

Monday, February 14, 2022 – Goodells County Park

1) ROLL CALL

Present: Jacqui Rabine, Scott Hill, Chris Ruemenapp, Rob Usakowski, Liz Pennazoli, Linda Taylor, Mike Tomasek, Alan Thueme, Tom Vincent, Donna Wojtysiak, Tim Warchuck, Lori Warchuck, Bernie Dudek, Colleen Provost, Rick Ruemenapp.

Excused: Bob Clogg, Mark Pedersen, Kent Renn, Kim Hetzel, Linea Burch.

Guests: Megan Tomasek, Val Fusse, Julie Ruemenapp, Mitchell Sovis, Tom Stickley.

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

2) AGENDA

A motion was made by A. Thueme, supported by S. Hill to approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion carried.

3) HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Tom Stickley would like to know if we want Civil Air Patrol back, and we do, same job duties. L. Pennazoli requesting help with moving food to the sponsorship tent. Stickley unsure how many people they will have this year, however last year was outstanding. T. Stickley is restricted to light duty due to stroke, so he cannot help do some things that he used to.

Van Fusee, Brockway 4-H Club, addressed the board regarding the board approving “In order to limit the length of the live auction, the number of livestock species on the live auction will be limited for market lambs to 50 and market swine to 120. The balance of the market sheep and swine will be sold on the silent auction. All overweight swine will be sold on the silent auction. The animals on the live auction will be determined by market class placings. Note: Market goats, market beef and veal will not be limited in 2022. Underweight swine and underweight sheep will not be transported to a processor from the fair. Underweight swine and sheep will be transported to Croswell Livestock Auction or Marlette Livestock Auction, or the exhibitor may take them home.”

V. Fusee asked the board not to institute this, or just start with overweight hogs. Concern after talking to processors that they won’t be able to take livestock from our auction at the levels that they did in 2019, there just aren’t the amount of processors out there anymore and they have limited capacity. Last year, with reduced numbers, the committee had to approach C. Roy’s and cajole them into taking more hogs than they had agreed to take.

Request made that there be an additional photographer to take photos of buyers with the silent auction animals. This will be turned back over to the committee when they meet in April to discuss. Silent auction has been held for years for A-rated poultry and rabbits and has been successful. Discussion held about holding a lottery versus based on class placings, or limiting the number of species exhibitors can sell. These were all discussed by the committee for years before taking action. Exhibitors, parents and leaders encouraged to come to the meetings and participate in decision making. Discussion held about how buyers will know how to find kids’ animals if kids only find out the day before they’re on silent auction. We will have a silent auction sale bill for buyers to be able to find livestock. If the auction limited how many species exhibitors could sell it would likely only affect a couple dozen exhibitors who largely come to the auction with buyers. All fairs in 2021 saw record attendance and record prices on their livestock. Feedback committee got night of sale from buyers and auctioneer was they liked the shorter sale. Auctioneer has complained for years the sale is too long and suggests every year

Monday, February 14, 2022 – Goodells County Park

selling the hogs as pens instead of individually. Committee feels selling two hogs at a time would hurt prices of kids because instead of a buyer spending \$400-\$600 for a hog they have to purchase two for \$800-\$1200.

4) SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made by M. Tomasek, supported by A. Thueme to approve the January 10, 2022 secretary's report.

Motion carried.

5) TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by A. Thueme to approve the treasurer's report.

Motion carried.

Livestock tags need to be purchased and there's a bill submitted for sponsorships to pay for cookies that were sent to sponsors in lieu of the snowed out sponsor mixer at War Water.

6) FAIR OFFICE REPORT – None.

7) MSU EXTENSION

New training requirements for 4-H volunteers, child abuse protocol for 2023. It's a 10 minute video and L. Warchuck will bring it to committee meetings to get volunteers to complete that requirement.

Dog Committee meeting going to possibly add new events, barn hunt.

Council Auction is super short on items and the office is collecting photos for the auction bill.

There are many workshops being planned with China art, club officer training, cake decorating, poultry and swine workshops. St. Clair County had the highest retention rate in the state, but yet we're down hundreds, and we are not in good shape. However, there are phone calls daily and enrollments trickling in. Recruitment is our focus and open house coming up April 30th.

8) COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) AG EDUCATION

Meeting was held and there were lots of cool things planned, asking for money to add spinning wheels, prize wheels and add other things to our area over there. Ag on the Move Trailer is reserved. Requesting \$2,000, which will include finishing a basketball thing. A motion was made by A. Thueme, supported by R. Ruemenapp to approve \$2,000.

Motion carried.

b) AWARDS

Bernie Dudek completed the inventory on ribbons for Regalia. All projects except hogs went to the hard banners and there are 3 missing banners. Those need to be inventoried and replacements ordered. Not many ribbons need to be ordered this year. Trophy style needs to be chosen.

Discussion held regarding horses not awarding trophies to exhibitors this year. L. Warchuck said this was a project decision made after a survey. The project area is doing other things besides trophies.

Monday, February 14, 2022 – Goodells County Park

Discussion held regarding horse project not selling the billboards in 2021 around the horse rings. The sponsorship committee will be looking into this and selling those spots.

c) AUDIT

Committee met and filed appropriate filings to date. There are some online services who will do some of the IRS filings for us that need to be filed electronically. In the past we have had filings mailed and the IRS claims they haven't received them and there is no way to send them certified or return receipt requested. The IRS will not acknowledge filings in that manner, only electronically.

d) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Parks & Recreation have access to a grand writer. She has offered to write our grant for us and will be supportive in getting that together. L. Warchuck will work with Kim on that.

e) CRATER

A motion was made by M. Tomasek, supported by S. Hill to hire Dwayne Spaw for intermissions during the Monster Truck show in 2022. C. Ruemenapp will contact him and get a contract.

Motion carried.

f) ENTERTAINMENT

B. Dudek has a contract for pony pulls for the fair for \$2,000, and \$300 for a dynamometer for Wednesday at 6:30. R. Ruemenapp asked if they would guarantee a minimum amount of teams. A motion was made by C. Provost, supported by T. Warchuck to sign the contract if they can guarantee 5 teams.

Motion carried.

g) FACILITIES

Francek Water is talking to Parks about trying to get a permanent water filling station put at the park.

h) HANDICAPABLE DAY

Currently working on plans for the day, meeting February 24th at 6:30 for anyone interested. It will be held on Wednesday of fair.

i) LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Beef weigh in was held and the numbers of steers tagged keeps changing. B. Dudek said she went to a session at convention that recommended sweepstakes showman be handed a survey after the event.

j) PARKS AND RECREATION

They are moving their office to the garden center here at the park.

k) PERSONNEL

Have superintendent positions open, assistant goat superintendent, natural resources superintendent and woodworking superintendent.

Monday, February 14, 2022 – Goodells County Park

- l) **PUBLICITY**
Focusing on social media in 2022 over radio and print advertising. Purchasing an app to put together videos.
- m) **SPONSORSHIP**
We pivoted quickly from an in-person event to delivering boxes of cookies to sponsors. Liz and Linda are reaching out to sponsors to do a final check before finalizing the entertainment brochure. Meeting on March 21st. J. Rabine is working on a map for the brochure.
- n) **STILL EXHIBITS**
We didn't do a still exhibit auction in 2021, it didn't go well in 2019. We won't do it again this year. Discussed releasing projects on Saturday versus Sunday. Would like still exhibits released 1 hour prior to livestock.
- 9) **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a) **STEEL RACKS**
Cost of steel is high right now. If there is a donation of steel we will get M. Pedersen hopefully to build the rack. However, the cost of steel right now may be prohibitive of building any racks.
 - b) **ADMISSION FEE**
Requesting individual admission fees go up to \$10 so the gate isn't dealing with thousands of \$1 bills. A motion was made by L. Pennazoli, supported by S. Hill to raise individual admission to \$10 per person. All other admission will remain the same.
Motion carried.
- 10) **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a) **CELLULAR SERVICE**
There is a Southfield company providing local cellular service from a trailer, waiting on pricing. Fiber line all along Lapeer. We need help from the county in order to get it to the park. Frontier won't talk to us because we don't own the park.
 - b) **PASSES**
A motion made by S. Hill, supported by R. Ruemenapp to purchase passes for 2022. Maroon stickers similar to 2021.
Motion carried.
 - c) **STATE SHOOT**
The State shoot may be slated for Saturday, July 23rd. Fair Board will work with anyone qualified to shoot at the state shoot to allow them to participate in that and exhibit at the fair with early releases.
 - d) **RELEASE OF LIVESTOCK**
Livestock will be released from the fair at 8 p.m. on Saturday, July 23rd, with the event in the Crater beginning at 4 p.m. with a slated end time of about 7:30 p.m. Livestock truckers to processors can start hauling at 7 p.m. and later. The gate will stop charging at 7 p.m.

Monday, February 14, 2022 – Goodells County Park

e) COUNCIL DONATIONS

Fair Board will donate 10 weekly admission passes and swag to go with it.

f) TRACTOR MANEUVERING

A motion was made by R. Ruemenapp, supported by J. Rabine to move tractor maneuvering to Wednesday at 9 a.m. in the mud volleyball area.

Motion carried.

11) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by A. Thueme to adjourn at 8:40 a.m.

Motion carried.

Chris Ruemenapp, Secretary

