

po box 513 • Greenville, MI 48838

Montcalm County Fair Association Board Meeting

1 May 2023

Montcalm County Fairgrounds, Greenville, MI

The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm by Todd Hetherington and the Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H Pledge were recited.

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: Brad Heft, Shaun Hyde, Shirley Dean, Joe Minkel, Tom Aldridge, Sunni Haglund, Dan Ryan, Amber Ryan and Amanda Wall.

Directors Absent: Doug Jackson

Others present were:

Katie Johnson – Rental Coordinator - Absent

Sunni Haglund – MSUE PC

Guests: Jackie Nadeau, Tonya Goodrich, Mary Gee, and Tarin Minkel.

Secretary Minutes from 3 April 2023 presented by Tammi Jahnke. Motion to approve made by Jason Nadeau. Second by Sunni Haglund. Motion passed to place minutes on file.

Financials presented through the end of March 2023 by Treasurer Lisa Johnson. Motion to approve financials through the end of March 2023 by Sunni Haglund. Second by Jason Nadeau. Motion passed to place financials on file. Lisa further advised she has paid the annual liability and buildings insurance $14,600 (5% increase from 2022) and added the livestock building to the policy.

**Guest Comments**

* None

**Extension Office**:

* See Sunni’s report

**Executive Committee**:

* Did not meet.

**Budget & Audit Committee**:

* Did not meet.

**Bylaws:**

* It was discussed and agreed that the Directors will meet for a workshop to review proposals on Monday, May 15, 2023 7pm at Ash Building.

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

* Todd Hetherington advised water is turned on and chlorination completed on the fairgrounds.
* Fair clean-up: Sunni Haglund has compiled a list of clubs, and Jackie Nadeau provided a list of what needs to be cleaned up. Sunni will be assisting with assignments.
* Jason Nadeau advised there are 23 4-H clubs and that he is going to make a list of club assignments for trash pick-up on grounds morning and night during fair week for the clubs to follow.
* Drainage Issue. Joe Minkel did a topographical map of elevation and evaluated the standing water issues. Advised that it will take a large amount of dirt to redo the area to increase water flow to drainage area. Sunni Haglund has contacted and is waiting to hear back from DNR as to what kind of treatment can be used. Shirley Dean suggested mosquito fish introduced into the stagnant pond area(s) (non-moving water). Sunni Haglund to check with conservation department on Shirley’s idea. Todd Hetherington and Joe Minkel suggested changing the grade wherever possible for right now. Project needs a scope of work then ditch/grading quotes before can go forward.
* Jennifer Senn advised by email to Tammi Jahnke that the Electric and Water campsites are full plus 13 rustic sites.

**Rental Committee**:

* Rental report. Ash hosting open house and employee party in April. Has been signing weddings including for 2024. Will be cleaning the horse announcer’s booth and bath house this week.

**Judges**:

* Per Amanda Wall, all judges are hired.

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

* Last weigh-in is May 3,2023
* Shirley Dean brought up concerns regarding bio-security during weigh-in, such as cleaning feet, etc.
* Written request from 4-Her Zoe Ward to deviate from fair requirements due to a school trip. Todd Hetherington advised that prior to the MCFA Board meeting he received an email from Cory Wall, President of the Livestock Committee stating their committee approved the request. Discussion followed, including how past requests of the same nature had been addressed. Tammi Jahnke pulled previous minutes that included these requests, for discussion. Becka Merren made a motion to deny the request as MCFA Board has done in the past. Support by Lisa Johnson. Motion passed.

**Concessions, Commercial Exhibits & Grandstand**:

* Shirley Dean advised that they met on April 24th. Shirley is working on creating a one-day contract for a Food Trucks Face-off Contest on Kid’s Day and securing vendors. Lisa Johnson is working on developing a map of locations.

**Fairbook & Showorks**

* Showorks is opening middle of May 2023.

**Awards/Trophies**:

* All orders are placed per Amanda Wall.

**Marketing & Fundraising Committee**:

* Jackie Nadeau shared that the Mom2Mom Sale brought in $930.30 (13 vendors).
* Jackie Nadeau and Tarin Minkel advised that the committee sent out approximately 730 letters to businesses requesting Sponsors. To date $9,570 in online donations has come in (in 7 days). Committee was given 300 stamps as a donation, but also purchased stamps and paper to accomplish the mailing.
* Shirley Dean made a motion to adjust budget by allocating $2,000 towards the marketing committee for use in solicitation and advertising for next year’s budget (2023-2024 budget). Support by Sunni Haglund. Motion passed.
* Sunni Haglund made a motion that the committee be allowed to use remaining funds from the Mom2Mom Sale budget towards the rest of advertising for this year. Support by Shirley Dean. Motion carried.
* Jackie Nadeau presented a Reverse Raffle idea. Example is to sell 300 tickets for $30 each. Don’t have to be present to win. Last number drawn wins largest jackpot. Amber Ryan made a motion for the market and fundraising committee to do a reverse raffle after fair, once licensing is obtained. Joe Minkel second. Motion passed.
* Jackie Nadeau requested permission to do 50/50 ticket sales during grandstand events on Friday and Saturday of the Fair 2023. Shirley Dean made a motion to allow such sales, Jason Nadeau second. Motion passed.
* Jackie Nadeau advised that in July that the committee would like to get the fair community together for a potluck and family fun day.
* Also announced that Special Needs Day will be Wednesday (June 21st) of Fair 10am to Noon, as that is what works best with the carnival. Only issue might be that it is swine and rabbit showing day. Committee is hoping to offer hot dogs and water.
* Shirley Dean heard back from the Greenville Foundation. MCFA has been awarded $6,000 from the Greenville Foundation towards cost of Reading for Rides.
* Tarin Minkel gave an update on the MCFA website redesign. Fairboard approved $6,500 budget, $1,265.08 is the cost thus far. Also, looking into purchasing a clover machine to process credit cards, and a software that will sell tickets through the website with QR codes. Website has been successful collecting sponsorships. Next year it there may be the ability to reserve your exact campsite lot. Committee will be suggesting that unused funds from this budget be rolled over into better internet service at the fairgrounds.

**Accessibility Committee:**

* No report.

**Kids Day Committee:**

* Shirley Dean advised this committee is meeting on May 5th. More to come after the meeting.
* Sunni Haglund advised that local military recruiters have offered to bring in an inflatable activity for Kid’s Day, if they can have a recruiting booth here all week. Directors agreed, support for our military should be shown at fair.

**Old Business**:

* MDARD grant, Melissa sent a text that May 5th we should know yea or nay.

**New Business**:

* Superintendents – Sunni Haglund has gotten what she needs and is happy with the responsibilities listed. Sunni suggests that they be gold level volunteers and go through the background check. Shirley suggested that background checks be required, but not be gold level volunteers.
* Addressed date issue on registrations vs. fairbook/website.
* Jason requested permission to purchase a trailer (running gear with a rack) for the fairgrounds to be able to move rocks, brush, etc. Joe made a motion to allow $1500 for a wagon, Tammi second. Motion passed.

Motion made by Jason Nadeau to adjourn. Support by Shirley Dean. Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.

Respectfully submitted by Tammi Jahnke, Secretary

Next Meeting Dates:

Regular Meeting – 5 June 2022 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.