

Gratiot County Fair for Youth  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, July 11, 2024  
Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Conference Room

Members Present:

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

Fair Office Present: Hannah Reeves

Guests: Amiee Minnick, Nick Lux, Taylor Lux, Evan Wood, Greg Wolfe, Kristi Davenport, Tom Clark and Casey Zangaro

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 Angie seconded. Motion carried.

Martha presented the treasurer's report. Brent made a motion to accept the financials. Darcy seconded. Motion carried.

Fair Office Report –

- Both interns have started.
- All campsites are full at this time.
- Still exhibit judges are almost full and livestock judges are set.
- Parkers are needed for Friday and Saturday. There is a group very likely to cover Friday but waiting for confirmation.
- Barn Security is filled in record time.

Intern Report –

- Working actively on Kid's Day and currently have around 25 vendors signed up.
- Daily parking passes are made.
- Working on updating lists for pre-fair clean ups, putting together superintendent boxes and getting ribbons around.

Public Comment –

- Nick Lux said that his son, Vince, would be interested in power washing barns if needed. Any of his kids are willing to help out during fair. He would like to talk to the board about the Food Booth for next year as well. His kids would be willing to weed whip, power wash and do any edging.
- Tom Clark (Animal Control) and Casey Zangaro (MSU Extension) talked about the e-Rail trailer coming in during fair week. They were wondering if they could do a ribbon cutting at the fairgrounds during fair. They would like to bring it in for a couple of hours one day during fair. MDARD does require a ribbon cutting for it. The board will discuss and Hannah will let Tom know on a date and time.

Committee Reports:

- 4-H – No report.
- Horse Developmental – Becky reported that they're having a meeting on one of the fair clean up nights. As of now there are 59 horses signed up to come to fair.
- Large Livestock – Brent reported on the most recent update. Any animals off registered dairies need to be tested if they came off a registered dairy facility.
- Awards – No update. Good to go and waiting for the rest to arrive.
- 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – The picnic had around 100 in attendance. There will be an event created for the Wednesday night of fair 75<sup>th</sup> celebration starting this Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. Questions are being worked on to be asked to the panel by past exhibitors. The extra money from Bossy Bingo could possibly go towards t-shirts to pass out during the event.
- FFA – No report.
- Small Animal – Darcy reported that the committee has not met. Poultry will be at the fair until Tuesday.
- Rodeo – Kent reported on money that's been received. Bigshows Crazy Idea will be a second food truck during the rodeo. All board members need to help with setup and security again.
- Buildings & Grounds – Fans are installed and the electrical work should be done Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. Monday night more people will be coming up to install more speakers. The speakers came in around \$7360 for all supplies. Concrete patch will be coming in to patch the cracks in the still exhibit barns.

- Camping & ORV – There was a committee meeting prior to this meeting. Camper hitches all need to be facing the road or they will be moved. They also need to be two feet off unmarked markers on both sides. ORV will have nothing north of the asphalt after 9:30 each morning. There will be designated parking east of the horse arena in the chain link fence. Drop off by the Covered Arena is fine but no parking east of the Covered Arena. The only other designated ORV parking after 9:30 a.m. is along the fence by Lincoln Ave. Signs to assist with this will be made.

#### Upcoming Rentals

- 7/18 – Rural Urban Day
- 7/21 – Kountry Kids 4-H Meeting
- 7/23 – Cloverbud Day
- 8/14 – Health & Safety Fair
- 8/24 – Mallory Wedding

#### Old Business --

- After Fair Clean Up (August 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm) – All hands-on deck to get things cleaned up.
- Barn Fans Project Status – Fans are installed, electrical should be wrapped up Monday and J-channeling needs put up on Barn L.
- MDARD Exhibitions of Dairy & Poultry – Poultry is at the fair until Tuesday and dairy animals need to be tested if coming from a registered dairy facility.
- Recap on Superintendent Meeting – Before animals are unloaded for breeding stock, they need to be looked at to make sure they're healthy. Most beef breeding stock will be hauled in. All show and go animals will come in Gate 5 and the superintendent is to have someone manning the gate so it is not just left open. Beef will be arriving for their show from 2-3pm and dairy animals from 7-8 am. Superintendents need to get their trucking lined up along with judges for record books.
- Swine Holding Situation – Bellingar pigs will be going to Dusty Litwiller's for holding. As of now Shanna is still unsure if resale in Clare is an option. Sage's in Greenville is a processing option as well as Cozat's. Buyers can donate to the county food bank as well. Sheep have to go to UPI in St. Louis. Market prices need to be put out for sale day for buyers to see as well.
- Gratiot County Herald Ad/Insert – In the past the fair has always had a full-page ad. The Herald would like to do a full-page insert. They are doing an extra insert for us for the 75<sup>th</sup>. A full-page insert is normally \$900 but they could give us a deal for \$600. As of now there is \$450 left in the budget. Darcy made a motion to do the ad for \$600. Shanna seconded. Motion carried.

#### New Business—

- Pictures for Lanyards – Hannah needs to get a picture of board members that don't have a lanyard.
- Photo/Banner Setup – For this year we will leave as is but Grand Champion and Reserve Champion, generic, yard signs will be made to be in the pictures.
- Relocate Kid's Day – It was suggested to moved Kid's Day to the Covered Arena. With that there would be no need to rent a tent and the vendors can come drop off through Gate 5 and then go park in general parking. Brent made a motion to move Kid's Day to the Covered Arena. Shanna seconded. Motion carried.
- Still Exhibit Judging & Selling – There have been a couple exhibitors, different families, that have inquired if they have to be present at still exhibit judging to be able to sell at the Still Exhibit auction. The board looked at the fair book and it states that the exhibitor has to be present for judging in order to sell in the auction. They also have to check themselves in. Hannah will follow up with those that called to let them know.
- Food Booth Fridges & Stove – The large fridge on the west wall does not work. Rent Rite has two stand up fridges available to rent for the week. Becky made a motion to rent the two fridges for the week. Darcy seconded. Motion carried.
- Dumpsters – Hannah will have a 10-yard dumpster dropped off for the clean up nights and then have that get swapped out for the large dumpsters for fair.
- Barn Assignment – Each board member is assigned to a specific barn and the superintendent has their contact info incase an issue arises.
- Barn Security, Hours & Plan – Barn Security slots are full and the barn will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Scale Use for Animal Weight Check – Scales can be used for exhibitors to check animal weights if the superintendents would like to setup a time for that to be done.
- Fair Clean Up Dates – Wednesday, July 17, Sunday, July 21 & Wednesday, July 24 all 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- Bathroom Fair Cleaning – We need to figure out when the person is coming and day chairs can lock up the fair office bathrooms at night.
- Road Signs – Should be done by Monday and will need put up before Rural Urban.

Brent moved to adjourn. Matt seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

The next meeting will be October 3, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Skinner  
GCFY Secretary