

Gratiot County Fair for Youth  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
September 7, 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, Matt Jorae & Adam Wood

Members Absent:

Kylie Acker - Excused

Fair Office Present: Hannah Reeves

Guests: Jennifer Courter, Amiee Taylor, Samantha Sinclair, Jim Mayer, Brooke Seaman, Haylie Mayer, Doreen Slavik, Cindy Whitford, Laurie Gager, Beth Gruden, Angela Aubin, Kelly Becker, Jillyan Rose, Brittney Foye, Kora Krenz, Kipp Krenz, Emily Krenz, Kylee Krenz, Julie Brown, Josey Brown, Gracey Brown and Trent Hilding

President Chuck Efaw called the meeting to order at 6 pm

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

Martha presented the treasurers report and reviewed the budget vs. actual. Kent moved to accept the financials as presented. Darcy seconded and the motion carried.

Fair Office Report –

- Hannah reported on how her first fair went.
- Working on winter storage and collecting payments from the fair sales
- Hoping to get checks sent out in late September early October
- Need to start working on Dinner Dance soon

Public Comment –

- Kora Krenz talked about wanting to have an award for Reserve Overall Sweepstakes winners.
- Brooke Seaman and Jim Mayer talked about the drug testing.
- Jami Bebow shared the quotes she had received for fans in the beef, feeder and pig barns. Brent made a motion to refer her quote to the buildings and grounds committee. Martha seconded. Motion carries. Jami would also like to add rate-of-gain back in for feeders and propose their weight goes back to 700 pounds. The rate-of-gain and weight proposal will go to the Large Livestock Committee.
- Gracey Brown talked about the way drug policy procedure. Going forward she would like to see the board put a plan together on how it will be done going forward.
- Beth Gruden shared that she would like to see a new PA system go into the pig barn and also get electricity down the center of the pig barn. Beth said she is happy to do the leg work and get some quotes. This will go to the Buildings and Grounds Committee.
- Logan Banning from the Gratiot Conservation District tire collection event is wanting to use signs to direct people if we have any available. We have stakes that they can use if needed. Gate 1 needs to be opened for them.
- Lauren Gorsuch – currently Michigan FFA State Sentinel. Filled in on chapter visits, upcoming FFA events and fall leadership conference.

#### Committee Reports:

- 4-H Council – 4-H Program Coordinator was hired but they took a different position. The position is now open again and applications are being received through September 19<sup>th</sup>. Fall leaders meet with be at 2pm on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Sportsmen of the year award application is open as well. Via the fair the breakfast went well.
- Horse Developmental – Becky reported that they will meet the week of the 18<sup>th</sup> in September. Becky asked for suggestions from her people during fair. There were eight girls that went to the state 4-H horse show.
- Large Animal Committee – Brent reported that they will be meeting soon.
- Special Event Committee –
  - Rodeo Committee - Kent reported that it was a huge success. There was a good profit.
  - 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee – Had met last week. Still asking for recipes for the cookbook. Recipes and pre-orders are due October 1<sup>st</sup>. Hoping to have them back for Christmas. Any old historical items and picture please get to Darcy. Golf outing will be June 22<sup>nd</sup> at The Fields. Meal afterwards with live road sign auction at the fairgrounds. Committee would like to give out free shirts to all exhibitors. Budget will be provided at the next meeting which is October 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.
- FFA – Leslie Siefka shared that Ithaca FFA will be competing in the National Parliamentary Procedure contest on November 1-4 in Indianapolis, IN. There are two new advisors in Gratiot County. Angie Stephens is in Breckenridge and Megan DeGroft is in St. Louis. Ithaca, Breckenridge, Alma and Ashley FFA Chapters will be selling broiler chickens in November.
- Small Animal Committee – Darcy reported that they will be meeting September 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- Buildings & Grounds – Jason reported that there will be a meeting coming soon. There is a mowing crew filling in while Phil is out.

#### Upcoming Grounds Rentals:

- September 22 & 23 – Koutz/Emery Wedding – Barn L
- September 28-October 2 – Taylor/Minnick Wedding – Barn L

#### Old Business --

- Still Exhibit Barn Security and open hours in the barns
- Futurity Classes, Fees and Form – going to Large Livestock Committee
- 5 Year & 10 Year Plan for fairgrounds
- Review Insurance Policy

#### New Business—

- After fair cleanup-getting barns power washed – Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> cleanup for upcoming weddings at 9:00am
- Speaker System at covered arena – Hannah discussed what Kevin Hawley shared with her on a plan he put together. This will go to the Buildings & Grounds Committee to discuss.
- Swine Barn conflict
- Fair Book Cover – Kent made a motion to use Lauren Gorsuch's fair book cover contest photo. Martha seconded. Motion carried.
- Unpaid buyers – some payments didn't take so the list may be incorrect still. Martha will come in and help Hannah go through that.
- Food Vendor for Food Booth at 2024 fair
  - Martha made a motion to invite Willie's Weiney Wagon back to the Food Booth for the 2024 fair. Kent seconded. Motion carried. Jason will call and confirm with them on Friday (9/8).
- Little Lemon by Covered Arena for 2024
  - Kent made a motion to bring Little Lemon back for 2024 fair by Covered Arena. Brent seconded. Motion carried.

- Suggestions from fair
  - Brent made a motion to refer suggestions to committee. Fair board suggestions would get broken into 1/3 to discuss going forward. Jason seconded. Motion carried. All fair board members need to review suggestions and report back to Hannah with any changes.
- Winter Storage – Saturday, October 21st starting at 8am
- Contact person for each 9/23 and 9/30 wedding
  - Martha on the 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - Hannah on the 30<sup>th</sup>
- Bathhouse project – We need to get moving on it. Currently we have two grants.
- MAFE Scholarships – Due November 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Zone 4 Meeting – Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Shiawassee County Fair – as of now Darcy will go.
- Picnic Tables – Martha discussed pricing for 10 new composite material picnic tables for under the Pioneer Pavilion. It was advised we waited until we see if other groups could do them and what it would end up costing.

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

Moved to closed session at 7:10 pm.

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

The next meeting will be October 5, 2023 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Skinner  
GCFFY Secretary