

Gratiot County Fair for Youth
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 4, 2024
Bill & Grace Vanderbeek Conference Room

Members Present:

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

Excused Members: Adam Wood

Guest: Kristy Davenport, Lydia Davenport, Kipp Krenz, Larry Richards, Bri Clark, Kelly Becker, Jennifer Dickman & Jami Bebow

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

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

Martha presented the treasurer's report. She mentioned that annual donations are down approximately \$8,500 YTD. The 2022 tax return was discussed as well as how the meeting with the CPA went. Brent made a motion to accept the financials on file as well as the tax return. Kent seconded. Motion carried.

Fair Office Report –

- Hannah reported that \$309.74 was what was coming from the Bdubs fundraiser.
- Record books are all up on the website.
- Two sites are needed in the campground for Willie's Weiner Wagon for the fair. Hannah is now at the point to work through the camping waiting list.
- Hannah has been spending a lot of time lately on the fair book, updating forms and reloading to the website, as well as updating info on the website. Fair entry is also being updated as missed adjustments are being found.
- Late office hours were offered Tuesday, April 2nd from 5-7 pm for those that needed ear tags or help with Fair Entry. It seemed to be a success. The next one will be Wednesday, April 17th from 5-7 pm.
- Instructions are being put together for people to be able to reference to help get signed up in Fair Entry.

Public Comment –

- Jami Bebow – Quote was redone for fans in the beef, pig and feeder barns. It was at \$19,692.00 and it did not include installment of wiring or electrical. New quote is \$16,749.84 plus \$3,800 in rebates making the total come down to \$12,949.84. Rebate kicks in once quote is accepted. Installment price is \$222 per fan at approximately \$2,227. Grand total 15,176.00. Jami said there was a miscommunication for the last approval. She's asking board for motion to proceed forward with fans for all three barns. Currently \$4,000 has been received and she knows of 12 checks coming. C & R Electric will donate electrical. IF labor is needed Jami has a donor to cover that cost. Jami wants motion for all 3 barns. The company would need 25% down. Plan is to have funds by April 26th. Brent made motion to make down payment on all 3 barns. Hold on paying anything else until all donations are received. Angie seconded. Motion carries.

Committee Reports:

- 4-H Council – Bri reported that the spring break activities went over well. Moving forward there is a community garden project in Alma that they will be part of. Feel free to send anyone over that would be interested in helping. Then the 4-H paper clover campaign in starting at TSC on April 24th through May 5th. Then Kelly Becker discussed the 4-H breakfast that Leader's Council puts on in the Food Booth in the morning during fair week. She was requesting permission to be in there again this year. They will do their own food license again this year. Martha made a motion to allow leaders council with breakfast along with support from Willie's Weiner Wagon in the Food Booth. Brent seconded. Motion carried.
- Horse Developmental – Next meeting is Tuesday, April 9th. There are 24 horses signed up for the Coggins Clinic on Saturday, April 13th at Becky's house. Horse Camp is coming up on May 10th & 11th with the horse show being May 11th & 12th. Becky talked with Kevin Jerome on the horse announcers stand and the project will be starting within the next week.
- Large Livestock – No report.
- Fair Schedule – No report.
- 75th Anniversary – Sold 135 cookbooks so far. Golf outing info is out. Currently working on queens for highland festival parade.
- Rodeo – There has been \$3,500 received in donations so far. Kent will follow up with those that got letters sent to them.

- FFA – Banquets are starting soon.
- Small Animal – No report.
- Buildings & Grounds – Melissa from Ellen's Equipment is working on getting us a bigger tractor by early next week. Joe Butcher is going to be digging a trench for the campground electrical soon. Phil from St. Louis Schools will update the picnic tables no matter what. The bathroom project is coming along. Some sidewalks had cement break and more concrete will need to be added for safety and durability issues for \$2,750. Clay would prefer to take a bigger chunk of asphalt out and put in more concrete. That would cost \$4,200. Darcy made a motion to spend \$4,200 to fix the concrete by the asphalt. Jack seconded. Motion carried.
Angie mentioned that Somethin' Special did mulch last year and volunteered to do it again this year. Angie and Hannah will work on figuring out how much mulch is needed.
- Awards – They had a meeting before this meeting. All awards have been decided on and they are under budget as of now.

Upcoming Rentals

- 4/9 Horse Developmental Meeting
- 4/14 Lucky Stars 4-H Club Meeting
- 4/21 Kountry Kids 4-H Club Meeting
- 4/22-24 Gratiot Conservation Tree Sale
- 5/4 Hartman Fundraiser

Old Business --

- 75th Anniversary Polos – Hannah passed around a few polos for the board to touch and see what they wanted. It was unanimous to stick with the "Old Faithful" polo and the 75th logo will go on the left chest.
- Memorial Weekend Fundraiser – Community Garage Sales – There has been good response to it so far. An event is created to share on social media. Discussion occurred that there would need to be some contact people for that weekend for those camping on the grounds. Brent and Chuck both said they could be available if something came up.
 - We also need to look into a bathroom cleaning service for the week of fair.
- After Fair Clean Up – There will be two after fair clean up dates, August 14th & 15th, from 5-7 pm.
- Winter Storage Release – Items are coming out Saturday, April 13th starting at 8 am. All hands-on deck for this is appreciated. Feel free to bring extra help as well.
- Kent asked if there had been any interest shown in the vacant fair board position. Chuck said that Josh Hitsman and Becky Hirschman had both said they were interested. Kent nominated Becky to the board. Brent seconded. Motion carried.

New Business—

- Sponsorships-Fair, Rodeo Golf – Hannah asked for suggestions on different businesses or individuals to send information to for sponsorships. The board is to work on some suggestions and get them to Hannah.
- Fair Book (Peewee, Superintendents & General)
 - Brent mentioned how the peewee rule for beef calf needing to be six months or under was only suspended last year before fair and they were excluded from the 6-month rule. The large livestock committee talked about it and didn't see an issue. Darcy made a motion to completely remove the peewee line that mentioned beef calf and dairy calf under six months and excluding feeders. Angie seconded. Motion carried. That line will be completely deleted from the fair book.
 - Still exhibit release times were discussed and barn security Saturday morning. Kristi Davenport said she is there when exhibits are going out so barn security shouldn't be necessary Saturday morning. Martha made a motion to remove the second still exhibit release time from the schedule that was on Sunday. Brent seconded. Motion carried.
 - The small animal registration deadline was discussed. Currently it is June 1st but it was suggested to move it to July 1st. Brent made a motion to move the small animal registration to July 1st. Darcy seconded. Motion carried.
- Newsletter – In the board packet there is a page that has a write up on drug testing to go in the newsletter. The lawyer did review it. Kent made a motion to put the write up in the newsletter. Martha seconded. Motion carried. Hannah listed other items that would be in the newsletter and asked if the board could think of anything else. Brent asked that to mention throughout the newsletter that withdrawals must be met by check-in at fair.
- Queens Court – Christina Apple, queens court superintendent, had asked Hannah to present to the board for her. She requested that the board allow the queens court to use money in their budget to pay for the girls Rural Urban Day tickets. Brent made a motion to allow the queens court to buy tickets for Rural Urban Day. Kent seconded. Motion carried.
- Place Mat Offering – An email was shared in the board packets about a place mat offering that was sent to Hannah to help advertise. Hannah wanted to the board to look through it as well and get approval, but also to verify there was no cost mentioned. Shanna moved to go forward with the place mat offering. Angie seconded. Motion carried.

- Showing multiple large animals – There have been a couple inquiries on showing more than one large animal. The board directed the answer under Showmanship rules in the fair book.
- Chamber Community Event – The Chamber is presenting an award to the fair. Board needs to let Hannah know if they're in or not.
- Holding for swine after fair – Shanna said that the Clare stock yard would be able to help us if needed and they will also resell. Hannah will reach out to John Dill as well. She will also reach out to Bellingar's to see if they will still take animals since changing ownership.
- Meeting Time – Chuck asked the board how people felt about meeting at 6pm vs 7pm. Unanimously there was no interest to move it up.
- Angie made a motion to change the next meeting date to Thursday, May 9th at 7pm. Shanna seconded. Motion carried.

Darcy made a motion to adjourn, and Martha seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

The next meeting will be May 9, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Skinner
GCFFY Secretary