

Gratiot County Fair for Youth  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, June 1, 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

Absent excused: Matt Jorae & Adam Wood

Guest: Larry Richards, Becky Hirschman, 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 Josh seconded. Motion carried.

Martha presented the treasurers minutes. Grants that we have applied for and that are coming due were discussed. Brent moved to accept the financials as presented. Darcy seconded and the motion carried.

Fair Office Report –

- Hannah announced we currently have six campsites open for the 2023 fair.
- There are some fair book items that came up that need addressed. There was no Royal Court time on the schedule. The photography agreement stated 9 a.m. on Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. Then the goats show ring dress code needed to be changed to white shirt and black pants for all goats. The under Crop Production the small grain sheaves need to be 2” not 2’ in diameter. Under the PeeWee Livestock Restrictions the bullet point for beef and dairy calf under six months was changed to exclude feeders. Brent moved to accept the fair book changes and Kent seconded. Motion carried.
- Jason’s Septic got us on their schedule with the same prices as last year and Bellinger’s has us on their list.
- Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> Consumer’s will be shutting off power starting at 11:30 p.m. for approximately six hours to do some work. If that date doesn’t work the backup date is Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Hannah has been working with Joe Sherwood on auctioneers for both sales. All judges confirmed for animals except for the Goat Sweepstakes. If anyone has a contact please let Hannah know.
- We passed our campground inspection with the health department. The inspector said the only issue was that the foot hatch by gate 2 of the dump station needs attached.
- There is now a lamb check off collection.

Intern Report –

- Mary shared that she has been working on the Facebook Thank You’s to our donors. (They’ve been awesome!)
- Mary provided an update on the exhibitor dance. She has the DJ scheduled and Pizza 1 is donating the pizza again.
- Almost all of the still exhibit judges have been confirmed. Still working to fill a few spots.
- If anyone has anything they would like added to the newsletter please let Mary know.

Public Comment –

- Laurie Gager asked about the appreciation award going to a particular family. It was mentioned that the family has already received the award.

Committee Reports:

- 4-H Council – Hannah reported in their absence that the 4-H Program Coordinator job is posted online.  
Horse Developmental – Becky reported that they had a successful Horse Camp and horse show. From the open show we have many State 4-H horse show winners. The 2023 delegates to the state 4-H horse show have been announced. Representing Gratiot County will be Jaidyn Butcher, Bethany Bowerman, Rebekah Ross, Karlee

Whitmore, Alyssa McPherson, Sarah Munger, Macie Akers, and alternate Kaylee McPherson. These young ladies compiled points based on 4-H club involvement, extracurricular activities, community service, school activities, past fair participation, and points accumulated at an open horse show in May. The state 4-H horse show will be held at the MSU pavilion August 18-20. We wish them the best of luck.

- Large Animal Committee – Haven't met but a meeting will be scheduled soon.
- Special Event Committee –
  - Rodeo Committee met before the meeting tonight to work through things that will be needed for the day and night of the rodeo. All hands on deck are needed from all board members. As of now the rodeo committee has received \$19,500 in donations.
  - 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee – There will be a meeting Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the fair office. As of now there is a Jotform put together to collect recipes for the cookbook. The committee is working on getting pricing for a cookbook to sell.
- FFA – The local chapters went to regional camp recently. Nicole Hollabaugh is the new Region 3 President. Esperansa Sandoval is the new Region 3 Reporter. Leslie Siefka is the new Region 3 Advisor. Congratulations to all three of the amazing ladies!
- Small Animal Committee – Meeting June 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.
- Building and Grounds –
  - Jason reported the plumbing should be good to go in the campground now. The electrical issue is fixed as well. There was some wire that was run and all the pedal stools were checked when the electricians were here.
  - Somethin' Special 4-H Club put in new mulch around the grounds. That looks great!
  - Greenside Up donated hydra-seed around the small animal barn. Thank you to them!
  - Over by the armory gate where we enter for parking the week of the fair we need to look into putting up an "Authorized Vehicle Only" sign up. There have been issues arising from people coming in from that gate doing donuts and driving carelessly. This is a safety issue that could cause possible damages in the future. Another option is to look into putting up a fence with a gate across by the armory to the east. Jason will check into pricing for the fence along campsites as well as along the armory.
  - The south end of the small animal barn there is concrete that is busted up and not safe. With it being a safety issue it needs to be fixed before fair. The concrete can be replaced for \$4788. There have been complaints on it. Martha checked the budget and we have room to do what is needed to make it safe. Darcy made a motion to replace the cement in the small animal barn. Brent seconded. Motion carried

#### Upcoming Grounds Rentals: Chuck reviewed

- June 10 – Leader's Council Herb Garden under the Pioneer Pavilion from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- June 14 – Setup for Health & Safety Fair from 1-4 p.m.
- June 15 – Health & Safety Fair from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Barn L, Pioneer Pavilion & Midway)
- June 17 – Royal Kids Cow Bingo in the Covered Arena
- June 22 – Rural Urban Nomination Meeting at 6:30 p.m. under the Pioneer Pavilion
- July 12 – Dog Program Practice 4:30-9:00 p.m. at the Covered Arena

#### Old Business --

- Food Option by Covered Arena – Hannah has been continuing to work on getting a Lion's Club in the spot. Currently the Ithaca Rotary is checking with their members to see if they can get enough volunteers to do it.
- Signage:
  - Covered Arena – Shelly is working on signage. She dropped off the two previous year winner signs. Becky will get a date for when the telehandler can come put those up.
  - Hannah needs to email Chuck the road map.

- Fairground Rentals – Hannah will email the price list with the most recent updates to the board. Discussion was had on different pricing. Hannah needs to add an open house fee. Kent made a motion to approve the pricing sheet after updates are made. Brent seconded. Darcy and Clay opposed. Motion carried.
- Day Chair Sign up— We asked present board members which day doesn't work if they are superintendent.
  - Saturday, July 29 – All hands on deck.
  - Sunday, July 30 – All hands on deck.
  - Monday, July 31 – Jason, Chuck & Kent
  - Tuesday, August 1 – Josh & Jack
  - Wednesday, August 2 – Brent & Clay
  - Thursday, August 3 – Chuck, Brent & Martha
  - Friday, August 4 – Matt & Keegan
  - Saturday, August 5 – Darcy & Adam

New Business—

- Awards Ceremony – Hannah wanted to see it come back as that is some kids only chance at recognition during the week. To help make the ceremony go smoother we could put award list/trophy winning list in the superintendent box that they turn in. Banners would be given out during the week but we need to have the thank you card back from the winner before handing out. No superintendents will be handing out awards as they will be handed out through the fair office. Kent made a motion to bring the awards ceremony back. Martha seconded. Motion carried.
- Gratiot County Farm Bureau List – Melissa from GCFB reached out to Hannah asking for a list of exhibitors so they could cross reference with their member list and give those exhibitors a free gift before fair. She said they have gotten the list the last two years and were hoping to get it again. The board discussed that they would not be providing a list as they were not aware this was happening.
- Radio Station – Dawn from the radio station inquired if we would be giving them rodeo tickets to give away on the air again this year. Last year we gave them four to giveaway. The board approved giving four away again this year.
- Fan-C Rental – They inquired if they could be a vendor at the fair with their storage containers. They were not on our invite list originally and we will not be inviting them. We do not have enough room for a container during the week either.
- Special event via G.I.H.N. – Paige from Gratiot Integrated Health Network here in Alma contacted Hannah about a Special Needs Day that Montcalm County Fair is doing this year. She sent the flyer to Hannah and wondered if this was maybe something that could happen in the future. It's a couple hours one day of the fair where special needs people can come ride the rides for free with no music. Then lunch was provided. She said GIHN would maybe even partner up and provide lunch. The board was interested in the idea and said they would need to talk about it with the carnival company for a possibility next year. Hannah will reach back out to Paige to let her know.
- Long-term Campground Rental – Gentleman asked if he could camp at the fairgrounds to 4-5 months. The board said we are not a long-term campground. Brent made motion to not let the person stay long-term at the fairgrounds. Kent seconded. Motion carried.
- Metal Detecting – Mr. Cook called and inquired about metal detecting the fairgrounds. He said he has done it in the past. Clay made a motion to let Mr. Cook come metal detect the grounds as long as he does not dig. Kent seconded. Motion carried.
- GCFY Shirts – New board members need a GCFY polo for opening ceremonies and to wear when they are day chair. New members and any other member that wants a polo order needs to get with Hannah. We also need to have lanyards made for those that do not have one.
- Parking for 2023 Fair – Keegan made a map to display how parking would be changed up for this year. The exit will be where the exit was before. Sunday will be parking the way we always did before. Monday will be the start of the new way.

Josh made a motion to go to closed session. Kent seconded. Motion carried.

Martha made a motion to move from closed session. Darcy seconded. Motion carried.

Josh made a motion to adjourn. Martha seconded. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

The next meeting will be July 13, 2023 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Skinner  
GCFFY Secretary