

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

Members Present:

Chuck Efaw, Jason Lombard, Martha Stellow, Clay Mills, Matt Jorae, Darcy Martyn, Kylie Acker, Josh Hitsman, Adam Wood

Members Present Virtually: Kent Humm & Keegan Humm

Absent Excused: Jack Butcher & Brent Skinner

Absent Unexcused: Taylor Gager

Guest: Jennifer Dickman, Becky Hirschman, Amiee Minnick, Kim Reisterer, Teresa Bushre

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

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

Martha presented the treasurer's report as of 9/30/2023. She also presented the proposed budget as of this morning. Adam moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Darcy seconded. Motion carried.

Fair Office Report –

- For those that had reached out saying that wanted to go to Fair School Hannah has gotten them signed up.
- Edmore Cleaners quote for the conference room and possibly the two offices is \$0.66/sq. ft. It would be approximately \$490 for all of the carpets to be cleaned. Martha made a motion to have Edmore Cleaners clean all of the carpets in the office. Darcy seconded. Motion carried.
- Hannah reached out to the accountant that does the tax return to see what was needed and if he had depreciation schedule to share. As of today no response.
- There has been forward progress on the Fair Dinner Dance Benefit. It will be Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at Pins in Ithaca. Jason Clark will be the auctioneer. Hannah is going to put together a Google Sheet with those that donated last year so people can sign up to solicit to them.
- We have one spot left for winter storage in Barn L. There is some room available in Barn B and E still.
- Joe Sherwood will do the road sign auction both live and online next year.
- Going forward Hannah will be working on the camping letter, donor letter, record book updates and setting the 2024 fair up in Fair Entry.

Public Comment –

- Becky Hirschman – She proposed an item go into market animal record books. It would be a handful of questions (try to keep similar for all species) and a label that they would answer the questions from. Becky provided an example to pass around the room. She also proposed that each record book has a part that requires the exhibitor to write out the drug policy rule that is in the fair book. Becky feels this next year is a good year to educate the exhibitors via the record books.
- Teresa Bushre – Britney will no longer be the culinary arts superintendent. Teresa said she would take it over. She is looking to get the categories sorted out and shared that she had some judge issues. Teresa said she would reach out to Hannah to discuss further next week. Hannah will get with Kristi on this as well.

#### Committee Reports:

- 4-H Council – 4-H is on their second round of interviews for the county 4-H program coordinator. The 4-H awards banquet is on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. Online enrollment is now open. Their next meeting is November 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- FFA – Ithaca's Parliamentary Procedure team did not advance today at nationals.
- Horse Developmental – Nothing to report and they will be meeting in December.
- Large Animal Committee – Recently met. Hannah reported on the recommendations that the committee had to bring back to the board. They will be meeting again in the future but no date is currently determined.
  - Show order of showmanship, market, futurity and breeding stock with no altering. Martha made a motion that shows for large animals and goats go as showmanship, market, futurity and breeding stock with no altering. Adam seconded. Motion carried.
  - Dairy Recommendations – Delete Friesian and add Milk Shorthorn in the breed class. Start the dairy show at 8:00 a.m. If an exhibitor wins more than one of the champions (cow, heifer or showman) the exhibitor will only receive one 15% share and the other 15% won will be added to the remaining shares divide. That would result in 70% instead of 55%. Martha moved to accept the dairy recommendations from the large livestock committee. Josh seconded. Motion carried.
  - Beef Recommendations – Futurity forms need to be signed by the breeder and turned into the fair office to be eligible for futurity. Hannah will then add the exhibitor into the class. No fee or payout will happen for the futurity classes. Breeders will be recognized during the futurity class via an announcement during the show. This will go for beef, sheep and goats. Martha moved to accept the dairy recommendations from the large livestock committee. Adam seconded. Motion carried.
  - Feeder Recommendation – Increase maximum weight to 700lb for feeders. Matt moved to accept the feeder recommendation from the large livestock committee. Darcy seconded. Motion carried.
  - Sheep and Horse Recommendations – Add a costume class for sheep exhibitors Thursday afternoon. Add English Pleasure and English Equitation class for Peewee. Horse Developmental sponsors the Peewee trophies. Darcy moved to accept the sheep and horse recommendations from the large livestock committee. Martha seconded. Motion carried.
  - Livestock Judging Contest – The committee determined that Angie needs more help for livestock judging. The committee needs to revisit and look further into different scoring options. Possibly a scantron option to help cut down the amount of time to score the judging cards.
- Special Event Committee (75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) – Darcy reported that met before the meeting tonight and they're still taking recipes. The plan is to order 400 cook book. Angie has been in contact with the Gratiot County Herald to do an article to feature the Stoneman Family. The committee recommended a fair book change to add an educational exhibit for 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary history. Martha moved to accept adding an educational exhibit for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Jason seconded. Motion carried. The committee is working to get a list of queens around for the Highland Festival parade. They would like to purchase two 2' x 6' banners for parades and to put out front of the fairgrounds. Jason moved to allow two banners to be bought. Josh seconded. Motion carried.
- Small Animal Committee – Darcy reported that they met last week. The committee recommends for peewees to follow species registration dates. It was recommended the goat (market and breeding) registration date be May 15<sup>th</sup> and all poultry, rabbit, cavy and cats be registered by July 1<sup>st</sup>. When a peewee registers they must declare if they are bringing their own animal or using another exhibitor's. For rabbit and cavy they recommended removing market rabbit single fryer section and all record books. They want to add in an educational poster for them instead. For poultry the committee recommended for the market turkey to state "exhibitor must be present for judging". They want to remove all record books for poultry and add a poultry educational poster. For small animal sweepstakes the committee recommends including first place winners in the three showmanship divisions for cats, dogs, goats, poultry and rabbits. Josh moved to accept all of the small animal recommendations except for the two registration dates. Jason seconded. Motion carried.
- Building and Grounds – Jason reported that Larry Richards will be doing the snow plowing. Clay is going to be putting the steel on Barn C roof. Bathhouse plans will be coming soon.

Old Business --

- Bathhouse project – Jason will have plans coming soon to get pricing off of.
- MAFE Scholarships Due November 2<sup>nd</sup> (today)
- Vote on recommendations from committee reports – Accomplished above.
- Flags around fairgrounds – Need pricing for possible GCFFY flags.
- Insurance review – Chuck will bring info to the next meeting.
- New fair board member applications, existing fair board members & eligibility to re-run – Applications are due by EOD Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Superintendent reviews – Chuck has copies of what have been received and he will work on.
- Fair Book Changes – If there are any they need to be given to Hannah for the committee to review sooner than later.
- Fair Fee \$5 – Jason made a motion to raise entry fee to \$10. Josh seconded. Motion carried.

New Business—

- Budget Planning 2023-24 – Martha reported on the budget during her treasurer's report. Adam moved to accept proposed budget for 2023-24 as presented. Darcy seconded. Motion carried.
- Saturday night event for 2024 fair – Darcy made a motion to do the same rodeo next year for the Saturday night event. Adam seconded. Motion carried.
- Fair Dinner Dance Benefit – Hannah will get a Google Sheet together to email to board to sign up and start soliciting. Tickets are ready for purchase from the fair office as of now. Board members will get tickets at the next meeting.
- Registration Dates for 2024 – Hannah will email a proposed list of registration dates out. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> don't seem to be handy with all of the other fairs that use the system as well.
- Still Exhibit Project Sizing – There needs to be a fair book change made but the wording needs to be discussed further.
- Barn Security – Discussion if it is really needed. Unsure of when or why it started. Hannah will talk to Kristi on her thoughts of getting rid of it.

Adam made a motion to adjourn and Jason seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

The next meeting will be December 7, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Skinner  
GCFFY Secretary