule – Angie asked to have Livestock Judging be moved to 3:00 p.m. on Monday. Hannah explained that the items highlighted in yellow with red font are items that the board needs to discuss but would be changes to the schedule as well. One being donkey races at 7:00 p.m. on Monday and then adding a Peewee dance at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Brent made a motion to approve \$2,000 for the donkey races. Keegan seconded. Motion carried. Becky moved to approve the schedule with changing the livestock judging. Andrew seconded. Motion carried.

Upcoming Rentals

- 11/9 Somethin' Special 4-H Club

Old Business --

- MAFE Convention (January 9-11) – Kent and Keegan are signed up. Hannah will sign Brent and Jess up the week of November 18th.
- Carpet Cleaning – Zach did a great job and at a great price. Highly recommend.
- Unpaid Buyers – All paid up now.
- Winter Storage – Thank you for all of the help. A couple more items did come in after the date and there may be one more boat.
- Budget 2024-2025 – Martha went through the proposed budget. Brent made a motion to approve the budget. Matt seconded. Motion carried.
- Fair book cover, changes & committees – No more hoses will be provided.
- Carnival Contract – Good to go and signed by both parties. They do not do presale.

New Business—

- Annual Meeting – Thursday, December 5, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the basement of the Ithaca Library. All attendees must sit through the meeting as voting will not be done ahead of time.
- GCCF Weburg Fund – Hannah explained that there are funds in an account via George and Linda through the community foundation that are set aside for use at the fair. Hannah will ask Chelsea at GCCF what the return on this money is.
- Donkey Races – A motion was carried earlier in the meeting allowing the expense for this event.
- Registration Dates – Hannah went over the proposed registration dates with the board. It was decided to have futurity be due at the time of animal registration. All breeding stock will be due June 1st. Brent made a motion to approve registration dates. Darcy seconded. Motion carried.
- Animal Show Rentals Post Fair – All is good to have shows after fair clean up. If they are having food trucks they need to pay an additional \$50 per truck per day.
- Fair Entry Training Questions – Hannah asked the board to send her any questions they would like asked at the training. Brent suggested reaching out to the superintendents to ask them as well.
- Potential Block House Fundraiser Date – Brent made a motion to have Hannah pick a date. Martha seconded. Motion carried.

Brent moved to adjourn. Adam seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The next meeting will be December 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. – Thompson Home Public Library basement in Ithaca.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Skinner
GCFFY Secretary