

1) ROLL CALL

Present: Liz Pennazoli, Robin Vigneron, Lori Warchuck, Tim Warchuck, Tom Vincent, Mike Tomasek, Colleen Provost, Chris Ruemenapp, Rob Usakowski, Kevin Smith, Lindsey Uppleger, Donna Wojtysiak, Linda Taylor, Linea Burch, Bernie Dudek, Jake Sieloff.

Excused: Rick Ruemenapp, Kent Renn, Kylie Veldman, Alan Thueme.

Absent: None.

Guests: Connie Murray, Tom Stickley, Farm Museum Representative, Veronica Campbell, Port Huron Museum Director and Ken Sieloff, carriage operators.

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

Welcomed new board members, Robin Vigneron, Kevin Smith, Jake Sieloff.

2) AGENDA

A motion was made by T. Warchuck, supported by T. Vincent to approve the agenda as submitted.

Motion carried.

3) HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Veronica Campbell, Port Huron Museum Director is making plans for 2024. They saw 4,000 people in the exhibit hall, and feel their partnership with us was advantageous. They are currently in between staff members on manning the exhibit, and waiting to hire someone to fill the role. They can commit to what they did in 2023, not sure if they can expand yet for 2024.

Carriage ride operators want to know if we want them back for 2024. They asked for changes or suggestions. Haven't talked about it at all. Need to discuss it, talk about it after convention and get back to them. They charged \$5 a person, it was slow, but once they opened up free of charge they were busy past their times. Started early and ended late, extra time due to the rain date. They have another wagon if we want it, holds up to about 8 people. Hard for large families to be accommodated in their smaller carriage. Price is \$8,000 for 2 carriages for 44 hours. They would like to get closer to the Visitors' Center. Liked going through the village, appropriate for the carriage rides.

Connie Murray will get us a bid from Nikki Scott who drives for someone who has carriages in Frankenmuth. Horses are going to start shows a little later on days they can. On Wednesday they are going to push gymkana into the evening hours. Going to talk to someone about doing a mounted shooting demo on Tuesday night, a day that there's a shorter schedule. Fun classes to keep ring activity longer in the day, hopefully to 6-7 p.m. Friday night on final ride, senior kids have their last ride. Concern with the band across the road they couldn't hear the kids and their music. Olivia Pruzik runs that final ride and will start about 6 p.m. Their show is about 2 hours. R. Vigneron will take over the bands in the meadow from L. Uppleger. Parking for the Open Show on Saturday will likely be the same as in 2023.

C. Ruemenapp will contact PARCs to rent the Showmobile the entire week.

C. Ruemenapp will run the Facebook post looking for organizations, adult and youth, to do parking during the fair.

Need to work on reimbursement for horse ribbons, calculating that per ribbon for reimbursement.

4) SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made by T. Vincent, supported by M. Tomasek to approve the secretary's report from November 13, 2023.

Motion carried.

5) TREASURER'S REPORT

L. Warchuck inquired whether we got our deposit back for the Ag on the Move trailer of \$600.

L. Warchuck will check into the return of the deposit. A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by T. Vincent to approve the treasurer's report.

Motion carried.

Depositing trophy and sponsorship monies. Bills paid up to date as submitted to the treasurers.

6) FAIR OFFICE REPORT

We have collected \$4,390 for awards thus far. We have had inquiries about purchasing weekly admission passes for Christmas gifts.

7) MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Karly Kruger has started as the new district director for MSU Extension. Currently the office is without support staff, due to Kylie being off on maternity leave. Enrollment numbers have been updated. There will be a raptors program on 12-27, Winter Achievement in January. The 4-H trailer has been in two parades in Capac and Marine City. It is currently sitting in the parking lot in Port Huron between the library and the administration building.

8) COMMITTEE REPORTS

A) AG EDUCATION

The Ag on the Move trailer may or may not be available, due to Farm Bureau potentially selling it. Working on getting sheep dogs back, conversations about other things, static displays on south side of road, rope making on south side of road. Ag on the Move trailer is looking for an organization to "buy into" the trailer, due to not having staff to get it to places. They are struggling with somewhere to store it. They are looking for a group to share programming responsibilities. This one has a simulator. They used to have the trailer and the person would maintain it and store it, looking for someone to partner. We would like to keep the trailer. Pete Wisner might be someone to talk to.

Currently talking about having Johnathan Rand and another author, Monday and Thursday. Working in entertainment tent, moving opening ceremonies to 12 p.m. Have to juggle kids activities around opening ceremony. Talking about Riverside area, maybe putting blow ups down there for kids. Linea's daughter, Lisa Rand, has 8 blow ups.

B. Dudek indicated there was talk at the fair last year about starting the pony pull at 3 p.m. with the draft horse pull at 5 p.m. due to the lighting situation. Concern that people coming to watch the events would still be working on a Friday, it stays light until 9 p.m. in July.

K. Smith has contacts with Port Huron Skating Club which may be able to assist at the fair.

B) AUDIT

The 120 day reports have been filed and we are currently compliant.

C) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

PARCs talked about running power to the Crater, took bids and the cost was \$60,000. D. Delor said they wouldn't pay for it and Alan thought they might. He will follow up on the conversation with D. Delor. Bruce Affelt and A. Thueme will meet with D. Delor about other electrical needs. Possibility of using PARCs \$60,000 as the match for a state grant.

D) CRATER

All entertainment contracts have been signed with the exception of TTPA. We need to collect those contracts at convention.

E) FACILITIES – No report

F) LIVESTOCK

No report, but next meeting is Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at Goodells County Park. Beef weigh in is January 27, 2024, using their new scale.

G) PARKS AND RECREATION – No report

H) PUBLICITY

Committee met and had conversations about putting together 30-second video clips promoting the fair, as well as 4-H. They can use stock video, as well as what we have. Cost is about \$500-\$600. Want to support 4-H and get enrollment up, which also helps the fair. Effectv impression goal was 24,348 people delivered, goal was 99.2%. Committee also reviewed the Facebook impressions which were very, very good. 1,800 pamphlets left after the fair. We will order a reduced number for 2024. L. Taylor's club is going to put white sheets on the back and we will have 1,800 maps at the gate to pass out. Working on making maps more appealing around the fair and L. Taylor is going to work on getting white step in posts. Image Authentics can run one sheet of our green and white signs, start putting at events like From the Forest to Table, Winter Achievement to advertise our fair at those events throughout the year. Partnered with Farm Museum, Michigan Conservation Stewards, a sign that says supporter of, working on a sign saying that we're partnering with agencies. MDOT will distribute pamphlets for us, after we register with them. They do all the distributing of the pamphlets. They need 3 months lead time to our event is what's recommended. L. Burch working with Sir Speedy in designing cards that will advertise the major events at our fair, in order to put those out instead of the entire entertainment brochure. They will put more brochures in the MDOT Visitor Centers closer to our county. L. Burch mailed paperwork and pamphlet in to get approval, which is required prior to MDOT distributing them.

We will post for ideas for a theme for the fair. Discussions about having the synthetic ice skating rink just south of the poultry barn.

I) SPONSORSHIP

The fair has purchased access to a new program Eventry in order to assist with sponsorships, taking in money, distributing contracts, etc. L. Pennazoli is getting acquainted with it. They have capability of doing electronic ticketing, but do not supply devices at this time.

J) STILL EXHIBITS – No report

K) ELECTRONIC TICKETING

There have been conversations with Eventry, biggest challenge is they don't have an off wi-fi option. Discussions regarding signing up and getting Starlink, cost is \$600 and get a subscription. Theoretically we could put wi-fi at the booths. Will continue to consider this option. Skerbeck's use Starlink. Contact made with Apple about devices, they said they would get back to R. Usakowski. Will plan to stay with Sapphire for 2024, and look at moving to Eventry in 2025. A motion was made by T. Warchuck, supported by C. Ruemenapp to purchase Starlink to assist with the fair. R. Vigneron said that A. Vigneron could likely help us with this set up since he's done one for a friend.

Motion carried.

9) OLD BUSINESS

A) TILING

Tiling is going to be done. We are on the list, but no idea when that will occur.

B) 501C3

Not much luck getting someone to file that paperwork for us to this point. We will inquire on the MAFE Collaboration group how groups have done that. We will need that in order to do larger capital improvement projects. We can also increase sponsorship opportunities and raise money under the 501c3.

10) NEW BUSINESS

A) EMERGENCY SERVICES

J. Sieloff wants to put together a safety committee to work on fair issues. We will take volunteers for that committee next month.

R. Vigneron did not like how lost children were handled in 2023 and would like to see a better policy on how to handle that. J. Sieloff worked with and will continue to work on emergency management and radio etiquette, speaking code and this can be figured out quickly. Suggestion that people talk slower on the radio so that people can understand what's being said so it doesn't need to be repeated.

11) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by T. Warchuck, supported by R. Vigneron to adjourn at 8:42 p.m.

Motion carried.

Chris Ruemenapp, Secretary