

Gratiot County Fair for Youth
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 5th, 2025
Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Fair Office, Alma, Michigan

Members Present: Jack Butcher, Chuck Efaw, Becky Hirschman, Matt Jorae, Angie Lake, Jason Lombard, Brent Skinner, Shanna Smith, Martha Stellow, Raegan Falor, Andrew Lombard

Members Remote: Keegan Humm

Members Absent: Kent Humm, Adam Wood

Fair Office Staff: Hannah Reeves, Kylie Acker

Guests: Ashley Foster, Nicole Gorsuch, Leann Grace, and Larry Richards

Brent called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Secretary's Report: Shanna presented the meeting minutes. Becky moved to accept the secretary's report. Martha second. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Martha presented on the financials. Shanna moved to accept the treasurer's report. Matt second. Motion carried.

Fair Office Report:

- Golf Outing and Road Sign Auction teams are sponsors are coming in
- John Siefka Memorial Barn – Leslie has found people to help
- Weeds and Ground Work – Hannah will reach out to clubs to assist.
- June 24th scales will be calibrated
- Hannah is working on Armory Contract when they return from training
- Superintendent Meeting was held

Public Comment:

- Nicole presented proposal for allowing peewees to show Dogs.

Committee Reports:

- 4-H & 4-H Council – Ashley Foster introduced herself as the new 4-H coordinator and discussed upcoming 4-H events.
- Horse Developmental – No Report, but Becky discussed a successful Horse camp and an increased number of horse entries.
- Large Livestock – No Report.
- FFA – No Report
- Small Animal – No Report. Martha discussed the Dog program declining in participants. She will combine awards and judges.
- Building and Grounds –
 - Chuck reported that we had a pest issue in the attic of the office. He emailed the Executive Committee on May 19, 2025 to explain the issue and provided the quote from Servpro to get the issue cleaned up. Chuck, Martha and Shanna voted via email in favor of Servpro cleaning the attic up.
 - Chuck presented report and discussed water and pest issues that arose since the last meeting. Chuck moved to hire MJC Electric to upgrade the electrical in the

covered arena and install exterior lights. MJC Electric has offered to donate all materials and labor to complete the light upgrades to the covered arena. Shanna second. Motion carried. Jason against.

- Hannah reported that The Tech Lab will be coming to fix static in speakers. We may need to replace an amp. Hannah will circle back.
- Martha reported that rocks were purchased to edge and that we have a dying lilac bush. Angie will take care of the rocks and Larry will remove the bush.
- Vendor Committee – Chuck reported vendors invites need sent and vendor map is made.

Upcoming Ground Rentals:

6/7 Open House – Barn L
6/26 Rural Urban
6/28 Open House – Barn L
7/8 Cloverbud Camp

Old Business:

- Emergency Management Meeting: Tuesday, June 17th at 10:00 a.m.
- Board Photo: Postponed
- Conference Room Chairs: Martha presented 2 chair options. Chuck moved to approve purchasing the NBI chair option presented. Angie second. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Pre-fair Dumpster: Chuck is donating dump trailer to be used for clean-up dates.
- Food Booth Camping Spot: Not needed for 2025. Hannah will offer these to waitlist.
- Still Exhibit Applications: Martha moved to accept the 3 exhibitors who have requested absentee applications for still exhibit judging if they schedule their presentation date by June 30th. Becky second. Motion carried.
- Insurance Coverage: Hannah reaching out to schedule meeting. Chuck moved to allow those at the emergency management meeting to approve needed changes if they arise. Martha second. Motion carried.
- GCFFY Property: Brent discussed looking into options to purchase property GCFFY currently uses. Brent will continue looking into this.

Other:

- Bids: Chuck moved to no longer request multiple bids on items that cost less than \$5000. Martha second. Motion carried.
- Lawn Mowing: Chuck discussed current lawn mowing wages. Chuck moved to approve lawn mowing service to be paid a \$16 start wage with the possibility to increase to \$18. Jack second. Motion carried.
- Raegan inquired on meal ticket pricing for Little Lemon and Block House. The board advised a value of up to \$15.

Chuck moved to adjourn the meeting. Matt second. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Next meeting – July 10th, 2025 at 7pm – Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Conference Room

Respectfully submitted,

Shanna Smith

GCFFY Secretary