

po box 513 • Greenville, MI 48838

Montcalm County Fair Association Board Meeting

April 20, 2020 via Zoom (virtual meeting)

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

Board members present were;

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

Absent:

Others present were:

Tarin Minkel, Cory Wall, Heidi Brandt, Melanie Rodenhouse, Kim Thomsen, Michelle Nitengale, Cory Wall

Review of MAFE Zoom meetings

* + Over 100 on meeting. Went through scenarios and offered options
  + A lot of talk about removing 4H from booths, displays, and fair book. Talked about addendum to fair books. Said they would share language on that
  + Discussion on livestock sales and virtual sales and how that would move forward.
  + Insurance coverage. Need to make sure policy covers all, including volunteers and exhibitors.
  + Tarin reported that 4H clover does not have to be removed if it’s permanently affixed somewhere. Just have to make clarification that there is not 4H affiliation for this year. Also, can’t use context of making money on behalf of 4H.
  + We also could potentially apply for funds for emergency disaster relief for money lost on rentals, etc.
  + On Friday’s call—discussion of how far out to pull the plug. MAFE recommends 35-40 days out

Motion by Jason Nadeau to cancel fair for 2020. Support from Todd Hetherington.   
Discussion: Lengthy discussion on pros/cons of holding a fair. Discussed the survey sent to members, current COVID restrictions, volunteers, alternatives if we do cancel fair, and what’s best for the youth members.

Voted via roll call due to being on Zoom: 4 Yes, 10 No, motion fails

2020 FAIR

* Parking: Tabled for future review.
* Vertical Edge (for midway alternative): We can bring as much or as little as we want as far as their rides/activities. If we wanted to have something to offer on midway, we have some options with them. However, it is an added cost.
* We have $2000 to spend left of advertising.
* No food auction for sanitation reasons. Fair board would have to find still exhibit judges as 4H council does that now.
* Still have the option with Sheridan Auction for online auction. MAFE suggests alternative bidding options in case some do not want to physically want to come to the fair, but want to buy.

SHOWORKS

* Michelle reported the plan is to open Showorks May 15 & close June 1.

Motion by Amy Bell to push May 1 registrations to May 15. 2nd by Jenn Senn.   
No discussion. Motion passes.   
Livestock committee will handle distribution of tags.

RENTALS

* Next show is first weekend in June for horse arena.
* Commissioners had to move their date for the Ash. Want to move to the Wednesday before fair, pending things are “open.”

OTHER BUSINESS

* Fairgrounds Cleanup:

Motion to suspend requirement of 2 hours of service from each member due to current circumstances by Jason Nadeau. 2nd by Lisa Johnson.   
  
Discussion: Service still appreciated and encouraged.

Motion passes.

* Still exhibits will still be included in fair.
* Melissa noted that current 4H volunteers can now be fair association volunteers if not working on behalf of their club.
* Melissa and Tarin will work on statement to community regarding fair. Cheryl will send notes from meeting to them for reference.
* Cory noted that they should be starting construction on 91, so if you see something going on at fairgrounds, that’s why.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm

Respectfully submitted:   
Cheryl Rosso  
Secretary