

Gratiot County Fair for Youth  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, May 5, 2022  
Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Conference Room

Members Present:

Becky Hirschman, Larry Richards, Jason Lombard, Clay Mills, Brent Skinner, Chuck Efaw, Martha Stellow, Keegan Humm (zoom), Lindsey Giles-Austin, Taylor Gager, Josh Hitsman, Erin Humm

Absent: Adam Wood, Darcy Martyn

Guests: Joan Taylor, Kelly Becker, Julie Becker, Shanna Smith

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

Secretary's report:

Becky Hirschman reviewed the minutes from the April 7, 2022 meeting. Martha moved to approve the minutes from the meeting as presented, Larry seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Fair Office Report:

Erin brought these items.

- MDARD grant was approved for \$45,000 – The board voted to approve the grant with the 50% cash match.
  - Larry moved to accept the grant and Brent seconded. Motion carried.
- Road Sign Auction brought in approximately \$7,600.00
- Community Foundation Grant – Small Animal Barn Updates

Public Comment: NA

Committee Reports: FFA report – Alma FFA had their banquet here in Barn L and they thanked the board for letting them hold it here. Plant Sales are happening this weekend with each of the Chapters.

Horse developmental: May 14-15 is Horse Camp. 25 kids signed up with over 60 people there for camp!

Large Animal Committee: Shanna proposed an adult large animal sweepstakes as a fundraiser. The committee is planning to use the money for different project areas that need improvement.

Brent moved to add the adult sweepstakes to the schedule and Josh seconded it. Motion carried.

Small animal Committee: NA

4-H Report:

- Office remodel is happening – Joan asked for some patience if we stop by.
- Large Animal Clinic – Gratiot County will be invited to attend Clinton County's clinic.
- Clover Bud day will be in July.
- Leaders Council will be passing out Honors Cords to those 4-H members who have completed four years in the program.
- Clover buds that have "graduated" will be recognized at the PeeWee parade.

Buildings and Grounds:

- The water will be on this weekend.
- The MDARD grant was approved.
- Fence is going up for the make-up arena.
- Joe Butcher is hauling dirt to grass over the old make-up arena.
- Hutson recommended that we stop using the fuel we had been using. Joe and Phil worked out a plan to keep track of the fuel usage and we will reimburse Joe for the fuel used.
- Ithaca FFA kids will donate their time on May 21 or 22 – 1-5 pm to help paint Barn B.

Special events committee- NA

OLD BUSINESS:

Road Sign Auction – 2023

Discussion about having the bids begin at \$100 and the bidding increments should be \$25 and then as the bids increase \$50-100 bid increments. Larry suggested that it shouldn't end so quickly, perhaps 1 min or 1:30 seconds.

Highland Festival Camping – we have had around 6-8 people call and ask about camping. Phil has agreed to help facilitate those campers Memorial Day weekend.

Food Booth – Leader's Council will partner with the Lions Club to host a breakfast for fair week. 7 -9 am. The Lions club would also like to put up a canopy and a couple of tables. The board was in agreement as long as the canopy is on the east side of the trailer.

NEW BUSINESS:

Signs for the Covered Arena are needed for the Market animal and small animal sweepstakes. Erin will work with Shelley to get the new signs. Becky suggested that we remove the Friends of the Fair signs and move the other signs so that they are more visible.

The Appreciation Awards were discussed and the list was given for past recipients. The board will think about who they would like to nominate. **Nominations should be emailed to Chuck or Erin by May 20.**

Rural Urban Day – Becky asked that the PA system be ready to use so that they can play music at the event and then it would be ready for fair week. Chuck mentioned that Jake is working on it with his FIL.

Larry moved to adjourn. Lindsey seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm

The next meeting will be June 2, 2022 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Hirschman  
GCFFY Secretary