

po box 513 • Greenville, MI 48838

Montcalm County Fair Association Board Meeting

December 2, 2019 Ash Building

Montcalm County Fairgrounds, Greenville, MI

The meeting was called to order by President Melissa Eldridge at 7:03 pm.

Board members present were;

Lisa Johnson, Brad Heft, Melissa Eldridge, Tammi Jahnke, Jenn Senn**,** Shaun Hyde, Todd Hetherington, Mike Jensen, Becca Merrin, Amy Bell, Lisa Johnson, Lee Rasmussen, Cheryl Rosso, Mary Newman

Absent: Carrie Harkenss, Jason Nadeau

Others present were:

Tarin Minkel, Mary Gee

Motion by Lisa Johnson 2nd Mike Jensen to approve minutes, motion carried

Lisa Johnson reported that the amount in the Ash Foundation Greenville AF Bldg Fund will be more. Motion by Todd Hetherington to put financials on file with adjustment, 2nd Tammi. Motion carried

No guest comments

**Extension Office**:

* Today is reenrollment deadline. Approx. 250 active and enrolled, another 250 or so pending. Will be right around 550 total. Does not include new members that may add later.
* Submitted ES37
* Spa workshop is next Tuesday. Entry is due Friday. $5 per person
* Christmas card challenge: keep track of number of cards club sends
* Youth livestock comm adopted bylaws in November. Meeting in January and will elect officers. Lots of ideas for educational projects including showmanship workshop.
* Talk to youth members about coming to youth livestock meeting so there is representation from each club
* Winterfest at Kettunen. Registration is open for 8-12 year olds. Link is posted on Facebook
* Melissa asked about partnership with Conservation District.
* Will send request for fair theme suggestions again

**Executive Committee**:

* No meeting.

**Budget & Audit Committee**:

* Committee has met. Will be buying a new computer. Amy will find out what is needed for treasurer’s computer. Needs to be bought and ready before next board meeting.

**Buildings, Grounds & Construction Committee**:

* Lee asked why wagon is still sitting out. Lisa reported that it was cleaned out and needs to be moved but the tractor won’t start. Scale cage is also sitting outside. Todd will take care of tractor. Cheryl will bring the boxer over if needed if tractor won’t start.
* Lisa put a motorhome into winter storage this weekend. Has one more coming that needs to be put in somewhere it is accessible; will go in sheep barn. Approx. 20 in winter storage.
* Campsites open March 1st. FYI to clubs, etc.
  + Discussion on if $150 is enough to charge for camping. Discussed upping to $175-200, put extra aside to electrify more campsites. Talked about allocating non-fair camping to fund for campsites.
  + Also discussed needing a fund for tractor
  + Camping committee to discuss increasing camping prices.

**Rental Committee**:

* Nothing has changed since last month
* Discussion on open position. Amy has duties and experience requirements put together for Ash Building event coordinator, horse area and operations director. Idea was to put these together for events coordinator position. Lisa, Amy, Melanie Rodenhouse have been managing things. Amy is meeting with 3 companies for cleaning supplies, rugs, etc to narrow it to 1 vs 3. Would like to get the job posted sooner than later. Lisa has been telling people who ask that we plan to have someone in place by March. Would also like to hire someone in the interim as independent contractor. Amy’s suggestion is Melanie Rodenhouse, who can only do it for the next 2-3 months. Read contract suggestion. Contract terminates at will at any time.
  + Lee R moved to hire Melanie, Support from Mike Jensen. Motion passes. Tammi abstained.
* Several horse events have been booked, including MHSRA and Rise Above Tour (barrel racing)
* Hiring full time position. Amy suggests a committee to work on putting position requirements together. Suggested including members from 4H committee. Need 5 people. Time frame discussed with holidays coming up. Names suggested: Jeni Williams, Roger Cole, Michelle Nitingale, Brian Gardner, Joan Taylor, Judy Emmons, Candy Kerschen, Barb Altizer, Linda Uzelac, Mary Gee. Melissa will work on calling people, Amy will work on meshing descriptions together. Draft will be sent for board.
* Need to get people together to paint the last 2 weeks of December (Dec 21-Jan 1) to repaint the white areas. Contact Amy Bell. Painting lobby and one wall in east wing.

**Judges**:

* No new judges lists. New poultry and rabbit judges needed. Mary will get new lists from Kent, including alpaca. Mary will hire dairy judge as Cheryl does not want a conflict of interest

**Livestock/Agriculture – Bio-Security:**

* No report

**Concessions, Commercial Exhibits & Grandstand**:

* Sunday—Troller event
* Monday—antique tractor pull
* Tuesday--poor mans pullers
* Wednesday—nothing
* Thursday—livestock committee
* Friday is currently open. Can ask around for other suggestions. Cheryl will talk to Shane regarding rodeo.
* Cheryl will talk to Indira Smith regarding helping work on Kids Day. Brad will help with Kids Day. Tarin suggested someone from Great Start collaberative. Cheryl suggested scavenger hunt. Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever were suggested. Different demos so it’s not just animal related. Check with local TSC’s. Where does your food come from theme? No sponsor for Kids Day.

**Fairbook:**

* One change that was fixed and reposted (YQCA requirement)

**Showorks:**

**Michelle is taking over**

**Awards/Trophies**:

* Holly is still doing this.

**Marketing & Fundraising Committee**:

* Lisa will ask a couple people regarding helping. Idea of selling back of parking pass as advertising. Looking for more creative ideas. Lisa wants to get in contact with MHSRA regarding collaborating on banners.
* Committee needs to be rejuvenated.
* Need some solid marketing flyers
* Mary will help co chair this committee

**Old Business**:

* MAFE – January 9-11
  + Signups are done
  + MAFE has sent template to invite senators and state reps. Cheryl will do this.
  + Hotel confirmation information is delayed. Lisa paid for first day with a check. Will charge back to members if needed.
  + MAFE is asking attendees to download app for event information
* Fair Theme
  + Extending deadline til Friday December 13
    - Carrie has only gotten a few back.
    - Decide theme at January meeting.
* Work Plan
  + Add fair theme to work plan
  + Melissa has a list started. Will bring draft to next meeting.
  + Calendar format?
* Ash Building water needs to be tested. Lisa will have Thompson’s do it this time.

**New Business**:

* None

Melissa Eldridge adjourned meeting at 8;52 PM

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Rosso, Secretary

Next Meeting Date – 1/6/20 7:00 PM