

Gratiot County Fair for Youth  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, October 5, 2023  
Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Conference Room

Members Present:

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

Absent unexcused: Adam Wood & Taylor Gager

Guest: Kalin Lombard, Kristie Davenport, Jennifer Dickman, Joe Bowen, Angie Lake & Laurie Gager

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 Matt seconded. Motion carried.

Martha presented the treasurer's report. Brent moved to accept the financials as presented. Darcy seconded. Motion carried.

Fair Office Report –

- Fair Dinner Dance – Need to start planning for the event that will be on February 10<sup>th</sup> at The Pins. Hannah will email the committee to try to get a meeting date set.
- Winter Storage had a few spots open up and Hannah will continue to work through the wait list to get those filled again.
- Superintendents have been emailed their self-evaluations to complete and return to Hannah by November 1<sup>st</sup>. They have also been reminded that any record book, fair book or award changes need to be given to Hannah by November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- MAFE Fair School registration is open. Currently only Kent has mentioned he would go.
- Membership fee is currently \$5 for covering Fair Entry expenses. Consider increasing that to help cover drug testing expenses going forward. The budget committee will work on how we can go about that rather than increasing the \$5 cost.
- Hope House in St. Louis is having an event this month and wanted a petting zoo. Inquiry to use four smaller gates. Board was against loaning the gates out.

Public Comment –

- Kristi Davenport – She talked about Still Exhibit items. The SW corner in Barn A needs cleaned out. She wondered if there could be a discussion on barn security since that is always a struggle. The board will look into seeing what a security company would cost.
  - Hannah will put in the newsletter that we have issues getting people to sign up for barn security and ask the people to provide a solution. We could hire a security company but that will cost money.
  - Releasing of still exhibit projects will be discussed further.

Committee Reports:

- 4-H Council – National 4-H week currently. There is a leader's meeting on 10-23-2023. 4-H awards are 11-5-2023.
- FFA – Parliamentary Procedure team will be live at the National Convention the week of November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Horse Developmental – Nothing to report.
- Large Animal Committee – Recently met. Brent reported on the recommendations that the committee had to bring back to the board. They will be meeting again towards the end of the month.
- Special Event Committee (75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) – They met before the meeting tonight. The deadline to get recipes for the cookbook was extended to December 1<sup>st</sup>. Currently they have about 100 recipes and are looking to get 200. Angie reported on some ideas that they came up with for Wednesday night incorporating 75 years of the fair. A budget of \$13,750 was asked for.

- Small Animal Committee – Darcy reported that they met last week. They went through the list of suggestions and Darcy provided Hannah with their suggestion responses. The committee is good with Jen Richardson staying on as the rabbit superintendent. They will meet again towards the end of the month.
- Building and Grounds – Jason reported that they worked through their fair suggestions. The PA system was a large one. Jason recently met with C & R Electric and they will put a proposal together. With the fan proposal Jami can proceed with the feeder barn as long as all expenses will be covered by donations. Brent made a motion to let Jami go forward with the fans for the feeder barn. Kent seconded. Motion carried. Hannah will get Jami a list of donors to not reach out to.

#### Old Business --

- After fair cleanup – getting barns power washed. Need to implement an after fair cleanup for next year.
- Speaker System at covered arena - Buildings and Grounds covered in their report.
- Unpaid buyers - We have one left and they were in communication with Hannah this week. It was sent to the wrong address.
- Little Lemon by Covered Arena for 2024 - They have confirmed that they will come back next year.
- Food Booth Vendor for 2024 – Willie's Weiner Wagon confirmed they will come back to the Food Booth next year.
- Suggestions from fair – All were discussed that were board specific. Feedback will come in the next newsletter.
- Winter Storage – Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup> starting at 8:00 a.m. As of now Chuck, Larry, Jason, Clay, Martha & Steve, Jack, Matt, Josh, Hannah and Becky will be helping.
- Bathhouse project – We have a few grants to go towards it as of now. Waiting on feedback via another source.
- MAFE Scholarships Due November 2<sup>nd</sup> – MAFE gives out six \$1,000 scholarships. Applications must be received by November 2<sup>nd</sup>. The person applying must be part of a MAFE fair for the last three years. This is open to current seniors or those currently enrolled in an institution of advanced learning.
- Zone 4 Meeting – It was Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at Shiawassee County. Darcy, Kent and Martha represented our fair. They said it was good fellowship and had a couple Fair Entry contacts to share with Hannah.

#### New Business—

- Farm Bureau Feed A Farmer – October 28 – Brent made a motion to allow the Gratiot County Farm Bureau Young Farmers to use the conference room to prepare their Feed A Farmer meals on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Keegan seconded. Motion carried.
- Flags around fairgrounds – Need to look into replacing. Maybe some could be used in the memory walk for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- Committee Meeting Minutes – turn in at each fair board meeting – Going forward all committee meeting minutes need to be turned in to Hannah so they can be put in the board packets.
- Insurance Review – This needs to get put back into motion to get reviewed. Maybe we have Dave come in January to sit down and go over numbers. Look into other coverage options.
- Vote on superintendent committee recommendations – Martha moved to appoint Aileen Waldron as the cat superintendent. Kent seconded. Motion carried. Kent moved to appoint Nicole Vanderploeg as the dairy superintendent. Josh seconded. Motion carried. Martha moved to accept Shanna Smith back as the swine superintendent after her one year leave of absence. Clay seconded. Motion carried.
- Superintendent Reviews – Each board member that was assigned a barn during the week of fair has a review to do on that superintendent. The reviews need sent back to Hannah ASAP.
- Fair Book Changes – If there are any changes that any see need made get them to Hannah so the Fair Book Committee has them when they meet. Brent made a motion to move YQCA to not be an option for record books. Keegan seconded. Motion carried. Clay made a motion to allow an educational poster for rabbits and poultry as an option in place of a record book. Martha seconded. Motion carried.
- Fair Fee - \$5 – The board will think on this and revisit. A percentage taken could be better but it will be looked at.

- Budget Planning 2023-24 – EC Committee along with Hannah needs to meet and Kent will help out as well. Darcy may join possibly.
- Michigan Poultry would like to use poultry cages for a show coming up. Clay is the superintendent for the show and will be responsible for getting them there and back. Martha moved to allow Michigan Poultry to use the items for their show. Brent seconded. Motion carried.
- Camping fee for board members – Majority of board agreed to leave it as they pay for the week of the fair.
- John Dill has had some health issues arise. May need to have a different plan for next year's pigs. Hannah will communicate this with Shanna but for now we will wait and see what happens when we get closer to next year.

Brent made a motion to adjourn and Kent seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Skinner  
GCFFY Secretary