

Gratiot County Fair for Youth
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 3, 2022
Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Conference Room

Members Present:

Larry Richards, Jason Lombard, Clay Mills, Josh Hitsman, Brent Skinner, Chuck Efaw, Darcy Martyn, Taylor Gager, Martha Stellow, Lindsey Giles-Austin, Erin Humm

Zoom: Becky Hirschman, Keegan Humm

Guests:

Joan Taylor, Kent Humm

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

Secretary's report:

Becky Hirschman reviewed the minutes from the January 6, 2022 meeting. Martha moved to approve the minutes from the meeting as presented, Josh seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Martha Stellow reviewed the Financial Reports through December 31, 2021. Darcy made the motion to accept the financials as presented and Jason seconded. Motion carried.

Fair Office Report:

Erin brought forth several items.

- Dawn Russell a teacher at Hillcrest was asking to use the fairgrounds for a rocket launch day. The board approved the use of it for that day. Erin will contact Dawn and let her know.
- Gratiot County Fair Bureau has asked to use our 501c(3) status to be a fiscal agent for a grant from the Community Foundation. Larry moved to approve being a fiscal agent and Brent seconded it. Motion carried.
- Erin asked about Banners for Grand Champion winners. She has a quote from Unique Images and will get a quote from E&S Graphics. Chuck mentioned that Efaw Builders would sponsor the banner costs.
- Erin also brought the quote from advertising with the radio. The total quote was \$3,144 and there was discussion about a better price without some of the extras. Chuck was going to call Dawn and discuss the options.
- Erin will be working on a MDARD Grant with help from the Building and grounds committee.
- Camping update was given – we have over half of the sites paid for on Feb 3.
- Erin has selected a campsite for the auction based on the available sites at this time. Site #48.
- Swine ear tags are ordered
- Erin announced the new beef superintendent Samantha Sinclair.
- Alli Munger has been asked to do photos for the sale. She is to get back with Erin if she is able to commit.

Public Comment:

NA

Committee Reports:

FFA report – NA

Horse developmental – NA

Large Animal Committee- NA

Small animal Committee- Clay had an email come in asking about how we might handle an issue with the avian flu this year. He suggested that we use the same plan we had in 2015. Interviews instead of showmanship and all of the animals will be processed before coming to fair. The kids would decorate their pens instead of having live birds. The board approved of this plan.

4-H Report –

- We have 262 People currently enrolled in 4-H Online:
 - 30 Volunteers
 - 192 Members
 - 40 Cloverbuds
- Registration is now open for 4-H Capitol Experience, Online experience March 20 and In-Person experience March 23 at the Lansing Radisson Hotel. It would be great to see participants from Gratiot County participating.
- 4-H Exploration Days June 22-24, 2022 - \$220 covers meals, lodging, all event activities and t-shirt. We look forward to this in-person experience and are excited to provide this opportunity for youth to explore the MSU experience.
- Extension at the Breslin, MSU Girls Basketball against Ohio State on Sunday, February 27.
- There will be a millage vote August 2 for 4-H.

Buildings and Grounds- there will be a meeting in February.

Special events committee- Dinner Dance – Martha gave an update on the Dinner Dance. Dinner meal is planned. We will have room for 300 people. Friday, March 11 will be set-up at 2 pm. We need to have a count on tickets sold by March 2. There will be a 50/50 raffle, bidder #'s will be used for the silent auction along with names. **Feb 25 items need to be to the fair office so that the lots can be put together.**

Old business:

Entertainment at fair – The board discussed having a horse pull but the majority thought it would be good to have another type of entertainment this year. Jason proposed MicroWrestling. He had a broad understanding of the costs and the board discussed what it might look like to host this event. **Jason is going to contact the company and discuss further details and bring it to the board by email to take a vote.**

There will NOT be a horse pull this year at this time.

The suggested rule in the fair book about the Futurity class and grand champion being asked to not compete did not pass. The board voted to remove the rule and let it stand as it was previously. Jason moved to eliminate the proposed rule. Brent seconded and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Awards – Lindsey proposed a list to superintendents for ideas of what new awards could be given in place of trophies, skillathon, sweepstakes, and record books awards. **Erin will complete the list and forward it onto the supers for their input.** We need to be sure these decisions are made the first week of March so that awards can be ordered. Suggested items were: belt buckles, water cups, coats and chairs.

Fair convention – Jason reported on the Service Animals session. It was discussed that we need to include service dog policies to our policies book for fair week.

Brent discussed animal health session and mentioned Rabbits. Darcy said at this time it isn't a threat to commercial breeders but those with pets.

Brent also talked about the partnership between the fair and Chamber. We have a pretty good relationship right now.

Darcy discussed a session about the Code of Conduct for exhibitors/parents and formal protests. Jason had the information from the UP State Fair and **Erin will review it to see what we can include in our policies and procedures.** Perhaps it can be added to the Fair Entry page for those exhibitors/parents to agree to before they sign up.

Lindsey proposed a Good Sportsmanship award. After last year she thought it would be a great idea to HIGHLIGHT the GOOD that happens at the fair and not dwell on the bad. Can we create a way for others to brag about something they heard or saw during the week of the fair? Could we highlight them on Social media and then have a drawing for a prize(s) at the end of the week?

The Highland Festival Committee asked about using the fairgrounds for their Festival in May. Chuck, Martha, Josh, Jason and Larry asked to be involved with the walk through with the HF Comm.

Parking letters were mentioned. Erin will begin putting those together to send out to the organizations that have helped in the past. **Erin will have those in the mail by March 20.**

Jake Braman asked if the market goat class could have a change of attire. The small animal committee will discuss his question and report back.

Josh moved to adjourn. Larry seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

The next meeting will be March 3, 2022 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Hirschman
GCFY Secretary