

St. Clair County Agricultural Society | 2016

Minutes of Monday, August 8, 2016

1) ROLL CALL

Present: Bob Blumerich, Scott Hill, Rick Ruemenapp, Linea Lewis, Bob Clogg, Kristy Hardy, Donna Wojtysiak, Al Leone, Cindy Leone, Lori Warchuck, Tim Warchuck, Kent Renn, Jeff Schelske, Rob Usakowski, Chris Ruemenapp, Bernie Dudek, Kim Hetzel

Guests: : Diane from South Park Lions, Cathie & Jessica Usakowski, Annaleiss and Tracy Kielman, Jym Peck, Megan Tomasek, Jacqui Rabine.

Excused: Alan Thueme, Dan McCue, Mike Tomasek.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2) AGENDA

Bob Blumerich asked to add under New Business tram tractors. A motion was made by T. Warchuck, supported by B. Clogg to approve the agenda with the addition.

Motion carried.

3) SECRETARY'S REPORT

A request made by C. Leone to add her to the roll call for Tuesday, July 19th meeting. Rule added regarding sheep not being exhibited at another exhibition in 2016, not 2015. A motion was made by K. Renn, supported by S. Hill to approve the minutes of June 13, 2016, July 11, 2016, July 18, 2016, July 19, 2016, July 20, 2016, July 22, 2016 and July 23, 2016 with the changes as stated.

Motion carried.

4) TREASURER'S REPORT

No report.

5) HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Diane from South Park Lions, Diane. Did the eye screens at the fair. Last year 273 kids, down to 214 this year. In total there have been 823 children with referral of 60 kids. They would like to do this again in 2017.

Annaliess Kielman stated she reviewed the MDA rules and there's no quarantine in their rules. Stated by Board it's up to each fair to mandate their own rules, that MDA hold a session at the MAFE convention annually and will discuss recommendations with Fair Board's, but ultimately up to each fair to make their own rules based on their situation.

Cathie Usakowski spoke about sweepstakes. Wants to know what happened with the scoring of sweepstakes since the rabbit scores were taken out for all exhibitors. Rabbit scores were taken out because a family member of an exhibitor was judging ½ of the rabbit participants.

Sweepstakes in 2017 will include a request to submit names of judges prior to Saturday.

Request from A. Kielman that Grand and Reserve be included for sheep and walking fleece, instead of taking Grand Champion from each project area.

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R. Usakowski reviewed the fair. Changes made were increasing premiums. Adult project entries were up 92%. Change in promoter for Bump & Run, Demo Derby and Figure 8 worked out fantastic.

UTV races were unsuccessful. Grace Performance will commit to 2017 as long as there's motocross. Only had 5 UTV's.

Community groups putting up fencing was good. Teen parties weren't highly attended.

Ag Education tent had 17 sessions, 75 people attended. Feedback was people who attended were very engaged. Animal information sheets went well. Judge-along sheets went well when used. Join 4-H signs were great. Need to dress up sandwich board signs.

Welcome signs were great. Road Commission signs were great and Road Commission willing to help us with more signs.

Haflinger's only had 6 teams. Need to find more teams. Only had two people participate, each brought three teams.

Did a lot of Detroit area marketing. Attendance was down due to extremely hot weather. Would like to incorporate Blue Water bus schedule.

No electrical issues in the horse barn. Horse barns looked good.

Still exhibit barn, superintendents need to show up for set up and tear down.

Need to approve superintendent handbook. Suggestion to give them a daily pass if they only come for judging, if they show up for set up they get a weekly pass.

Nightly ground cleaning, area seems to be condensing and getting smaller. Don't like them getting paid prior to finishing their work week.

Some issues with gates & parking, collecting 2015's passes, people running the gates, missing gate attendants, but in large it went well.

Nearly \$30,000 in sponsorships. We will not be eligible for MDA grant for 2017 since we received a grant for two consecutive years.

Livestock sale was \$395,000. We need wi-fi over there. 545 items \$247,000 collected, \$63,000 in credit cards. Outstanding is \$103,000. All bills sent out on 26th. Buyers dinners served 423 out of 666 tickets and sale done by 9:10. All livestock out to processors by 8:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Planning retreat and recap on September 24th at 11:00 a.m. with lunch served. Need nominees for MAFE volunteer of the year and volunteer under 20 and lifetime achievement and media awards.

6) FAIR OFFICE REPORT

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L. Burch is inputting results, a lot of projects left over. Suggestion to invite Brad from Parks and Matt Liebetreu to our retreat.

7) MSU EXTENSION

New Marysville TSC, top five Paper Clover store and St. Clair County was third highest store.

8) COMMITTEES

A) AWARDS

Looking at taking trophy bids, will schedule a meeting.

B) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Nothing.

C) CRATER

Nothing

D) ENTERTAINMENT

Wants us to re-evaluate the time of opening ceremonies, earlier in the afternoon when the fair opens, possibly at the Crater. Need to look at Talent Show. The Jones Equipment display was too large and blocked the entertainment in the tent on the hill. Need to work on Farm Museum for the barrel train.

Pete who does karaoke will not be in MI for the summer, given a name of someone who is buying his equipment. May not want to continue with karaoke.

E) FACILITIES

Nothing.

F) LIVESTOCK

Met Tuesday night, discussions about limiting the number of animals at fair, approx. 60 participants, not recommending a change. Need better gate management and more help in barns getting animals in the sale ring.

G) PARKS AND RECREATION

Need to start negotiating our next contract. Committee will be Schelske, Warchuck, Clogg, Hill and Usakowski.

H) PERSONNEL

Nothing

I) PUBLICITY

Nothing

J) SPONSORSHIP

Nothing

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- K) SUPERINTENDENTS
 - Need to get the handbook approved.

- 9) OLD BUSINESS
 - A) FARM MUSEUM USE OF ELECTRICAL USAGE
 - August 26-28, Usakowski to draft up the use of equipment contract this weekend.

 - B) MEMORIAL FOR RALPH COOPER
 - C. Ruemenapp will order plaque

 - C) 8 YEAR OLDS SHOWING
 - R. Ruemenapp would like to see 8 year olds show and sell their own animals. Cannot show as 4-H kids, but as youth.

 - D) LOAN TO LIVESTOCK
 - Checks go out before we collect all sale money, in the past Fair Board authorized money to be loaned if necessary. A motion was made by B. Dudek, supported by J. Schelske to loan livestock committee if necessary up to \$50,000.00
 - Motion carried.

 - E) STILL EXHIBIT BARN JUDGING
 - Megan Tomasek reported it was a lot smoother than last year. Projects showing up were up in 2017. Need to purchase additional table coverings, 6' table clothes. Would like to try judging a few more project areas prior to Monday of fair. They will be holding a superintendent meeting for all still exhibit barn superintendents on September 22, 2016. They will be taking ideas for posters, changes in fair book, set up and tear down. A motion was made by T. Warchuck, supported by C. Leone to have a meeting on 9-22-16 for superintendents.
 - Motion carried.

- 10) NEW BUSINESS
 - A) TRAM TRACTORS
 - B. Blumerich disappointed that the keys for his equipment and truck were not available when they needed to be transported or picked up. Umbrellas were left on. He stacked barn all day and after he was done and closed up the barn he had to have someone bring him keys for his equipment and take off the umbrellas. He would like this handled better in the future. Jym Peck will donate a set of master keys.

 - B) POULTRY
 - Received call about delivering market birds today, three weeks after fair. This needs to be handled more timely by exhibitors and check into whether delays were due to exhibitors, buyers, what issues are relating to delivery of birds. Complaint made that fancy birds were being released after judging instead of staying the entire week due to their perceived value.

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Winners of sweepstakes showmanship do not bring their showmanship birds to the show, but use alternates.

C) TOTE BAGS

The tote bags printed by Viney's were a nice addition and could be used for MAFE and other things throughout the year for advertisement.

11) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by R. Ruemenapp, supported by T. Warchuck to adjourn at 9:30 p.m.

Motion carried.

Chris Ruemenapp, Secretary