

Gratiot County Fair for Youth
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 3, 2022
Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Conference Room

Members Present:

Larry Richards, Jason Lombard, Clay Mills, Brent Skinner, Chuck Efaw, Darcy Martyn, Martha Stellow, Keegan Humm, Adam Wood, Ben Cary, Erin Humm

Zoom: Becky Hirschman

Guests:

Joan Taylor, Jake Cary, Shanna Acker

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

Secretary's report:

Becky Hirschman reviewed the minutes from the February 3, 2022 meeting. Darcy moved to approve the minutes from the meeting as presented, Brent seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Martha Stellow reviewed the Financial Reports through January 31, 2022. Larry made the motion to accept the financials as presented and Jason seconded. Motion carried.

Brent was asking about the water bill and why it was more than the previous year when we did some changes to the meters. Martha and Erin looked into it more after the meeting and found that because of the changes the billing was delayed and therefore the balances look skewed for the previous year.

Martha also brought forward that Erin suggested moving money from the checking account into the money market account. We have a large balance and the money market will gain some interest as opposed to none in the checking. Erin and Martha will move that money and leave approximately \$20-25,000 in the checking account.

Fair Office Report:

Erin brought forth several items.

- She will be out of the office for Spring Break March 28 – April 1
- Fair Entry is going well and it is much smoother than last year.
- Camping update – concerns about the sites near the carnival campers
- Erin inquired about blinds for the front office. She will get quotes and bring them to the board.
- Road sign auction will be the end of April.
- Erin asked about having two interns for the summer. Applications are being accepted until April 15
- The fair book needs to be uploaded to the website. Chuck asked that it be sent out to the entire board for review. Erin will send it out to the board and superintendents.
- Rabbit judges and horse judges have been set and Erin will send out those contracts.
- Tickets for the dinner dance are available and Martha needs a final count by Tuesday, March 8, 2022

Public Comment:

NA

Committee Reports:

FFA report – Alma FFA will bring back the gates next month. They held a spirit week during FFA week and many participated. State Convention is the week of March 9-11. They also would like to use Barn L for their banquet on May 4. The board approved.

Horse developmental – April 16 is the Coggin's Clinic at Hirschman's.

Large Animal Committee- Shanna will get me the awards list that the large animal committee put together. Shanna suggested that we use a texting app to communicate with the exhibitors and parents the week of the fair. The superintendents would like to bring back the Golden Shovel award. Social media posts with the winners to create friendly competition...maybe offer a pizza party or ice cream social for the barn that wins the most during the week. They also suggested a sportsmanship award. Shanna will get me the judges list as well.

Small animal Committee- They will have a meeting on Monday, March 7. Clay is watching the poultry situation.

4-H Report –

- No more masks mandate on March 6
- Julie Becker and Miranda Bloomquist are participating in State Bowling.
- Kimberly Wilson is attending the Capital Experience.
- 256 kids, 31 volunteers and 46 cloverbuds registered on line.
- There are several events coming in the next few months.
- There will not be PeeWee's/Cloverbuds in the dog show. There is a new dog leader – Nicole Gorsuch
- Leader's Council would like to have the aged out cloverbuds recognized at the PeeWee parade this year.
- There will be a state 4-h horse show this year.
- Joan asked what we can do to partner with 4-h and how they can help us this year.
- They are also offering disability assistance for record books and such.

Buildings and Grounds – Had a meeting and decided there were some projects that needed to be completed.

- Door put in on the North end of the Feeder Barn
- Toilets replaced in the Office Bathrooms
- Grant for the Roof on Barn E
- Maintenance around the grounds from Ithaca FFA
- Small Animal barn fixed up
- Covered Arena coating on the roof
- Lawn Mower needs some repairs \$3,000. Martha moved to repair the lawnmower and Darcy seconded. Motion carried.
- The flower beds have not been taken care of by the supposed adopted organizations. Jason is proposing that we stop having the signs out and Phil and Kathy will care for the flowerbeds. He will speak with Aileen Waldron about this as she is the contact for the organizations that adopt the flowerbeds.
- Matt Buford will donate the RPZ
- Jason will put together their 5 year plan in writing, so that we can share with the board.

Special events committee- Dinner Dance – Martha gave an update on the Dinner Dance. Tickets will be counted and a final number given to Elk's on March 8.

Old business:

Schedule changes – Final changes.

Saturday, August 6

10:00 a.m. Fair Awards Program – Covered Arena

	Trophy Winner Photos during awards (all project areas) – Covered Arena
1:00 p.m.	Ag Olympics – Covered Arena
5:00 p.m.	Drill Team Performance, Costume Class, Freestyle Reining, Horse Awards Program & Fun Show - Horse Arena
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.	Special Event – Covered Arena
9:00 - 10:00 p.m.	Non-sale and PeeWee Beef, Feeder, Goat, Poultry, Rabbit/Cavy, Sheep & Swine Released
9:00 - 10:00 p.m.	Buyer take home livestock released (Large & Small Animals)
10:00 p.m.	All other sale animals released for scheduled superintendent pick-ups

Micro Wrestling is finalized and we have tickets here to sell from the office. The tickets can also be purchased online.

Awards – the large animal committee has given us their suggestions. Erin will contact the award committee to discuss the suggestions.

NEW BUSINESS:

Winter Storage – removal date is April 16. We will begin removing items at 8 am. Those with items in Barn B can be picked up any time after 9 am. Campers can be picked up after 1 pm. Erin will send out an email to all of those people with items in storage with the times and confirmation of the date.

Shanna will provide the verbiage the large animal committee approved for the fair book.

Becky mentioned the Millage that will come to vote on August 2. We need to make sure we are highlighting that so people will go and vote. Or they will vote early.

Alli Munger has turned down the offer to do the market animal photos for fair week. The board brainstormed some other names for to contact: Alexa Aldrich, DS Events, Heather Becker – Erin will contact these folks to see what they could provide.

Brent moved to adjourn. Jason seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

The next meeting will be April 7, 2022 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Hirschman
GCFFY Secretary