

po box 513 • Greenville, MI 48838

Montcalm County Fair Association Board Meeting

10 July 2023

Montcalm County Fairgrounds, Greenville, MI

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm pm by Todd Hetherington and the Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H Pledge were recited.

Board members present:

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

Directors: Brad Heft, Shaun Hyde, Doug Jackson, Amanda Wall, Shirley Dean, Joe Minkel, and Sunni Haglund.

Directors Absent: 1st Vice President Jason Nadeau, Amber Ryan, Tom Aldridge, and Dan Ryan.

Others present were:

Katie Johnson – Rental Coordinator

Sunni Haglund – MSUE PC

Guests: Jackie Nadeau, Mary Gee, and Michelle Nitengale.

Secretary Minutes from 5 June 2023 and Special Meeting on 22 June 2023 presented by Tammi Jahnke. Motion to approve made by Shirley Dean. Second by Shaun Hyde. Motion passed to place minutes on file.

Financials presented through the end of May 2023 by Treasurer Lisa Johnson. Motion to approve financials through the end of May 2023 by Tammi Jahnke. Second by Doug Jackson. Motion passed to place financials on file.

Financials presented through the end of June 2023 by Treasurer Lisa Johnson. Motion to table approval of the financials through the end of June 2023 to the August 7, 2023 meeting by Tammi Jahnke. Second by Doug Jackson. Motion passed to place financials on file.

**Guest Comments**

* None

**Extension Office**:

* Sunni – Kids Summer Days at Fair, State Horse Show, Shoot Sports & Dog Show coming up

**Executive Committee**:

* Did not meet.

**Bylaws:**

* Lisa Johnson brought up setting Annual Meeting. Lisa made a motion to set Annual Meeting for Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 3pm per suggestion from the Bylaw Committee. Support by Sunni Haglund. Motion passed.
* Directors are still waiting for direction from attorney to finish review and revision of Bylaws.

**Budget & Audit Committee**:

* Did not meet.

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

* Mary Gee proposed that we entertain a group from a National Guard Unit out of Battle Creek before deployment in October 2023, that is looking for community service jobs, to assist fairgrounds maintenance/improvements. Need a scope of work from directors, materials and large equipment, 3 meals a day and use of campground for a 3-day weekend. Lisa Johnson made a motion to approve the concept of having them here and leave it up to the Committee to have a meeting asap to come up with the scope of work and dates that coordinate with our calendar. Support by Tammi Jahnke. Motion passed.
* Sunni Haglund advised that Kim Thomsen brought up an issue during fair that the handicap porta-johns she is unable to use with assistance due to a privacy issue. Michelle Nitengale suggested that we need a wall in front of the handicap porta-john for privacy. Lisa Johnson advised that the concession stand was built with the intent of adding a restroom in the future. Committee to discuss further.
* Shirley Dean mentioned upgrading sound system everywhere on the fairgrounds except for horse area, which is working well. Small animal barn is the worst.
* Shirley Dean also shared thoughts that long term the small animal area needs a larger arena. Todd Hetherington suggested that goats be moved to sheep/alpaca barn and use larger arena. Amanda Wall made a suggestion to send to the livestock/small animal committees for review and suggestions.
* Katie Johnson advised that there are two stalls in women’s restroom at Ash Building that are not functioning, needing repair.

**Rental Committee**:

* Katie Johnson reported on the rental activities to date for the month of June 2023. Horse shows had issues with dry arenas, Todd Hetherington came out and watered it down when called. Cliff Dickenson also assisted. Open house, quinceanera, and wedding took place. Events are booking for 2024 and has a meeting for a potential 2025 event.

**Judges**:

* Did not meet.

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

* Did not meet.

**Concessions, Commercial Exhibits & Grandstand**:

* Demo Derby is interested in doing the later date if we move fair to later in June 2024.

**Fairbook & Showorks**

* Michelle Nitengale advised Showorks worked well once internet was fixed. Night of auction went well. New building worked well.
* Michelle Nitengale also advised that our server needs to be replaced. Floyd is working on some costs ($5,500 for a new one).
* There is still approx. $7,500 to collect from auction per Michelle.

**Awards/Trophies**:

* Amanda Wall advised meeting with Holly next week to sort out and get numbers needed for 2024.

**Marketing, Website, Communications & Fundraising Committee**:

* Jackie Nadeau advised that we processed $44,000 to $45,000 through new website (income for various items, events, camping, sponsors, etc.).
* Committee’s next meeting on July 18th.

**Accessibility Committee:**

* Did not meet.

**Kids Day:**

* Shirley Dean reported 552 attending reading for rides, 237 redeemed passports, had positive feedback on passports and map. Worst part was the carnival issues, but received good reviews on the rest that was set-up for the kids.
* Katie Johnson reported that special needs day went well and attendees were happy with what was made available.

**Old Business**:

* Amanda Wall made a motion to have 2024 fair from June 23rd through June 29th. Support by Becka Merren. Motion passed.
* MDARD Grant - Melissa Eldridge has not been responded to Todd Hetherington’s email requests for information.
* Discussed issues that happened in camping area and fairgrounds. Reiterated that Directors and Camping Committee are empowered to address issues (ie. loudness, safety, etc.).
* Per Shirley Dean, goat shows starting early caused a problem with shows still going on in other project areas.
* Todd Hetherington read a letter received from anonymous – complaint regarding adult showmanship apparel.
* Shirley Dean brought up that a discussion needs to take place about respect for judges by parents. Agreed that work needs to be done in this area.

**New Business**:

* Sunni Haglund suggested purchasing a laser printer for the officer. Lisa Johnson suggested letting current printer die first.
* Sunni Haglund asked for discussion regarding changing accounts from Huntington to another bank. Discussion took place. No change at this time.

Motion made by Doug Jackson to adjourn. Support by Becka Merren. Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Tammi Jahnke, Secretary

Next Meeting Dates:

Regular Meeting – 7 August 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.