

**Cass County Fair Association**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Gregarek Building**  
**March 8, 2022**

**GUESTS:** Sheriff Behnke, the Starr family, the Jeffery Peterson family, Joe Vargo, Karen Wright, Diane Skibbe, Pauline Harris, Robin Brenneman, Sara Brenneman, Bobbi Labar and Brenda Smego.

**ABSENT:** Zelda Cloud and Gene Deubner.

**KUEMIN:** The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by President Brian Kuemin.

The minutes of the February 8, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Daryl moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Rodney. Brian noted that the discussion about adding seven year old exhibitors did not include still exhibits, and he believes the minutes should reflect that seven year old exhibitors have all the same opportunities as the eight year old exhibitors. Daryl moved to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by Rodney. Motion carried.

The financial report was reviewed. Mike moved to approve the report as submitted, seconded by Shane. Motion carried.

**GUEST:** **Karen Wright** asked if there has been any further progress on what to do with the goats (space wise) this year. She met with her committee and came up with a potential layout and type of pens needed. There is \$21,313 in the goat fund at this time. That would probably not cover the entire expense for the gates, but a large portion of it. She also gave clarification that exhibitors are limited to six goats each, but with their total number for 2021, the average number being exhibited is less than two goats per exhibitor. Karen answered some questions about the potential design of the pens. Brian indicated that the board needed to move forward with purchasing the gates, no matter where the goats end up being housed this year. After discussion, it was determined that Karen would get a definite estimate for the project so that we can move forward.

**GUEST:** **Sheriff Behnke** spoke about the planned 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. He spoke with the Liquor Control Commission as he found that an application was submitted for a liquor license for this event. He explained the strain that the event will create for emergency services due to numerous other events going on in the area as well. He has since spoken to the event coordinator who told him that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event is being cancelled because they couldn't get the liquor license authorized. He just wished to communicate with the board about these types of events and planning for the future.

GUEST: **Barbie Starr** brought two members of the Niles FFA chapter, **Asia Peterson** and **Adam Starr**, and advised that they are both competing at the Michigan state FFA final contests this week. Both presented their speeches that they will deliver during those contests, and board members asked questions upon completion of their speeches. Both thanked the board for the opportunity to give their presentations.

GUEST: **Brenda Smego** advised that they had a sponsorship kickoff meeting and everything is going well.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SMEGO: Brenda reported that she got the grant application completed using the three bids that were submitted from VFP Fire Systems, FE Moran and Fox Fire Safety. If we are awarded the bid, the state would provide us with \$100,000 toward the project. Dave moved to use the VFP Fire Systems bid to apply for the grant, seconded by Daryl. Motion carried.

KUEMIN: Brian reported that the Grabemeyers happily accepted to serve as the 2022 Grand Marshals.

KUEMIN: Brian distributed copies of the committee lists for review and any needed changes.

PETERSON: Gail asked if June 11<sup>th</sup> would be a good date for the swine vaccinations. This date was confirmed.

Validation for goats, sheep and dairy feeders would normally be May 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, however that Sunday is Mother's Day. He asked if that needed to be changed. Karen Wright suggested moving the validation to the prior weekend. The board will review the calendar and if the dates are changed, notice will be sent out as soon as possible.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

PETERSON: Gail asked if the board wanted to review the seven year old exhibitor issue any further. It was discussed that the only thing that was not made clear about that issue is that the exhibitor has to choose between clover bud and regular exhibitor.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

SMEGO: Brenda brought up emergency planning for off season events. She advised that the current rental agreements that we have really are not sufficient. She had a

meeting with the safety committee today and they came up with some ideas. She reported that part of the problem with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July event that has been canceled is that they advised the board they would provide their own security, and then went to the Sheriff asking for security. So the board needs to have more detailed plans for this type of event. She suggested a spring workshop to put together an emergency plan.

Brenda asked if the board wanted to plan a spring campout. Discussion. It was decided to go with Memorial Day weekend for the spring fling campout.

Brenda is meeting tomorrow with Patty on the fair book.

KUEMIN: There is a superintendent's meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 P.M. in the Kincheloe Room at the old courthouse.

Brian advised that there are three YQCA classes scheduled for this spring.

Brian reminded everyone of the Avian flu being found in Kalamazoo County, which of course is a concern.

Brian reported that Sara Heuer contacted him today about the draft horse pulls. She asked if the arrangement would be the same as far as paying for the event half and half. As that arrangement seems to be working out, the board was agreed that this practice could continue for 2022.

SMEGO: Brenda reported that the Paint Horse Show has been booked on the grounds this year. This will utilize approximately 120 stalls and is scheduled in August.

KUEMIN: Brian asked if Brenda had met with Emily from the Village of Cassopolis about utilizing the electronic signs to advertise fair week (and other events occurring on the grounds). Brenda advised that she was supposed to meet with Emily today but the meeting has been postponed and she will address that with her, among other things.

PETERSON: Gail asked if anything needed to be addressed as far as ribbons and awards for the draft horse project. Brian advised that those were disposed of last year so that should be all set.

HARRIS: Shane advised that the Blessing of the Tractors will be here on the fairgrounds on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 A.M.; gates open at 9:00 A.M.

TETER: Jim asked if there was going to be a committee formed to work on the goat gate project. April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 P.M. on the fairgrounds was decided to meet about the gate project.

KEESLER: Daryl asked Diane how she was feeling about changing financial institutions. She gave a good report on how Honor Credit Union.

WALDSCHMIDT:  
Rodney moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Daryl. Motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Hershberger  
Secretary