

Gratiot County Fair for Youth
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 13, 2023
Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Conference Room

Members Present:

Chuck Efaw, Jason Lombard, Brent Skinner, Martha Stellow, Keegan Humm, Kent Humm, Jack Butcher, Clay Mills, Darcy Martyn, Josh Hitsman, Taylor Gager, Kylie Acker, Matt Jorae & Adam Wood

Fair Office Present: Hannah Reeves & Mary Sopocy

Guest: Amiee Taylor, Brittney Fries, Ron and Teresa Bushre, Angie Lake, Becky Hirschman, Nicole Gorsuch, Laurie Gager, Erica Grover, Kim Reister, Larry Richards, Ellie Martyn, Katie Allen & Kacie Allen

President Chuck Efaw called the meeting to order at 7 pm

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

Martha presented the treasurers minutes. Brent requested to have the budget vs. actual report going forward. Brent moved to accept the financials as presented. Darcy seconded and the motion carried.

Fair Office Report –

- Hannah reported on being invited to the Alma-St. Louis rotary meeting on 7/11 as their guest speaker. A small presentation board with highlights on this year's fair was presented. The rotary steak dinner tickets were collected from them for buyers. Then Mary also made food vouchers for the food booth for buyers as well.
- Hannah has been in contact with the health department in regards to the food vendors that will be at the fair.
- Poultry freezer is all set for Wednesday through Saturday morning of fair week.
- Mailings for donors and buyers went out this week.
- We had our emergency meeting with a handful of different departments so everyone was on the same page in case of an emergency.
- UPI will take sheep and goats.
- For this fair there are two extra processing options besides Bellinger's. Davis' in St. Johns and Sage's in Greenville will take a select amount of certain species.
- Clinton Vet Service will be our on call vet.
- Polo's that were ordered for fair board members are done. Once you pay Hannah you can take your polo.
- Hannah asked if she could sell GCFY logo shirts during the week of fair, mainly during the two sales. The proceeds would go towards the 75th Anniversary. The board approved.

Intern Report –

- Mary shared that she has 27 Kid's Day vendors at this time. For that day the vendors will get a parking pass and will be allowed to pull up to drop off their supplies for a set period of time.
- Radio station wants two more rodeo tickets to give away on the air. The board approved.
- Camping packets are available for pick up in the office.
- Mary shared that a mom asked if her daughter could have an assistant with her while showing her sheep. She has some disabilities and would like a person standing near her if help is needed.
- If anyone wants anything added to the mid July newsletter, let Mary know.

Public Comment –

- Angie Lake said there were 22 kids that went to a livestock judging contest on Wednesday, July 12th. She felt it was a great turnout and experience for the kids. She also mentioned that she had received a phone call to move the Scott Acker Classic from the fairgrounds after this year's issues. Angie would like to have the board be open to reevaluate for next year.

Public Comment Continued

- Nicole Gorsuch from Leader's Council and as a 4-H leader discussed her concerns about the small animal sweepstakes changes over the years. She shared that some people will lie about their breeds to get into the top. A few ideas for solutions she shared were as follows:
 - Everyone brings their own animals.
 - Superintendent chooses an animal that will be used. That can be done the day before so they know the breed and can research in preparation ahead of time.
 - Superintendent picks a breed and doesn't share it ahead of time.
- Darcy mentioned that the Small Animal Committee would need to meet and discuss this.
- Ron Bushre would like to get 2' more of cement in the John Siefka Memorial Barn. The cement would cost roughly \$400. Kent made a motion to go ahead and do the concrete before the 2023 fair. Jack seconded. The cement needs done by Sunday, July 16th. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- 4-H Council – Friends of 4-H Breakfast will be July 31st through August 4th from 7-9 a.m. in the Food Booth. The permit for the food booth has been turned in for this.
- Horse Developmental – Becky reported that horse numbers are up and they will meet again at the first fair clean up.
- Large Animal Committee – Brent reported that they met June 26th.
- Special Event Committee –
 - Rodeo Committee has a meeting Wednesday, July 26th at 7:30 p.m. to go over final details.
 - 75th Anniversary Committee – Had a meeting right before the fair board meeting tonight. The next meeting will be August 30th at 6:30 p.m. at the fair office. The committee will be moving forward with the cook book. Deadline for that will be October 1st. Hannah has started with shirt sales to help with expenses. The golf outing will be 6-22-2024 and there has been discussion on having a meal afterwards like the old Press Dinner. There is work on a memory walk and having a history area for next year. A 75th Anniversary Facebook page will be coming soon. The committee wants to ask for funding from the board to help get things started. They would like to have a sign made with a QR code that will direct people to the 75th info on the website. The sign would cost approximately \$250. Wondering if the board would approve \$500 to get this rolling. Martha made a motion to approve the line item. Kent seconded. Motion carried. Martha mentioned that the 75th Anniversary Committee needs to work on getting numbers for the budget at their next meeting too. Chuck also mentioned checking on permits for fireworks next year.
- FFA – Nothing to report. New advisor in Breckenridge. It was mentioned to maybe invite advisors to meetings.
- Small Animal Committee – Aileen Waldron is going to be the superintendent for cats this fair. Jen Richardson put in her resignation. Judges are all set. Greg is going to setup goat pens Monday, July 24th.
- Building and Grounds –
 - Jason reported that the concrete is done in the small animal barn. There is a ledge that will need to be painted yellow for a potential trip hazard.

Upcoming Grounds Rentals:

- July 20 – Rural Urban Day
- July 25 – CloverBud Day

Old Business --

- Food Option by Covered Arena – Little Lemon will be where the Lion's Club has been in the past. Brittney (owner) has given a schedule to share.
- Insurance – We need to discuss this further after fair.
- Signage:
 - Covered Arena – We have the signage it just needs to be put up. Matt Hirschman will bring the telehandler with the basket over to a fair clean up so we can get things hung up.

New Business—

- Insurance pricing – We need to discuss further after fair. Possibly put it out for bid. Hannah is to make a letter to insurance companies that support us to see if they will give us a bid.

Darcy made a motion adjourn. Jack seconded. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be September 7, 2023 at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Skinner
GCFY Secretary