

Cass County Fair Association
Regular Meeting
CASS COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING
February 8, 2022

GUESTS: Robin Breneman, Sarah Breneman, Kayla DeVries, Tom Gregory, Pauline Harris, Bobbi Labar, Brenda Smego, Austin Towne, Nicki Williams and Lorenne Witham

ABSENT: Mike Frushour and Ben Waldschmidt

KUEMIN: The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Brian Kuemin and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The minutes of the January 11, 2022 regular meeting were reviewed. Shane moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Zelda. Motion carried.

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

GUESTS:

WITHAM: Rennie provided a handout to the board from Patty Dohm with proposed fair themes. Brian suggested if the board decides to have a contest in the future to have the kids propose the theme and not the artwork.

LABAR: Bobbi stated she spoke to the horse leaders and they are not in favor of the Cloverbuds showing on Friday night. The leaders are asking for a roped off area in the infield for the few trailers that come in for the show on Saturday. Discussion.

Bobbi asked if horse workouts can start in May. She would like to schedule a vet clinic in April on a Saturday morning. Brenda will check on a date and get back to her. The board consensus was for workouts to begin in May. Bobbi will let Brenda know the schedule and contacts for the workouts.

HARRIS: Pauline stated that the Farm Bureau directors met and discussed the banners on the midway. They would like to update those if the fair is agreeable to that. Discussion. Brenda will try to locate one of the banners.

SMEGO: Brenda proposed to write the grant for the fire suppression system in the Lowe Building. Brian stated that the MDARD grants will be available for \$1,000 to \$100,000 with a 50% match. The grant is due March 18th. The grant could be written for the fire suppression system and to get the water into the Lowe Building. Brenda said that Jason from Moore Brothers has been working on the walls and ceilings. They're moving along but the doors can't be opened to the addition until the fire suppression system is done. Diane stated the balance in the Lowe

Building fund is approximately \$80,000 plus. Zelda moved to write the grant for the fire suppression project for the Lowe Building, seconded by Shane. Motion carried.

Brenda reported on contracts and that they are coming right along. She needs to meet with Jesse Bement and/or Kevin Waldschmidt regarding the Tractor Pullers.

Brenda stated that Mike Frushour worked on programming for the office.

Brenda reported on the War on Wheels Derby from October. The fair came out \$1,030.45 on the positive side, split 50/50 with Tom Hartsell. A discussion will need to take place with Tom because some people were paid to help and some were not. The board thought people were volunteering, not being paid. Discussion.

Brenda reported that Ledrew Smith from Sunset Coast has a meeting with the Village Council on the 26th and should have answers. A Letter of Agreement went to the Village in November.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WALDSCHMIDT: Rodney stated that he spoke to DeWayne Spaw about singing during the rodeo show. Daryl moved to sign a contract to have DeWayne Spaw sing during the rodeo show, seconded by Zelda. Motion carried.

SMEGO: Brenda stated there is a sponsorship committee meeting this Thursday at 6:30 at her house. Anyone is welcome to attend.

Brenda reported that Mike signed a contract for the Monster Truckz for June 3rd - 5th. There will be 1 show Friday night, 2-3 shows Saturday and 1 on Sunday. Monster Truckz sets up the track and provide their own dirt/clay which will be left for the fair to use.

CLOUD: Zelda reported that she's been in contact with Nick of Nick's Kid Show. Something has come up and he is going into semi-retirement and only doing shows in Wisconsin. Zelda signed a contract with Down on the Farm Fun for \$5,500. The setup for Down on the Farm Fun is the same as Nick's Kid Show and will include kids. The owner will get his own hotel room. Zelda reported the contract for the bear show has been signed too.

OLD BUSINESS:

KUEMIN: Brian asked for the board consensus on the grand marshal for the 2022 fair. Discussion. Daryl moved to ask Bill and Diane Grabemeyer to be the grand marshalls, seconded by Rodney. Motion carried. Brian will contact Bill.

Brian opened the discussion on lowering the exhibitor age. There have been discussions, meetings and the board has talked to the superintendents and other fairs. The discussion is regarding the exhibitor age only, not 4-H age. The proposal by Nikki Williams and Kayla DeVries is to lower the exhibitor age to 5 years old. A couple of the superintendents are not in favor of lowering the age, including goats and swine. Light horses, draft horses and beef are not going

to lower the age. A lengthy discussion ensued with pros and cons. Zelda moved to lower the exhibitor age to 7 for showing and selling sheep, goats, swine, dairy, dairy feeder steers, poultry, rabbits, dogs and cats and the parents will have to take the PQA, seconded by Jill. Discussion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

KUEMIN: Brian reminded the board that the sponsorship kickoff meeting is Thursday.

BRATTON: Dave presented a proposal on purchasing a John Deere Gator from Greenmark. Dave has talked to several board members about the need for an additional work vehicle at fair, especially since the fair has more off season events. John Deere offers a 10% non-profit discount. The Gator is not in the budget but thinks that the board agrees it is needed. The cost is \$11,414 and if the fair pays for half, he will get sponsorships to cover the other half. Gene moved to purchase a John Deere Gator for half of \$11,414 and getting sponsorship for the remaining half, seconded by Rodney. Motion carried.

Dave passed around a printout of a 4-wheel wagon that is for sale that is set up as a people hauler but could be used for a lot of different things. Dave can get the wagon for \$200. Discussion. The board consensus was to not purchase the wagon.

SMEGO: Brenda stated that they ordered approximately 35,000 brochures last year. The brochures were not put in the COA Messenger last year. Discussion.

KUEMIN: Brian passed around two proposed fair themes that Patty Dohm made. The two themes were "The Cass County Fair is out of this world" and "You'll have a blast at the Cass County Fair." A hand vote was taken. "The Cass County Fair is out of this world" received the most votes. Brian gave the handout back to Rennie Witham to return to Patty Dohm with a request for more/different artwork options.

Brian reminded board members to fill out the Conflict of Interest and return it to him.

HARRIS: Shane moved to leave Steve Waldschmidt's board member position vacant until the annual meeting, seconded by Rob. Discussion. Motion carried.

SMEGO: Brenda stated that she and Diane discussed that the fair has extra vinyl benches and it would be nice to have a plaque for Steve Waldschmidt on behalf of board. Brenda also suggested it would be a nice gesture if the board offered Steve's family use of the Gregarek Building at no charge for his memorial service. It was the consensus of the board to do these two things.

ROUNDTABLE:

PETERSON: Gail stated that Howard Township is having a fundraiser this Saturday from 4:00 to 9:00 to defer medical costs for Ron Fazi, the former fire chief.

Gail stated that he attended sessions at convention regarding non-farm people and educational things.

KEESLER: Daryl stated he and Jim attended a session at convention regarding a beer/alcohol tent. He stated that a lot of fairs have them and are making money. Daryl thinks it would be a good idea for this year's fair. Brenda stated that permits would have to be gotten from the Village. Discussion.

PETERSON: Gail asked if there is going to be another campout and derby. The board consensus is that the camping is good and the board can look at setting a date, probably in May. It was also the board consensus that if an outside vendor/company would like to have a derby in conjunction with the camping, that would be fine as long as the vendor/company is running the derby and not the fair. Discussion.

KUEMIN: Brian stated that convention went well. He helped do a presentation about volunteers. Brian thinks the board needs to look at ways to honor/thank volunteers, possibly a pancake breakfast after the fair, etc. Discussion.

Brian requested that board members contact Fred Upton via email or phone call regarding the bill for H-2B Visa Program for workers. The workers are greatly needed, especially by carnival companies. Discussion.

HARRIS: Shane moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Zelda. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Mesko
Recording Secretary