

Gratiot County Fair for Youth
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 5, 2024
Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Conference Room

Members Present:

Chuck Efaw, Matt Jorae, Andrew Lombard, Angie Lake, Shanna Smith, Keegan Humm, Martha Stellow, Becky Hirschman, Brent Skinner, Jack Butcher, Kylie Acker, Adam Wood, Darcy Martyn & Kent Humm

Fair Office Present: Hannah Reeves

Guests: Amiee Minnick, Kipp Krenz, Isaac Humm & Olan Humm

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

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

Martha presented the treasurer's report. She went through the financials and a breakdown of some numbers from fair week. Brent made a motion to accept the financials. Kent seconded. Motion carried.

Fair Office Report –

- Ivy started as the co-op last Monday and has been doing great.
- Winter storage calls were made by Ivy and Hannah has been working on sending the form to those returning. We are still waiting to hear back from a few.
- Deposits from the fair sales are about wrapped up being taken to the bank with those that we have received.
- Hannah is into her junior high basketball season now so hours might be adjusted some but the schedule will be posted on the door and Facebook each week.

Public Comment –

- Kipp Krenz discussed that the cement dividers in the beef barn need to have something permanent done in place of them. They are only getting worse each year and at some point, will not hold. He suggested a setup like what is in the feeder barn. Pricing needs to be compiled for this for further discussion.

Committee Reports:

- 4-H – No report.
- Horse Developmental – Becky reported that they're having a meeting on September 17th. She said the state 4-H horse show went fabulous and Gratiot County represented well.
- Large Livestock – No report.
- FFA – No report.
- Small Animal – No report.
- Buildings & Grounds – Kent reported that some board members did a walk about one day during fair and came up with a list of items that needed attention. If anyone has any ideas, they would like added to the list please send them to Kent. A start on a 3,4,5-year plan will start getting worked on.

Upcoming Rentals

- 9/13 & 9/14 Western MI RBA Show
- 9/21 Conservation District Tire Removal
- 9/21 Arcada Township Trash Drop

Old Business --

- Barn Fan Project Status – We are holding off on paying the last 25% until the J-channeling gets installed.
- Swine Processing & Holding – Cozat's were under the impression that all of our fair pigs were going to them and none ended up going there. Shanna said she made them no promises but asked if they could be an option. Hannah shared that a buyer was very pleased with Sage's and would like us to continue to have them be an option in the future.

New Business—

- MAFE Convention (January 9-11) – It's currently \$80 per person and registration is open. Anyone that wants to go needs to let Hannah know sooner than later.
- After fair barn cleaning – Discussion was had on having money deducted from exhibitors checks if barns aren't power washed by the after fair clean up. Matt made a motion to give a timeline in the fair book to get the barns power washed, then if it's not done there is a nominal fee taken from the exhibitor's checks. Brent seconded. Motion carried.
- Lot 163 Campsite – Chuck measured multiple campsites and they're mostly 25'. This site is 37'3". The campsite is much larger than most other campsites. The campers on that lot would like the lot squared off with grass being planted. Brent made a motion that if we do nothing to fix their problem then allow them to move to any other open campsite. Adam seconded. Motion carried. There was one no vote. They will not be allowed to park on the road.
- Carpet Cleaning – Hannah is to get quotes for this and report back in October. Last year Edmore Cleaners did it. Matt made a motion to get the carpets cleaned but there was no second.
- Annual Meeting Location – Hannah mentioned how full the conference room was last year and suggested moving the annual meeting to the Thompson Home Public Library in Ithaca for more space. People would have to sit through the annual meeting before voting for board members is opened up as well. Kent made a motion to have the annual meeting at the library in Ithaca. Martha seconded. Motion carried.
- Animal Control Agreement – Martha reported on the state of emergency housing for animals that Tom Clark had came to the board about last year. Tom and Jamie from Animal Control put a letter together and Martha read to the board. They know we have no water from October to May and only the horse barn, sheep barn and horse arena would be open. Martha asked permission for the letter to be signed by the director. Kent made a motion to have the director sign the letter. Jack seconded. Motion carried.
- Unpaid Buyers – The list of unpaid buyers from our fair auctions was reviewed. Chuck will start calling people Friday afternoon. It was suggested that everyone gives a credit card number to put on file when they check in then if they don't pay within 21 days, we charge the card on file. Hannah will call some other fairs to see how they handle their sales and collecting payments. For now, this will be tabled until we can see what we can do in Fair Entry.
- Food Booth Vendor 2025 – We have had Nick Lux reach out to us a couple of times showing interest in being in the Food Booth. The board agreed it would be worth seeing what he could do for us.
- Midway Options & Other Entertainment – Hannah reported on the different companies she called to see who we could get for a carnival next year. The conclusion was they were either booked already, didn't respond or they could do dates that were not feasible for our county with school. Anderson Midway's was able to do the week of July 14th in 2025. Kent made a motion to have Anderson's the week of July 14th. Darcy seconded. Motion carried.
- Winter Storage – Barn J – Fan Removal – Chuck will pick a date and those that can come help will get the fans moved for winter storage.
- Winter Storage (Saturday, October 19, 2024) – The first batch of campers will arrive at 8:00 a.m. and all hands-on deck will make it go much faster.
- 2024-2025 Budget Prep Meeting – A date will get set and sent out. This can be started in September even.
- JotForm Review – Hannah went through the more commonly mentioned items that came from the review. Since people felt last years suggestions were ignored Hannah is planning to do Facebook lives to go through feedback. Then the committees will go through their items once they meet.
- MAFE Scholarships – They are due November 2nd. If you know of anyone that would qualify or maybe interested let Hannah know and she will send them info.

Brent moved to adjourn. Adam seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be October 3, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Skinner
GCCFY Secretary