

po box 513 • Greenville, MI 48838

Montcalm County Fair Association Board Meeting

3 May 2021

Montcalm County Fairgrounds, Greenville, MI

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Todd Hetherington

Board members present:

Officers: President Todd Hetherington, 1st Vice President Jason Nadeau, 2nd Vice President Becka Merren, Treasurer Lisa Johnson, and Secretary Tammi Jahnke

Directors: Mary Newman, Brad Heft, Doug Jackson, Mike Jensen, Jennifer Senn, Amanda Wall, Amber Ryan, Shaun Hyde, and Melissa Eldridge (via Zoom).

Directors Absent: Cheryl Rosso

Others present were:

Tarin Minkel on behalf of MSUE via Zoom

Guests: Rachel Croy, Carrie Harkness (via Zoom), Jake & Cassie Newman, Jackie Nadeau, Tammy Wilson, Ashley Noah, Rory Eldridge, Trevor Petersen, Karter Seen, Rachelle Croy, Michelle Nitengale, Mary Gee and Barb Altizer (joined via Zoom at 8:31pm).

**Secretary’s Report:**

Motion by Amanda Wall to amend the minutes under “New Business” to say:

* Discussion took place about shortening the length of Fair week as proposed by *Amanda Wall*, which was tabled until the next meeting.
* It was also suggested that an *entry/stall/pen* fee be charged to kids entering exhibits to assist with the cost of fair this year and potentially in the future, however, it was agreed that it was too late this year to consider and implement.

Support by Amber Ryan. Motion passed. Minutes Amended.

Motion by Mary Newman to approve the 5 April 2021 Secretary’s Report with corrections as noted above, support by Shaun Hyde to approve minutes. Motion passed.

**Financial Report**:

Lisa Johnson provided financial report. Motion by Mike Jensen support by Doug Jackson to place financial report on file. Motion passed, financials place on file.

**Guest Comments**

* No Guest offering comments

**Extension Office**:

* Tarin Minkel provided board with MSUE Update
* Seven Classrooms doing embryology. 4-H volunteers donated eggs.
* May 19 school-wide enrichment event at Lakeview.
* Supported Farm Bureau with Farm Safety Event
* May 20 Fishing Event Workshop that Melissa is assisting with
* May 21st is Tarin’s last day with MSUE – No posting yet, but told it will be out before her employment ends.

**Executive Committee**:

* Did not meet.

**Budget & Audit Committee**:

* Did not meet.

**Buildings, Grounds, Camping & Construction Committee**:

* May 15 – Horse Show, Wedding & Hazzard Waste Collection scheduled.
* Light situation in horse arena and grandstand – Lisa Johnson proposed we consider renting lights for the grandstand.
* Jennifer Senn received a request from MI HS Rodeo to do camping and stall reservations online. Carrie Harkness suggested this be offered as non-refundable and to raise price by $5, suggested Stall $25 a day and Camping $30 a day electric, $20 a day for rustic. Jennifer Senn made a motion to accept the current contract for the MI HS Rodeo on June 11 – 13, 2021 “as is” for online registration to be non-refundable, with no convenience fee. Support Becka Merren. Motion passed.
* Rachel Croy asked who is in charge of cleaning up the fairgrounds for upcoming rentals. Lisa Johnson advised that the Livestock Committee is scheduled for the 21st of May to clean up the pavilion. Todd Hetherington advised Rachel to provide him with a list of things she feels needs addressed.
* Jennifer Senn presented a quote from Amble Electric (Jake Newman) for water & electric in campground of $30,000, that would be for 20 sites. Melissa Eldridge advised that we should know anytime if the grant she helped apply for has been awarded.

**Rental Committee**:

* Brad Heft presented the Rental Committee Report. During April 2021MCFA had 2 successful events, 3 contracts signed (2 weddings & 1 baby shower).
* Jennifer Senn advised she heard there was a problem with Sound Solution’s Event at our facility, complaints by neighbors. Lisa Johnson advised her that she informed callers (she received) that it would be done by 4pm. Will need to take this into consideration in the future.

**Judges**:

* Mary Newman presented Cheryl’s report on Judges (See Attachment).
* Mary further advised that they are working on revising contract. Gratiot has provided a sample, but discussion suggested that it remain on a single year basis.
* Cheryl Rosso is not getting all of her messages on phone, has requested that anyone contacting her please use email.
* Lisa Johnson will be meeting with Kim Thomsen to get still exhibit judges.

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

* Covid Plan – submitted by Mary Newman for approval. Lisa Johnson suggested we put it out there that we are running at Phase I. Mary suggested we get our “point of contact” person chosen and in place. Motion by Melissa Eldridge, support by Doug Jackson to accept as written. Motion passed.
* Todd Hetherington to draft a letter advising of Fair is “on” and a Covid Plan is in place. Tarin Minkel to send out to 4-H families. Tammi Jahnke to include with the minutes to members. Jennifer Senn to put on the fair website, FB Fair page and various project area groups. Need a press release from Todd.

**Concessions, Commercial Exhibits & Grandstand**:

* Antique Tractors – Monday, Mini-modified – Tuesday, Rodeo – Friday, Demo Derby – Saturday.
* Gazzellas is having a labor issue, will at minimum bring elephant ears & pitas, Dryes (sp?) coming with french-fries. Still need to contact Dairy Barn, Lions Club, plus a couple more.

**Fairbook & Showorks**

* Reported by Michelle Nitengale. Showorks has been copied. Still Exhibits will not register, just show up and be judged. Still Exhibit Auction registration & preforming arts show registration. Michelle feels we need to set a number as to how many will insure we go forward with Saturday Still Exhibit Auction, if not enough then maybe schedule before Livestock Auction.
* Michelle will not be sending out a list to approve to leaders of class registrations.
* Michelle will get a list showing number of exhibitors registered in each project area to Tammi Jahnke to attach to these minutes.

**Awards/Trophies**:

* Tarin Minkel advised that we can use up any ribbons or awards with the 4-H logo.
* Amber Ryan advised that we will purchase additional ribbons with fair logo.
* Amber also asked if we still do the jackets (old price $60, now $90), sponsors needed, who is getting? Lisa advised that Marketing & Fundraising is working on that.

**Marketing & Fundraising Committee**:

* Lisa Johnson and Mary Newman advised that they have put together a plan. Lowest level is $25 to sponsor a class and goes up from there. Those who sponsor 4 classes will receive a parking pass. Sponsors who purchase $250 Banners (cost $36) will be displayed on the horse practice arena, grandstand fence, livestock arena area, or to sponsor the “free shows” that are still in the works. If sponsorship is larger, banner is larger. Working on show sponsors at $500 and $750 for Rodeo Chutes, $100 to sponsor a Bull. Also, searching for larger sponsors as in the past. MCC committed to $5,000. Received a $1,500 donation tonight per Lisa
* Billboard person (per Lisa) advised there is no billboard for us for June even though they have our money.

**Old Business**:

* Still Exhibit Auction. Mary checked with the Health Dept about the Food Auction and the showing of Foods which she has been informed is not restricted.
* Jason Nadeau made a Motion to go back to a Still Exhibit Auction that includes both the still exhibit projects and the food projects as we have done in the past. Support by Mary. Motion carried. (Melissa Eldridge – opposed, remainder of board – supported).
* Free shows over the course of 3 days will be a substitute for Kids Day per Lisa Johnson. To be held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.
* Jennifer Senn made a motion that we do not shorten Fair Week and that we have a normal Fair. Lisa seconded. Motion passed.

**New Business**:

* Jennifer Senn made a motion to pay cleaning lady, Nelda Anderson $600 for Monday through Saturday to clean campground bathhouse, in addition Nelda gets to utilize camping site 112. Nelda is willing to clean on additional days at the rate of $100 per day, if needed. Support Melissa Eldridge. Motion passed.
* Jennifer Senn made a motion we continue to adhere to our policy of check-in and check-out times as listed in the Fairbook in regards to Exhibitors with special requests. We will not deviate from our current policies within the Fairbook. Lisa Johnson support. Motion passed.
* Motion by Amanda Wall that after still exhibits are shown in the open arena, anyone who earns honors or best of show to exhibit inside of the building. Lisa moved to table the motion and discussion to next Fairboard meeting. Amanda Wall support. Motion passed and Amanda’s motion is tabled until next meeting.
* Motion to set a Special Fairboard meeting made by Jason Nadeau for May 25, 2021 at 7:00pm. Support Jennifer Senn. Motion passed.

Motion made by Jason Nadequ to adjourn. Support Doug Jackson. Meeting adjourned at 9:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Tammi Jahnke, Secretary

Next Meeting Dates:

Special Meeting - 25 May 2021 at 7:00 PM

Regular Meeting - 7 June 2021 at 7:00 PM

At Ash Building, Montcalm County Fairgrounds,

Greenville, Michigan

ALL Fair Committee Members and interested 4-H Volunteers/Members

are invited to attend.