

Minutes of Monday, November 12, 2018

1) ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 7:00

Present: Jacqui Rabine, Chris Ruemenapp, Kent Renn, Alan Thueme, Bob Clogg, Lori Warchuck, Tim Warchuck, Kim Hetzel, Donna Wojtysiak, Scott Hill, Bob Blumerich, Tom Vincent, Linea Burch, Kristy Hardy, Rob Usakowski, Colleen Provost, Bernie Dudek.

Excused: Mike Tomasek, Dan McCue

Absent: Al Leone.

Guests: Megan Tomasek, Matt Leibetreu, Liz Pennazoli, Linda Taylor, Rick and Mary Ruemenapp, Barb Hahn, Mark Pederson, Beth Sawdon.

2) AGENDA

R. Usakowski requested adding under Old Business a review of our planning meeting and Consumer Protection Program class that was attended by J. Rabine and R. Usakowski. A motion was made by T. Warchuck, supported by S. Hill to approve the agenda with those additions.

Motion carried.

3) SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made by J. Rabine, supported by K. Renn to approve the minutes of October 8, 2018.

Motion carried.

4) TREASURER'S REPORT

K. Hetzel has a bill \$700.00 for vet services for Greenwood Veterinary. Parks and Recreation had submitted a bill that was higher than usual which included additional clean up at the Crater due to the rain. The additional amount is labor costs. A motion was made by T. Warchuck, supported by B. Clogg to pay both bills submitted.

Motion carried.

5) HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Rick Ruemenapp asked about doing something different with the weekly passes. Suggest having a survey with identifying information each day for a daily drawing.

6) FAIR OFFICE REPORT

Balance of livestock sale outstanding is \$3,891.80 .

7) MSU EXTENSION

Mad City Money workshop was held last weekend, 9 kids participated from two counties. Needs Assessment meeting was held and worked on the community service project for the fair and focusing on recruitment and club structure. Leaders' Banquet was held. B. Hahn developed a brochure explaining difference between fair and 4-H enrollment. Last 15 years Extension has been part of the 21st Century grant. Part of that grant has been lost and L. Warchuck will be going to Council also and asking Fair Board to buy into a partial sponsorship of the dollars lost in that grant. Requesting \$2,500 from Council and \$2,500 from Fair Board. These monies would pay for 10 hours per week for approximately six months with a goal of increasing 2019 4-H fair participation and enrollment. Goal to reach 100 perspective 4-Hers to bring them to the fair. She would work at removing the barriers for those exhibitors. She would be working out of four Port Huron area school districts.

R. Usakowski reiterated there has been a steady decline of exhibitors and exhibits at the fair. This would be a piece in moving us towards the goal that we're working at this year of increasing fair participation. A motion was made by K. Hetzel, supported by C. Ruemenapp to approve the grant of \$2,500 to MSU Extension to work on fair participation.

Motion carried.

8) COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) AG EDUCATION

Meeting on December 5, 2018. L. Tomasek talked to L. Warchuck about getting the Genesee Farm Bureau exhibit.

b) AWARDS

D. Wojtysiak will work on the ribbon inventory. Fair Board will do the incentive program for trophies. Fair Board will do the jackets again in 2019 for sweepstakes showmanship since they were so popular in 2018.

c) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Fair is getting gutters installed this week on the barn and going to quote the gable ends of the barn. Talked about next year's capital improvement project. Talked about electrical at the Crater and continuing the roofing project on the south end also.

K. Hetzel said the Amish group would put fans on the end of the barn and the metal, but not interested in doing the gutters. K. Hetzel to contact them for a quote. 24x24 fan, two of them, one on each end.

Horse barns flood when it rains. Need to do some patching and drainage to the horse barns. A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by S. Hill to focus our capital improvement project for 2019 on electrical for the Crater. B. Clogg opposed.

Motion carried.

d) CRATER

Committee has made a couple contracts for Friday and Saturday. Bump & run cost \$5750, up \$50 over last year, and for Saturday is the figure 8 and demo derby \$6400 up about \$400. Cost would go down \$450 to do a 3 year contract. Looking at maybe adding Wednesday. A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by S. Hill to sign a 3 year contract with USA Demolition.

Motion carried.

e) ENTERTAINMENT

Meeting on the 28th. Wojtysiak was told the wood carver would be willing to come in Monday also, the whole week. Need to start thinking about the entertainment brochure, a lot of work needed on the map. April 1 deadline for the entertainment brochure. Wojtysiak plans to do Blue Blocks again this year. Sea Lions cost is \$17,000-\$21,000 for the week.

K. Hetzel said the Greenwood Clydesdales were at Croswell Fair, paid \$3000 for the week.

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Mark Pederson would do additional nights with his monster truck rides. They would come monster truck night and Saturday and start 4:00-5:00 p.m. Mark will do every evening starting at 5:00 except all day Tuesday and Saturday, and maybe earlier on Friday. Wants to change up the ride with adding a berm.

f) FACILITIES – Nothing

g) LIVESTOCK COMMITTEE

The committee met and would like to get an incentive program together for exhibitors bringing in a new buyers.

Committee recommends allowing exhibitors 5-7 years old to bring animals to the fair and exhibit in a non-competitive way, no sale of those livestock at the auction, and animals must weigh under 600 lbs., eliminating steers. Those exhibitors could not bring swine due to the terminal nature of our exhibitions, they would have to borrow swine. A motion was made by A. Thueme, supported by J. Rabine to adopt this recommendation.

Motion carried.

The poultry project will need cages for 2019. Projected to need 25 large fowl cages at \$50 each and #14 rabbit cages, 25 of those at \$49.40 each and #6 bantam cages, 10 of those at \$55.30 a piece. Also make cage holders to hold the cages and those are built for the cages and total projected is \$3,318.50. She also needs 10 white fold up tables, one large dog kennel, kitty pool and plywood. Request is \$5,000 total. Needs approval from livestock and Fair Board since Livestock Committee traditionally pays for half of all pen purchases. Need to verify that the meat project doesn't need cages also.

h) PARKS AND RECREATION

Contract expires this year and need a new contract in place for 2019. Plan to meet Thursday, November 29th, anyone wanting to be on that committee to talk contract should attend. Meet at 7:00 p.m. at Fair Office.

i) PERSONNEL

Meeting on Monday, November 26th at 7:30 p.m.

j) PUBLICITY

Meeting on Tuesday, November 27th at 6:30 p.m. Discussion will be held whether we will hire someone this year to handle our marketing, but coming up with some new expectations so everything isn't last minute.

K) SPONSORSHIP

K. Hetzel has scheduled November 30th for the thank you dinner for the sponsors at Tio Gordos. She would like to explain what impact sponsors have had on the fair, have kids there to help with that event. R. Usakowski will put a presentation together prior to that night. Cost is \$20 a person, includes 2 drinks and nacho bar or chips and salsa, tickets for two drinks, cash bar. Sponsors would be a plus one, Leslie Tire would be 3 people plus one. Which level of sponsorship, \$801 and higher. C. Ruemenapp expressed concern over this

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being November 18th and invitations haven't went out for an event for November 30th. Late nature of this could cause sponsors not to attend. Would like sponsors to have 4-6 weeks notice of the event. Requesting budget of \$2500. K. Hetzel to pick a date allowing 4-6 weeks notice for mid to late January. K. Hetzel to send out invitations, but email Fair Board with the guest list to make sure we haven't missed anyone.

L) ELECTIONS

Elected to the board was Rob Usakowski, Mike Tomasek, Alan Thueme, Colleen Provost, Liz Pennazoli and Nathan Havens. A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by T. Warchuck to destroy the ballots.

Motion carried.

9) NEW BUSINESS

A) COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

J. Rabine will be spearheading a community service project where the fair will be raising two hogs, one for Mid City Nutrition to feed our community, and the other to be auctioned off at the fair during the livestock auction. Fair Board will purchase the piglets, let the kids donate a couple bucks to pay for the feed. J. Rabine will talk to the processers to process the hog for free since it's going to Mid City Nutrition. Bring the pigs to fair with a banner. A 4-H service club will be formed to choose a service project each year, with plans to make it a countywide project, each club donating four hours at Mid City doing meal prep, cooking and servicing people less fortunate. Mid City will allow 12 and over in the kitchen, younger kids to roll napkins and silverware. Plans to adopt a certain day each month, a Saturday and clubs can use that as their club community service project. We would like to do blessings bags or blankets, will take can goods from the fair, any excess produce, eggs. J. Rabine will work with MSU Extension in canning the produce donated to the Soup Kitchen. MSU Extension is going to do nutrition classes when they get their new building.

R. Usakowski will work on media outreach, a press conference, possibly involving the piglets. This would be a great opportunity to round up kids and do a lot of the press coverage and have a larger impact on the community. There are 70 soup kitchens in five counties with two food banks. We would hope this would drive attendance and buyers to the fair and have a good positive output for the Soup Kitchen. We could ask exhibitors to raise extra chickens and poultry if they would donate and have a truck here to have them processed. Mid City has capacity to take all this meat. Proceeds from the hog auctioned, the second hog would be donated to Mid City. Community Service group is meeting January 3rd at 6:00 for teens to work on community service Operation 4-H Cares: Feeding Our Community. Pizza provided.

A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by A. Thueme to have Fair Board purchase the two hogs and pay expenses for the pigs, raised at A. Thueme's house. Matt Liebetreu said Adair Grain would sponsor the feed for the hogs.

Motion carried.

B) MAFE CONVENTION

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Convention is January 10-12. We need Board directors to confirm their attendance at the December meeting.

C) Fair Planning Meeting

Our fair is one of the 6th or 7th best fairs of the state after an analysis of attendance, exhibits, impact to our community which was compiled by R. Usakowski.

Planned for 2019 is 4-H and Fair will be going to 6-9 schools in the county and talking to their teachers so we can incorporate schools and school projects into the fair. Offering teachers/schools incentive to point out to students the projects and assignments they're completing in class can be shown at the fair. Would like to have teachers assist students in getting their projects signed up and encourage them to attend the fair. Incentives will be \$500 to the teacher/school for first prize, \$300 for 2nd place and \$200 for third place. Total expense is \$1000, and school kids will sign up under their school/teacher in order to determine the prize winners. The plan is working with 6-9 schools, 2-3 in high school, middle, and elementary schools. Because we're also a youth fair, there's not a necessity for those kids to join 4-H, but hope that once they participate in the fair that they would be encouraged to join a 4-H club and become more involved. Megan Tomasek is the point person on this.

We will also be working with 4-H youth to encourage them to have their friends and additional family members exhibit at the fair. We had a youth member attend the meeting and she indicated she knows 2-3 people in her school that would show at the fair, but doesn't feel kids know about the fair or 4-H. 4-H members who have a friend that follows through and exhibits at the fair would receive a ticket for an iPad raffle during the fair. They would have to identify the exhibitor and verification made that they exhibited. The youth that had the most referred exhibitors would win \$100, plus have that many chances to win an iPad. We could also have awards for SWAG, carnival tickets to encourage exhibitors to show more exhibits. Chris Ruemenapp is the point person on this.

March is Reading Month and will have a separate class at fair, not judged at fair, complete a project as an individual or team. We will have 1-2 people to judge projects at fair and set them up and announce the winners at fair. This aligns with the school curriculum grant and Lori Warchuck's 21st Century grant. Like to give each staff that listens to this a day pass to check out at the fair. Linda Taylor is the point person on this.

Non-exhibition side. A. Thueme will be coordinating a program to give away hogs for the swine project for new exhibitors. The thought is between 5-10 hogs, would be by application to ensure they have proper housing, equipment, ability to feed the pigs and educate them on what they're doing. Suggest we do sheep and poultry in future years. Alan Thueme is the point person on this.

A motion was made by A. Thueme, supported by J. Rabine to approve \$1100 in prize money for these programs and single day admission passes for professionals that attend development meetings.

Motion carried.

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Discussion was held about entertainment, the probability of a miracle of life tent and wanting to bump Animal Oasis out of the petting farm if possible and going back to what we had a few years ago. The feeling was its lost some of it's luster, not the same, but we would need to find someone to champion that change.

Discussed purchasing some costumes of animals on our logo to have strolling around the fair during the week and to use at events, press conference, parades. A motion was made by K. Hetzel, supported by B. Dudek to spend up to \$1000 on one or more costumes.

Motion carried.

Roaming entertainment such as magicians, spontaneous actors around the Visitors' Center to the Crater was discussed. This is popular for people at the fair.

Having a dog day was discussed at the planning meeting with allowing visitors to bring their dogs. R. Usakowski asked Barb Hahn to make a recommendation and Barn Hahn thinks this would be a huge liability to Fair Board and someone would get bit. Barb feels bringing them to the fair would be cruel and for unsocialized dog to get into one of the barns or into a tent is a liability.

Live demonstrations throughout the fair was discussed, including animal washing, shearing, ask a local farmer. Matt Liebetreu is going to work on a tractor show with Tim Warchuck. Kim Hetzel was going to contact the mounted cowboy shoot and Sanilac County Posse about parking.

D) CONSUMER PROTECTION PROGRAM

R. Uskowski and J. Rabine attended this 8-hour program put on by IAFE on protecting consumers and exhibitors and parents in making sure we're doing our part to keep them safe from an animal illness. Definitely have to do more signage. Some fairs have had lawsuits because people got sick, key points of the lawsuits are the same in every single case, and that can be avoided by having handwashing stations and signage. We need to meet all those points, do not eat in the barn, bacteria in the barn, and you should wash your hand and have available full washing stations in locations where they're going to be used. Water washing stations should be emptied throughout the day. Someone to take care of the handwashing stations throughout the day.

10) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by A. Thueme, supported by T. Warchuck to adjourn at 9:02 p.m.

Motion carried.

11) ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by S. Hill nominating M. Tomasek as treasurer.

A. Thueme made a motion to close nominations, supported by T. Warchuck.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by T. Warchuck, supported by S. Hill nominating C. Ruemenapp as secretary. A. Thueme made a motion to close nominations, supported by S. Hill.

Motion carried.

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A motion was made by A. Thueme, supported by K. Renn to nominate T. Warchuck as vice president. B. Dudek made a motion to close nominations, supported by C. Ruemenapp.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by S. Hill to nominate R. Usakowski as president. S. Hill made a motion to close nominations, supported by T. Warchuck.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by A. Thueme, supported by S. Hill to elect the nominated officers.

Motion carried.

Chris Ruemenapp, Secretary