

## MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2019 MINUTES

### 1) ROLL CALL

Present: Liz Pennazoli, Alan Thueme, Tim Warchuck, Rob Usakowski, Chris Ruemenapp, Mike Tomasek, Scott Hill, Donna Wojtysiak, Lori Warchuck, Kristy Hardy, Jacqui Rabine, Bob Clogg, Bernie Dudek, Dan McCue.

Excused: Colleen Provost, Kent Renn, Nate Havens, Kim Hetzel, Tom Vincent.

Guests: Cathie Usakowski, Linda Taylor, Megan Tomasek, Rick & Mary Ruemenapp, Emma, Ian and Mary Grettenberger, Mark Pederson, Tom Stickley, Kayley Rowbotham.

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

### 2) AGENDA

A motion was made by B. Clogg, supported by Liz Pennazoli to approve the agenda as submitted.  
Motion carried.

### 3) SECRETARY'S REPORT

No report.

### 4) TREASURER'S REPORT

Report was emailed to everyone. Request to have bills turned in. Bills submitted by C. Ruemenapp, A. Thueme, K. Hardy, D. Wojtysiak. M. Tomasek reported that although he doesn't have final figures, attendance was down, and also down as of 2018 figures. The heat of the week played a role in attendance figures, but there were likely other factors. M. Tomasek indicated we're definitely looking at a loss for 2019 and would be concerned if we have a loss in 2020 which should be kept in our forethought when making decisions on the 2020 fair.

### 5) HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Mary, Ian and Emma Grettenberger were present to thank the Fair Board for their volunteer service.

Megan Tomasek sent out wrap up of the fair via email. After school 4-H club reached over 100 youth and cost less than \$2,500 which was budgeted. That was a grant with 4-H Council. 40H Council has agreed to a grant of \$2,500 for the fall and spring program for after school and M. Tomasek is requesting a grant for the 2019-2020 school year of \$2,500. Due to the way we had kids sign up it was hard to determine how many kids exactly exhibited at the fair from this, but there were definitely 7, possibly more. Megan Tomasek would like to start in October of '19, meeting one time month and then another session running May & June. A motion was made by A. Thueme, supported by T. Warchuck to spend \$2,500 on an afterschool program in the fall of 2019 and spring of 2020.

Motion carried.

M. Tomasek indicated of the 160 daily passes handed out to teachers, 40 were redeemed.

Still Exhibit Auction had a \$9.75 average price on items auctioned off. There were 18 on Saturday with 9 buyers. Jennifer Niebauer indicated she would head this up in the future and would like better advertisement around the fairgrounds and a table of auction items set up throughout the week.

Handicapable Day went well, RESA advertised for us. Skerbeck Family Carnival played a big role in this, allowing them to ride the rides, play games and everyone got a stuffed animal at the end.

Sweepstakes Showmanship would like to split sheep and walking fleece which would add additional time to the competition, but Megan Tomasek feels it's time to do that. Cathie Usakowski suggested that the winners of sweepstakes should wear a badge or pin identifying them as the source for exhibitors to go to for direction, and possibly having a time on Friday night, possibly 5:00 or 6:00 to do a sweepstakes preview for exhibitors.

6) FAIR OFFICE REPORT

No report.

7) MSU EXTENSION REPORT

L. Warchuck reported they finished up interviews for their 4-H Supervisor. Working on Lake to Table workshop and there are 30 registered. 4-H Open House scheduled in September. Discussion held regarding 4-H enrollment. 4-H is pulling from a smaller population and decreasing school enrollment. Registered 4-Hers are down 75 from last year, decreasing annually since 2015.

8) COMMITTEE REPORTS

A) AG EDUCATION

Program went very well. Had one no show on a vendor. Requested W-9, never heard back from them and he didn't show up. Didn't have shooting trailer, not enough manpower to man it. Ag on the Move was well received and would like to have it again in 2020.

B) AWARDS

B. Dudek said she would like the ribbons delivered somewhere other than Linea's house because there's too many boxes and require her to deliver them. They can be delivered to the 4-H office in Port Huron, per L. Warchuck. Banners were offered for sale this year, and will need to be replaced. Suggestion that they be replaced with a canvas banner that the exhibitor gets instead of a trophy. Gary Eisen & Mike Wendling came to awards program.

C) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Prior to a 2020 capital improvement project we will need to look at our finances. We are eligible for a grant. Horse barns look horrible, will need to speak to Parks & Recreation about normal maintenance on the building. The roofs are leaking and they need painting. DTE spoke to us about putting in service at the Crater, may need to move forward on that project due to their timeline. Will need to make contact with our legislators to ensure that they continue with the grants program through MDARD.

D) CRATER

Alan Thueme said we will probably have to look at digging out the pond, there is 1-2' water and then 2' of muck. 2020 entertainment for Monday for Rodeo set. They would like to continue with the tractor pulls, bump & run and figure 8/demo derby. They would like to continue with the Monster Truck Show, but will look at something else for Wednesday instead of the Mega Truck Show. A. Thueme would like everyone to look at the redneck truck races on You Tube from Huron County. Gary Bertossi smoothed out the crater nicely and everyone really appreciated his help.

E) ENTERTAINMENT

The entertainment tent has continued to have less people participating. People liked the Big Blue Blocks for Thursday. Petting Farm extremely popular, including an after party. D. Wojtysiak wants to pursue the use of a milking cow from Oakland County Farm Bureau. C. Ruemenapp to contact L.C. Scramlin about that.

B. Clogg to contact Ben Risney with our 2020 dates.

F) FACILITIES

Request for a megaphone, which would be helpful when trying to talk to people on the north side of the road. Need to look into a wireless PA system throughout the whole grounds which would be huge asset. Would like the handicap trams decorated uniformly with larger lettering for limited mobility. The carts as they are currently decorated appear to be a family cart when decorated in a party theme. Would like to look at different signage in the parking lots, named with something that everyone recognizes, instead of the current system.

G) LIVESTOCK

Sale was \$391,468.00, up roughly \$40,000 from 2018. Currently there is \$70,000 outstanding, but right on track from past years. Plan to have livestock checks available in September. Having some issues on poultry, ended up with 2 turkeys, 2 ducks, 6 chickens not picked up on Sunday and exhibitors contacted and haven't picked up from Kay Smith and delivered to buyers yet. Kay's contacted these people multiple times. We need to look at the numbers the kids are providing for contact, some of them aren't good numbers. Part of responsibility of poultry and rabbit exhibitors is to get these birds/rabbits back to the buyer, but what's the punishment. Committee will be holding the check and premium of the exhibitor if they don't follow through with that obligation.

Mid City Nutrition project raised \$4,400, purchased by Agri-Valley, Rosseell's and Tri-County, pigs donated back to Mid City, another 6 hogs donated to them.

H) PARKS AND RECREATION

No report.

I) PERSONNEL

Will set a meeting.

J) PUBLICITY

Will set a meeting.

K) SPONSORSHIP

Only \$11,000 turned in from K. Hetzel for sponsors that she dealt with. Money can be dropped off at Fair Office any day of the week. Logs for passes and Fair Bucks in excess of \$13,000 were not turned in as required. A meeting to be scheduled by R. Usakowski.

L) SUPERINTENDENT DEVELOPMENT

Committee to work on this again and put some guidelines together with clear expectations. Would like to schedule a meeting with superintendents to address some issues, such as how to choose judges, use of clerks, etc. Concerned about judge where couple kids took a harsh critique in poultry and concern that superintendents having judges that don't work well with children. Clover Sprouts received judging sheets with scores. Superintendents should get some direction on how to handle clover sprouts.

M) SUPPORT ORGANIZATION

Will roll into personnel.

9) OLD BUSINESS

Nothing

10) NEW BUSINESS

A) OFFICE IN MARYSVILLE

Ron Skover contacted L. Burch about the office next to us being available. C. Ruemenapp will contact him about how much per month he would want in addition to our current rent.

B) ANNUAL RETREAT

The Fair Board will meet on Sunday, October 27 at 9:00 a.m. at the Fair Office.

11) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by A. Thueme, supported by L. Pennazoli to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

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Chris Ruemenapp, Secretary