

po box 513 • Greenville, MI 48838

Montcalm County Fair Association Board Meeting

March 05, 2018 Ash Building

Montcalm County Fairgrounds, Greenville, MI

The meeting was called to order by President Melissa Eldridge at 7:07pm.

Board members present were;

Melissa Eldridge, Brian Plank, Jason Nadeau, Roger Coles, Mike Tronson , Todd Hetherington, Lisa Johnson, Amy Bell, Melanie Rodenhouse Lee Rasmussen, Holly Esterling, Jennifer Senn, Brad Heft, Carrie Harkness, Amy Homich

Absent:

Others present were:

Kim Thompsen, Mary Gee,

Motion by Todd Hetherington, support by Lisa Johnson to approve the Secretary’s minutes from the February meeting. Motion Carried

Motion by Todd Heatherington support by Mike Tronsen to put the financials on file. Motion carried.

**Extension Office**:

* The Extension office accepts credit cards
* Exploration Days – need registration into Kadren by March 12th
* Council Breakfast March 24th
* Cloverbud craft day April 5th – 2:00 – 4:00 pm
* Leader’s meeting March 11th - 6:30pm

**Executive Committee**:

* No meeting

**Budget & Audit Committee**:

* Lisa talked with Jay to present the findings of the audit. Jay was unable to attend tonight’s meeting. Roger voiced concerns about not having an outside agency review the audit. Motion by Melanie Rodenhouse to drop current audit from Jay and Sandy and pursue an outside source to due the audit. Seconded by Brian Plank – Motion Recended
  + Discussion – Need to decide what type of audit and what type of source
    - Melissa Eldridge is going to check out some affordable options
    - Suggestions – Mike Gommeson, Mrs. Rasmussen
  + Executive committee to review findings and give recommendations at next meeting

**Buildings, Grounds & Construction Committee**:

* Meeting scheduled next week
* Compliments on the painting
* Forward movement on the bath house
* Camping sold out in 4 minutes – there 8 rustic sites available.
* Roger and Brian would like to auction off their campsites – funds to go to bath house.

**Rental Committee**:

* February $682.50
* 6 events for April
* 6 more contracts signed
* Shari attended bridal show
* 6 facility tours
* 2018 rentals – 42 booked including some of the horse area rentals
* Looking for linen rentals to provide more options

**Judges**:

* Still looking for 1 dog, 2 rabbits and 2 poultry judges

**Concessions & Grandstand**:

* Dave Harper – Poorman Pullers – Modified Garden Tractors – Tuesday night are on the schedule. Cost $300.00 pay at the night of show. Contract was signed.
* Antique tractor pullers $350.00 for Monday Night
* Motion to pay $500 down payment to Jim Trollard by Todd Hetherington support by Lee Rasmussen – motion carried

**Fairbook:**

* Fairbook is on website
* Would like to move deadline for changes by October 1st, 2018. Finalized by December 1st and online.

**Showorks:**

* Committee decided not to attend Showorks conference in Wyoming since it falls during spring break and no one was available to go. Discussed sending a member every 3 years to refresh information and to give new members further training.
  + Hopefully in three years they may offer a training conference closer to Michigan.
* Looking for volunteers that would like to learn showorks and to assist during fairweek in all areas of the show. You would learn how to run class reports, make changes to entries, and enter placings. Contact Holly, Sherry, or Kadren if interested.
  + Would like to see 3 - 4 Horse leader members trained so that the duties in the announcer’s booth can be alternated between them throughout the week. It is too much of a task for 1 person for the entire week – especially if they have children showing.
  + Livestock auction needs volunteers to help with buyer check-in and check-out.
  + **Training for Showorks scheduled for April 22nd – 2:00 – 4:00pm. A laptop is required.**
* Drops/adds in the horse area was discussed. The horse leaders has already addressed this issue in the fairbook. This needs to be enforced and possibly the punishment raised to a monetary value. Too much time is wasted re-running class reports and splits due to last minute changes. Drops/adds need to be done the night before the show so that splits can be ran and posted an hour before the show begins the next day. Emergency drops – lameness or sick child is exempt.
* On line class registration will begin May 12th and close June 3rd.
  + Leaders will be able to approve registrations June 4th – June 10th
  + 4-H Office will be open Tuesday and Thursday for help with registration.

**Awards/Trophies**:

* Motion to approve awards committee recommendations by Carrie Harkness supported by Lee Rasmussen – Motion Carried with 1 opposed

**Marketing Committee**:

* Amy Homich presented the buy a brick program for the funds for the completion of the bath house.
* Discussions on marketing Fair

**New Business**:

* All subcommittee minutes (ie: Horse Leaders, Livestock & Small Animal) will be forwarded to board members along with fairboard minutes to help improve communication between fairboard and the other committees. Also Fairboard minutes will be sent to the secretary of each of the committees prior to their monthly meeting.
* Kim Thompsen representing the F4EC (Friends of 4H, Extension & Conversation) had questions about location of booth at fair –
  + Can the booth be re-located throughout fair week?
  + Does the booth have to be manned? Fair board does not require booths to be manned.
  + Question of attendance at grand stand events to get an idea of exposure
  + Looking for people to campaign prior to election
* Livestock committee would like to have a separate account for the livestock auction –
  + Discussion that an account opened under the fair board would allow the committee to accept credit cards.
  + Discussion Tabled
* Liability Insurance
  + Motion to increase the O&B insurance to $2million per board member by Amy Homich support by Carrie Harkness – Motion Carried
* Issue of growth was discussed. Proposal to form a committee – Mary Gee would chair the committee.
  + Jason Nadeau
  + Proposal presented at annual meeting
* Condolences sent out to Pat Louse’s family – Auctioneer at livestock auction

Next Meeting Date – 04/02/2018 7:00 PM

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:22 PM by Mike Tronsen, Supported by Carrie Harkness

Respectfully submitted by Holly Esterling, Secretary