

Gratiot County Fair for Youth  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, February 2, 2023  
Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Conference Room

Members Present:

Jason Lombard, Clay Mills, Brent Skinner, Chuck Efaw, Martha Stellow (online), Keegan Humm, Taylor Gager, Erin Humm, Adam Wood, Kent Humm, Darcy Martyn, Matt Jorae, Jack Butcher, Alexis Hitsman

Absent excused: Josh Hitsman

Guest: Danika Hitsman, Laurie Gager, Amiee Taylor, Stacey Woggons, Shanna Smith, Samantha Sinclair, Lindsay Giles-Austin

President Chuck Efaw called the meeting to order at 6 pm

Brent presented the secretary minutes. Darcy moved to accept the minutes as presented and Adam seconded. Motion carried.

Chuck presented the treasurers minutes in Martha's absence. Included in the report is the transfer of \$80,000 from the general account into the money market to continue growing with interest. Kent moved to accept the financials as presented. Darcy seconded and the motion carried.

Fair Office Report –

Circus – board approved the use with an additional fee TBD.

Maple Syrup Festival Camping – camping approved by the board, prefer to have them pre-register.

Insurance – Erin is still working on quotes and confirming that we have the correct and adequate insurance.

Livestock Show – May 6/7 – Scott Acker Classic –

Martha moved to allow the show to use the grounds for free. Brent seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Public Comment – NA

4-H Council – Stacey reported that there are several workshops coming up for 4-H kids. Register online.

Horse Developmental – Coggins Clinic will be held at Hirschman's on April 22.

Large Animal Committee – Shanna is resigning from the committee chair. She is also requesting a year off from Swine Superintendent.

Special Event Committee – Dinner Dance – keep selling tickets and gathering donations.

Small Animal Committee – NA

Building and Grounds – Jason will email the report from their meeting last month.

Old Business --

MAFE Convention – Kent moved to table this report until next month. Brent seconded. Motion carried.

Horse Pull – Wednesday night, August 2 at 7 pm

Rodeo – Contract is signed and Kent is the chair of the committee. He will gather his committee to work on donations of support for the rodeo.

Fair book – There was much discussion throughout the course of editing the book.

- Board agreed that there will not be any late entries, no entries after July 1 deadline.
- Jennifer Whitford is the new assistant superintendent for the dairy department
- Strike the rule that exhibitors cannot sell the same specie at another county fair.
- Livestock underweight cannot sell, but they can be shown in showmanship. Superintendents have discretion to send unhealthy animals home.
- Due to the small amount of entries in the computer science department the computer science sections will be combined.

- It was discussed to combine leadership and achievement sections.
- Martha moved to remove the talent show due to the low number of entries and no longer have a superintendent. Kent seconded and the motion carried.
- Swine section – Shanna suggested removing the Ractopamine (PayLean) rule. – The board agreed that it still needs to be in the fairbook and/or in Fairentry with a check box that they understand the rule.
- Keep the rule that exhibitors have to be immediate family in order to share animals.
- Kent proposed that the champion dairy only sells and they exhibit it as a large animal. Jason asked about why the 15% for each of the winners. There was much discussion about the why of the split and why dairy shouldn't be counted as a large animal. Laurie questioned why the board was asking for the change. Brent suggested a live auction with one bidder number. Following this suggestion was much discussion.
  - Several options were presented 1) leave as presented 2) large animal and on gallon of milk and one kid sells 3) change percentages

Chuck called for a decision to keep the meeting moving. Taylor made a motion to keep the dairy program as presented in the fair book changes. Brent seconded. Chuck suggested a written ballot for voting. Voting by written ballot - Chuck and Brent counted the votes. The motion carried and the dairy program will continue this year as presented in the fair book.

Brent moved to accept the fair book as these changes were presented. Kent seconded and the motion carried.

Lindsay will work on making the edits and changes discussed during the meeting and get them back to Erin. The goal is to have the fair book online and ready for publishing by February 15.

Committee sign-up sheets were passed around and board members and others in attendance were able to sign up to different committees. Erin will compile the list and send out.

Brent moved to adjourn the meeting. Kent seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

The next meeting will be March 2, 2023 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Skinner  
GCFFY Secretary