

po box 513 • Greenville, MI 48838

Montcalm County Fair Association Board Meeting

5 June 2023

Montcalm County Fairgrounds, Greenville, MI

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm 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, Tom Aldridge, Sunni Haglund, Doug Jackson, Shirley Dean, Amanda Wall Joe Minkel, Shaun Hyde, and Amber Ryan.

Others present were:

Sunni Haglund – MSUE PC

Guests: Jackie Nadeau, Mary Gee, Steve VanHolstyn, Bo Stephenson.

Directors and other Representatives Absent:

Dan Ryan – Director

Katie Johnson – Rental Coordinator

Secretary Minutes from 1 May 2023 presented by Tammi Jahnke. Motion to approve made by Lisa Johnson. Second by Jason Nadeau. Motion passed to place minutes on file.

Financials presented through the end of April 2023 by Treasurer Lisa Johnson. Motion to approve financials through the end of April 2023 by Tammi Jahnke. Second by Amber Ryan. Motion passed to place financials on file.

**Guest Comments**

* Steve VanHolstyn, Montcalm Township Fire Dept. – Expressed appreciation from Montcalm Township Fire Dept. for ability use of facility for funeral fire chief’s wife. Fire Dept. proposing that they will be present for poor man pullers, kids’ day, truck pulls, and demo derby (and small staff for antique tractor pull).

**Extension Office**:

* Goose Chase Game and Random of Acts of Kindness Recognition will take place during Fair, along with several other events. List in June Newsletter. Sunni Haglund also presented board with a draft of an event list. Sunni also shared laminated signs advertising events that she has put together to place around the grounds during fair.
* Tammi Jahnke and Sunni Haglund advised that the 4-H CCC events for Fair are in place, Daily News will be advertising the Line Dance on the front page of the paper on June 15th. Spirit Stick will be done at opening ceremonies. Smores event is planned, pending ability to use community bonfire. Pizza Party for the 5 clubs who participated in DeVos Children’s Hospital community service collection will be on the last Saturday of Fair at campsite 115, at 5pm. Clubs included are: Kids, Critters & Crafts, Rebel Clovers, TriCounty Country, Hoofbeaters and 4H Future Leaders.

**Executive Committee**:

* Has not met.

**Bylaws:**

* Met, still working out some details

**Budget & Audit Committee**:

* Did not meet.

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

* Lisa Johnson has refunded some campsite cancelations (approx. 6). Carnival used campground to stay in between moving to another location, will receive payment for use. Received another call to use our campground from another carnival/vendor in transit for 5 days.
* Amber Ryan received a request from the 4-H Horse Leaders Committee requesting $450 from the fair board for renovation of the fence in the horse area (estimate: stain $360, cleaning and supplies $50, plus tax). Amber Ryan made a motion to approve up to $500 for horse leaders’ request. Second by Doug Jackson. Motion passed.
* Todd Hetherington presented a list from of questions to the horse leaders committee in response to an email he received. What are the kegs claimed to be missing, Amanda Wall advised 3 barrel racing kegs. Todd and Amanda to go out to horse area after meeting and check sound system and list of other needs. Horse count for fair is 66 per Amanda Wall. Todd noted that only need 1 barn to accommodate horses for fair. Sunni Haglund advised that leftover sand from small animal is available for horse stalls if needed and that Tonya Badge is aware.
* Lisa Johnson brought up woodchucks are an issue again.
* Shirley Dean advised that sand needs to be moved out of the walkway isles in the small animal barn.
* Todd Hetherington received a quote on brine (due to dry weather). Recommended that it be spread 3 – 5 days before people come into fairgrounds, plus Saturday prior to fair starting, estimated 5,000 gallons needed, cost offered Todd is $1,000 without sponsor banners, $700 with 2 sponsor banners at main gate, sheep/dairy barn. Lisa Johnson made a motion to spend up to $1,000 for brine. Doug Jackson second. Motion passed.
* Todd Hetherington advised quote from Randy Taylor to restripe and seal cracks in parking lot $844, $2,350 for complete job. Lisa advised B&E offer to give $1,000 per year if get to us his sponsor sign year around and fill, seal crack and striping. Asphalt tabled to next meeting pending further quotes/investigation.
* Campfires – Montcalm Township Fire Dept. advised that we need to give notice now that campfires may be banned during fair week due to dry, no rain = fire hazards, until further notice. Shirley Dean made a motion that Jennifer Senn and Sunni Haglund work together to get this information out through the appropriate channels. Tammi Jahnke Second. Motion passed.
* Todd Hetherington brought up a dog issue from last year. Currently doesn’t appear we have a policy to enforce problem with “aggressive” dogs. Doug Jackson made a motion that we make an immediate policy that aggressive or dangerous animals are not allowed on the fairgrounds. Owners of such animals will be asked to vacate the fairgrounds immediately with such animal at the determination of any fair board director. Becka Merren support. Motion passed.

**Rental Committee**:

* Katie Johnson emailed a report on the rental activities to date for the month of May 2023, which Brad Heft shared (report attached).
* Discussion by board that we need to look at better ways to handle the Fair/Rental Calendar with Rental Committee.

**Judges**:

* Herdsmanship Judging – Amanda Wall will get with Sunni Haglund to work out remaining details.
* Discussed exhibitor with special needs – final suggestion by board is that superintendents be advised if exhibitor(s) in their project area has/have the need of special accommodations and/or disabilities, and the superintendent shall advise judge(s) regarding child participating in class(es). Judge can then decide how they wish to take that into consideration when adhering to judging guidelines.

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

* Scale balancing is scheduled.
* No other concerns at this time.

**Concessions, Commercial Exhibits & Grandstand**:

* Lisa Johnson advised we need people (other than just the directors) for grandstand events who can sell tickets, watch back gate, assist with the events and be able to do more than one hour of volunteering. Directors are asked to recruit volunteers.
* Lisa advised fire extinguishers have been exchanged in out buildings. Advanced Life Support has been scheduled through Montcalm Co EMS. Rental of Skytrax is done. Lisa has also rented tents. Inventory and cleaning of banners has been completed. New banner on semi-trailer. Have parking passes and help with parking setup. Sheriff’s posse ready.

**Fairbook & Showorks**

* Entries are closed. Some failed to meet the deadline per Mary Gee. Pen counts should be to the superintendents by June 9, 2023.

**Awards/Trophies**:

* Per Amanda Wall picking up awards/trophies June 6, 2023.

**Marketing & Fundraising Committee**:

* Per $30,445 raised per Jackie Nadeau. Waiting for another $1,500 yet. Will be on the grounds on June 15, 2023 hanging up banners.

**Accessibility Committee:**

* No report.

**Kids Day:**

* Per Shirley Dean – still working on punch card or passports which will be handed out to obtain free ice cream at dairy barn. Also working on balloon animals, tv characters, and advertising. May have eggs hatching in two difference places and a Blandford Nature Center exhibit.

**Old Business**:

* Todd Hetherington advised that the MDARD grant we received is for $35,000. We are required to put a $17,500 match with it. Priority one (per Melissa Eldridge according to grant approval) is that it is to get spent between Ash Building to the Grandstands for drainage and an ADA walkway to the Grandstands. We should see our paperwork within the week, which means nothing will happen between now and fair. To begin on project after fair.
* Per Amber Ryan, Dan Ryan will not be available at fair as his daughter qualified for Nationals.

**New Business**:

* Discussion and unanimous consent that the board move the next MCFA July 3rd meeting to July 10, 2023.
* Amanda Wall made a motion to set fair for 2024 at a special meeting of the MCFA Directors to be scheduled on Friday, June 23, 2023 or before. Second by Amber. Motion passed.

Motion made by Jason Nadeau to adjourn. Support by Sunni. Meeting adjourned at 9:13pm.

Respectfully submitted by Tammi Jahnke, Secretary

Next Meeting Dates:

Regular Meeting – 10 July 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.