

Cass County Fair Association
Regular Meeting
Gregorek Building
November 14, 2023
Minutes

Vice President Gail Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Vice President Gail Peterson, Treasurer Diane Skibbe, Executive Secretary Brenda Smego, Space Rental Mike Smego, Directors Dave Bratton, Jerry Zackary, Zelda Cloud, Shane Harris, David Gleason, Jim Teter, Rodney Waldschmidt, Ben Waldschmidt, Mike Frushour, Daryl Keesler, Alex Wilson, Sara Johnson, Rob Carpenter, Neil Bowman, Recorder Stephanie Knepple, Guests Janice Becraft, Tim Miller, Bobbie Labar, Nikita Mehaney, Olivia Belin, Mike Bradley, Tom Gregory, Jennifer Stockwell, Mike Stockwell, Pauline Harris, Bridget Lemon, Mary Lou Peterson, Karen Wight, Mary Wright, Treasa Rodenour, Julie Johnson, Jon Blough, Robin Brennehan, Sara Brennehan, Lori Whitmyer, Erica Boulanger.

Minutes: Zelda Cloud moved to approve the October 2023 Minutes, supported by Rodney Waldschmidt. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Zelda Cloud moved to approve the Financial Report, supported by Daryl Keesler. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

- Goat Superintendent Karen Wright reported the following:
 - Successful evening at Flat Rock Grill in Edwardsburg for Give Back Night Fundraiser and raised \$130.00.
 - Submitted fair book changes that are due and the costume theme and ID change.
 - 830 hours were worked at the Niles Haunted House.
 - Email Brenda Smego any Fairbook changes.

- Swine Superintendent Jennifer Stockwell reported the following:
 - Rule changes are ready to be submitted. Would like to add a purebred class.
 - Gail Peterson responded that the committee will make a decision and give an update at the next meeting.
 - Asked Tom Gregory to be assistant superintendent for the swine barn.
 - Over/under weight limit to stay. Can show, but not auction. Can show in showmanship.

- Mike Bradley made a suggestion to add boar goats to large animal auction.
 - Gail Peterson responded that the auction and goat committee will look into it.

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- Erica Boulanger shared the following:
 - Experiencing issues of pulling up the fair board minutes.
 - Would like to see livestock committees that do not include the superintendent and would like to see a broader representation.
 - Brenda Smego responded that there will be a Livestock Committee sign-up that will be passed around after the conclusion of the meeting.
- Lori Whitmyer made a suggestion to have a Livestock Board.

Committee Reports:

- Rodney Waldschmidt reported for Grandstand entertainment TNT Demo Derby \$8,500.00 and the fair keeps pit money.
 - Daryl Keesler moved to approve TNT Demo Derby for the amount of \$8,500.00 and fair keeps the pit money, supported by Zelda Cloud. Motion carried.
- Shane Harris reported that air time request quotes have been submitted and waiting to hear back. In 2023 \$5,000.00 was spent. Harris will also add print ads.
- Mike Smego shared a new diagram for the bathrooms.
 - Shane Harris moved to approve the plans for the new bathrooms, supported by Daryl Keesler. Motion carried.
- Review of 9-24-23 Workshop
 - Code of Conduct: Follow the rules that MSU have in place: Criminal check every year, and sex offender check every six months.
 - Zelda Cloud moved to approve having criminal checks done every year and sex offender checks every six months. Motion carried.
- Beer Tent Location: Move Beer Tent to Lagrange Building and add a fence around the grass area next to the building.
 - Shane Harris moved to have the Beer Tent moved to the Lagrange Building and add fence around the grass area next to the building, supported by Rob Carpenter. Motion carried.
- Daryl Keesler suggested purchasing tarps to cover the fence of the grandstand instead of renting. \$34.00 per green netted tarp to purchase. Total estimate \$1,100.00 to purchase tarps vs. \$2,400.00 to rent tarps each year.
 - Daryl Keesler moved to purchase tarps at \$34.00 each for the grandstand fence, supported by Alex Wilson. Motion carried.

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Old Business:

- Covered Horse Arena Loan Interest
 - Zelda Cloud moved to approve to begin paying the additional amount due to the increase of interest rate 6%, supported by Daryl Keesler. Motion carried.

New Business:

- Membership Purchase

- Election of Officers
 - President
 - Rodney Waldschmidt moved to elect Dave Bratton as President, supported by Zelda Cloud. Motion carried.
 - Vice President
 - Rodney Waldschmidt moved to elect Gail Peterson as Vice President, supported by Jerry Zackary. Motion carried.
 - Secretary
 - Mike Frushour moved to elect Zelda Cloud as Secretary, supported by Jim Teter. Motion carried
 - Executive Committee
 - Zelda Cloud moved to elect Daryl Keesler and Mike Frushour as Executive Committee, supported by Rodney Waldschmidt. Motion carried.

- 139th MAFE Convention January 11-13, 2024
 - Gail Peterson shared information about the upcoming MAFE Convention.

- Suggestions for 2024 budget meeting including estimated cost
 - 2024 Budget will be shared at the December meeting.

- Plan regarding Fifth Third Bank's closing of Cassopolis Branch
 - A decision was not made.

Adjournment

8:12 p.m.

Rodney Waldschmidt, moved.

Zelda Cloud, supported.

Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Knepple