

Gratiot County Fair for Youth  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, November 4, 2021  
Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Conference Room

Members Present:

Erin Humm, Larry Richards, Ben Cary, Jason Lombard, Lindsey Austin, Jessica Truax, Clay Mills, Becky Hirschman, Josh Hitsman

Zoom: Keegan Humm, Kent Humm, Gabe Pritchard

Guests:

Martha Stellow, Joan Taylor, Chuck Efaw, Shanna Smith, Darcy Martyn, Frank Welling

In Kent and Jake's absence Becky Hirschman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary's report:

Becky Hirschman reviewed the minutes from the October 7, 2021 meeting. Jessica moved to approve the minutes from the meeting as presented, Josh seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Lindsey Giles-Austin reviewed the Financial Reports through October 31, 2021. Jessica made the motion to accept the financials as presented and Josh seconded. Motion carried. Lindsey brought forth the question about having a separate line item for big projects. Martha explained that the sale account was opened for this purpose and the board was in agreement that this fits the purpose and there is no need for anything additional.

Fair Office Report:

Erin presented the horse pull information she had received from reaching out to the MI Horse Dynamometer Association. **She is waiting on more information regarding a contract with them and will then determine a time for the pull.**

Public Comment:

Joan Taylor from Gratiot Extension let us know that the Extension office will be giving away prizes in partnership with WMLM for kids who sign up on 4-H online before December 1. **Reminder to sign up your kids with 4-H Online.** Joan also mentioned that Calista, Kayla and Megan Goward along with Julie Becker are going to 4-H National Convention. They have sponsors for their entire trip!

Committee Reports:

FFA report – Ben reported that the Alma FFA is beginning their SpeakAg program and posting on FB about a different Ag topic each month. The month of November is turkeys. Ben and a group of members went to National Convention at the end of October and had a blast! They also did the broiler project and they finished up at Munsell's on Thursday, November 4. They will be selling the extra chickens.

Horse developmental – Haven't met recently.

Small animal Committee- Darcy brought to the board some of the changes the small animal species would like to make to the fair book and classes. The dog department would like to remove the PeeWee classes as they feel that it is unsafe for those small children to be in the ring with any dog. The rabbit changes will be brought to the next meeting in December when they can be printed and presented. Their next meeting will be November 30.

Large Animal Committee- Shanna brought to the board some changes from the large animal committee, these included dairy, beef and pig changes. Larry moved to accept these changes and Jessica seconded the motion. Discussion and motion carried.

Shanna also proposed that instead of making record books mandatory that we give the kids an option to do the YQCA certification or a record book. A final decision on this will be discussed at the next meeting after Shanna brings more information back.

Only the large animal superintendents need/want shirts for fair week, they estimate need 6 per specie which totals about 36 shirts. Shanna will bring back a design and quotes next month.

Buildings and Grounds- Matt Buford winterized the grounds on November 1 and has guaranteed his work. May 1 will be the date to open the water lines.

Larry is working on getting 6 commercial toilets for the restrooms attached to the office. He will get them to the grounds and then find out how much they will cost.

Jake is working on something to restrict the RV drain so that the hose doesn't fall in...it was suggested that someone checks the drain before fair week.

Special events committee: No report this month. – Larry suggested selling stickers with the GCFFY logo on them. **Jessica will ask Brittany at E & S about the cost.**

#### Old business:

Winter Storage – all the large barns are full. We are waiting on one camper for the covered arena. Barn E still has some room.

Board Members/Teen Reps – we have 5 applicants for the board and one teen rep. **Erin will contact Taylor Gager the teen rep to schedule an interview with her.**

Fair Dinner/Dance is scheduled for March 12, 2022 at the Elks in Alma. Martha and Fortney met and have put a plan together for media advertising and flyers. They have also come up with a new form to turn in with each donation. **Erin will work on putting those pieces together for them to distribute – these will be ready by November 15.** Jason suggested that the beginning bids for the silent auction should be no less than half the value of the item. The board felt that was a fair suggestion and will begin those donations at half the value. ALL donations must be in by February 25.

MAFE Convention is scheduled for Jan 13-15. Becky suggested someone attend the Service Animals session so that we can be more prepared if we have any concerns with animals on the grounds. **Board members need to let Erin know if they plan to attend.**

Annual Meeting – December 2 at the fair office. We will need to set up the conference room to accommodate several more members than the board. We will meet at 6 pm to set up the tables and chairs. We will need a table in the lobby to check in members and pass out ballots and programs. **Martha, Lindsey, Shanna, Jason and Larry will arrive early to help with set-up and to meet members.**

Schedule changes were reviewed and there was discussion about the horse pull. Once we know more about the horse pull we will make specific decisions about animals being released and the carnival closing time on Saturday.

The fair entry fee was discussed and a motion was made to change the entry fee from \$7 to \$5. Erin explained that even by reducing the fee we will still adequately cover the cost of the program and credit card fees. Larry moved to change the fee to \$5 per exhibitor and Lindsey seconded it. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be the Annual Meeting, December 2 at 7 pm.

Josh moved to adjourn and Jessica seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Hirschman  
GCFFY Secretary