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Montcalm County Fair Association Board Meeting  
4 December 2023  
Montcalm County Fairgrounds, Greenville, MI

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Todd Hetherington and the Pledge of Allegiance and 4-H Pledge were recited.

Board members present:

Officers: President Todd Hetherington, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jason Nadeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Brad Heft, Treasurer Lisa Johnson, and Secretary Tammi Jahnke

Directors: Becka Merren, Shaun Hyde, Jamison German, Tammy Hancock, Shirley Dean, Joe Minkel, Tom Aldridge, and Sunni Haglund.

Directors Absent: Amber Ryan

Others present were:  
Sunni Haglund – MSUE PC

Guests: Jackie Nadeau, Nikki Chaffin, Mary Gee, Michelle Nitengale, Melissa Williams, Serena Newman, and Mark Newman

Additions to Agenda:

- MAFE Report from Lisa, she has made the reservations for: Sunni, Brad, Joe, Tammi, Tammy, Tommy, Lisa, Shirley, Jamison, Becka, Jason, and Todd to attend the Conference in January 2024.

Secretary Minutes from November 2023 presented by Tammi Jahnke. Motion to approve made by Sunni. Second by Beck. Motion passed to place minutes on file.

Financials presented through the end of October 2023 by Treasurer Lisa Johnson. Motion to approve financials through the end of October 2023 by Jason. Second by Becka. Motion passed to place financials on file.

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### **Guest Comments**

- None

### **Extension Office:**

- See Attached Report provided by Sunni Haglund.
- Motion by Tammi Jahnke to pick top five fair themes from the themes sent in by 4 of the 4-H Clubs, then have Sunni Haglund conduct a 4-H Members' vote to determine the 2024 fair theme. Second by Sunni Haglund. Motion Passed. Five themes:
  - 1) Roaring Twenties,
  - 2) Life is Sweet at the Fair (Candyland),
  - 3) Fiesta at the Fairgrounds,
  - 4) Western Whirlwind,
  - 5) and Yo Ho! It's a Fairs Life for Me.
- 4-H CCC Report from Tammi Jahnke – Challenge to clubs for December 2023 is “Acts of Kindness” and the DeVos Children’s Hospital Collection Challenge will take place for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year beginning in January 2024 through the end of February 2024.

### **Executive Committee:**

- Did not meet.

### **Budget & Audit Committee:**

- Met on November 30, 2023. See Minutes Attached.

### **Bylaws:**

- Committee has a meeting scheduled for the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2023, at 6pm.

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

- Lisa Johnson suggested raising the UTV fees during fair, currently at \$40. Agreed that the board will revisit this after attending MAFE.
- Todd Hetherington advised that Schrocks is coming to look at the leaking barn roof issue in the month of December 2023, dependent upon weather.
- Todd Hetherington advised that the Drain Commission is trying to compile a list for us as to why we are not compliant. Michelle Nitengale asked if Todd could verify that they have our site plan on file, Todd agreed to do so.

### **Rental Committee:**

- Rental Committee did not meet.
- Katie Johnson provided a Rental Report to Brad Heft to share for the month of November. See Attached.
- Request from Katie Johnson presented, to be allowed to rent the Ash Building for an event on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2024. Calendar was reviewed. Motion to allow by Jason Nadeau, Second by Brad Heft. Motion passed.

- Winter Storage – Lisa Johnson reported that approximately \$9,000 income so far, should end up approximately \$11,000 income. Approximately room for 4 more.

#### **Judges:**

- Sunni Haglund reported that she obtained a list of Judges from MAFE and MSU. She has sent emails/letters out to get response from those interested.

#### **Livestock/Agriculture/Bio-Security/MCFAAC:**

- Tammy Hancock made the suggestion that the meetings of the board and its subcommittees need to be more professional going forward, then they have been in the past, in order to set a better example for the youth and adults in attendance.
- Michelle Nitengale made a statement in regards to the MCFAAC November 2023 meeting. A copy of which Michelle has provided and is attached/incorporated into these minutes.

#### **Concessions, Commercial Exhibits & Grandstand Events:**

- These Exhibits and Events will be addressed at MAFE Conference by those Directors in attendance.
  - Suggestions made to Directors: Carnival needed, consider a Rodeo, Battle of the Bands, the Mini-Mods wish to come back, and we have a signed contract already for Demo Derby.

#### **Fairbook & Showworks**

- Michelle Nitengale reported that rabbits section of the fairbook has been updated and beef updates have been made to include a prospect beef class. Asked about horse stall fee being left in fairbook – Sunni Haglund reported that the committee would like it left in the fairbook even if it is not used, so if there is a need to use in the future, they have that option.
- Motion to approve the prospect beef class made by Tammi Jahnke, Second by Sunni Haglund. Motion passed.
- Jason Nadeau made a motion to leave the horse stall fee option in the fair book in case of need for future use. Second by Sunni Haglund. Motion passed.
- Per Todd Hetherington is still working on the drug information update to the fairbook regarding the livestock.
- Michelle Nitengale advised she has new server now at the fairgrounds and will be working with Floyd to get it set-up. She will contact the Executive Committee when ready to proceed forward.

#### **Awards/Trophies:**

- Committee did not meet.

**Marketing/Fundraising/Website/Communications Committee:**

- Committee met on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 – See minutes attached.
- Jackie Nadeau asked for access to a list of association membership. Sunni Haglund made a motion to allow this committee to send out their letters to sponsors/buyers and be allowed the MCFA association membership list and the MCFAAC buyers list. Sunni rescinded her motion. Discussion followed. Sunni Haglund made a “new” motion to release the MCFA Association Membership List to the committee to use in sending out sponsorship opportunities. Becka Merren supported. Motion passed.
- Haunted Barn income/expense: Per Lisa Johnson still computing expenses but appears to be an approximate \$8,000 profit.
- Jackie Nadeau advised the committee has begun selling 300 Mega Raffle Tickets at \$10 a-piece for the Reverse Raffle.

**Accessibility Committee:**

- Per Todd Hetherington, the committee met in November 2022 and have set the next meeting for January 15<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday) at the Ash Building at 7:15pm.

**Kids Day (Youth, Family & Community) Committee:**

- Have not met. Will meet briefly following this meeting.

**Old Business:**

- None.

**New Business:**

- MCFAAC brought request from a youth that wishes to show 3 steers at 3 different fairs (Ionia, Kent and Montcalm). We don't currently have a rule against youth showing at multiple fairs. Directors will explore this more at MAFE with other Michigan Fair Directors.

Motion made by Jason Nadeau to adjourn. Support by Becka Merren. Meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Tammi Jahnke, Secretary

Next Meeting Dates:

Regular Meeting – 8 January 2024 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.

Fair Dates – June 23<sup>rd</sup> through June 29<sup>th</sup> 2024