

Gratiot County Fair for Youth
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 2, 2025
Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Fair Office, Alma, Michigan

Members Present:

Jack Butcher, Raegan Falor, Matt Jorae, Angie Lake, Andrew Lombard, Keegan Humm, Kent Humm, Andrew Lombard, Brent Skinner, Shanna Smith and Adam Wood

Members Remote: Chuck Efaw, Becky Hirschman, Martha Stellow

Fair Office Staff: Hannah Reeves

Guests: Leann Grace, Kipp Krenz, and Larry Richards

Brent called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Secretary's Report: Shanna presented the meeting minutes. Angie moved to accept the secretary's report. Adam second. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Martha presented on the financials. Adam moved to accept the treasurer's report. Andrew second. Motion carried.

Fair Office Report:

- Hannah is doing final reviews of the 2025 fair book and will have it completed soon.
- Hannah will be attending Fair Entry training and asked if the board had any further questions for her to ask while there.

Public Comment:

- None.

Committee Reports:

- 4-H & 4-H Council – No Report.
- Horse Developmental – No Report.
- Large Livestock – No Report.
- FFA – No Report.
- Small Animal – Martha reported that they are still looking for a small animal chair. Martha is willing to fill in temporarily until one is found.
- Building and Grounds – Chuck presented a report with expected projects for this year and 5-year plan ideas. He's waiting for PA system estimates to come back. An estimate for power to the sheep barn was received. Then he needs to meet with the armory about putting more fence and a gate up.

Old Business:

- Committees: Committee sign up was passed around. Hannah will email updated committee lists.
- Fair Entry: Hannah asked for additional questions to take with her to Fair Entry training.
- Fan Update: We received part of the rebate back. Hannah was able to acquire the outstanding invoice, and the last rebate was submitted.

New Business:

- Fair Dinner Dance and Silent Auction: Tickets and donation letters were handed out to the board. A list of places to solicit was passed around. Hannah will update that and share with the board.
- Lawn Mower: Hannah presented a list of mower options. Martha moved to opt for the Ultimate 3-year plan. Keegan second. Motion carried.
- Board Agreement: Hannah gave everyone Board Agreement forms to sign and return. It was discussed creating something similar for superintendents to sign as well.
- Power Washing: Rule needs to be added to fair book. Adam moved to add that the livestock barns must be power washed within 7 days concluding the fair or exhibitors of that barn will be deducted a percentage of the actual costs based on the number of exhibitors in that barn from their fair check. Kent second. Motion carried.
- Fair Book: Hannah has made edits to fair book regarding the 30-day late fees. It has now been defined as 30 “calendar” days for further clarification.
- Advertising: WMLM is no longer operating. We have used them for advertising in previous years. We will continue to find new ways for advertising.
- Open Positions:
 - Small Animal Chair opening will be posted online.
 - We are looking for a fair photographer.
 - Fair Interns: Raegan will serve as an intern again this year. Hannah will post for second position.
 - Fair Board: 3 Applications were received. They will be invited to our February meeting. Matt made a motion that the interested applicants prepare a short speech about themselves, their interest in the fair and a Q&A if needed. We will then vote in a closed session. Elected candidate would then join the board meeting as an active member. Andrew second. Motion carried.

Other:

- Jack spoke with Vinnie about a potential fundraiser with Pizza Sam’s. Jack will ask Vinnie to create a plan or contact Hannah to work on details.

Adam moved to adjourn the meeting. Angie second. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Next meeting - February 6, 2025 at 7:00pm – Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Conference Room

Respectfully submitted,

Shanna Smith

GCFFY Secretary