

ST. CLAIR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Monday, February 12, 2024

1) ROLL CALL

Present: Mike Tomasek, Chris Ruemenapp, Rob Usakowski, Lindsey Uppleger, Alan Thueme, Linda Taylor, Rick Ruemenapp, Tim Warchuck, Tom Vincent, Lori Warchuck, Donna Wojtysiak, Liz Pennazoli, Kylie Veldman, Kevin Smith, Robin Vigneron.

Excused: Colleen Provost, Kent Renn, Jake Sieloff, Bernie Dudek.

Guests: Mark White, Justin Westmiller, Connie Murray, Tom Stickley, Fred Peasley.

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

2) AGENDA

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

Motion carried.

3) HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Connie Murray reported she has been in contact with someone to do mounted shooting after classes are done on one night during the fair. Wednesday is gymkhana, Thursday is overall equitation and costume class, Friday added more to the schedule, will be busy to almost 3:00 and go back into the rings for the final rides after presentation parades, and open show on Saturday. The rings will likely be busy into late afternoon evenings except Monday and Tuesday night. Horse project requesting a peewee lead line class be added to the fair, only concern is restriction on size animals at 600 lbs. Their request is that horses be exempted from that restriction. Fair Board will exempt horses for the peewee lead line class.

Justin Westmiller and Mark White from St. Clair County Emergency Management will be working on an incident action plan for our fair. They will do the planning for us and work with J. Sieloff and the safety committee on an emergency operations plan. Discussion regarding having a reunification area. They can also fly drones over the park looking for lost parent/children. We are the single largest event in the county.

Thumb Veterinary will likely be our vet for 2024, but they requested that we have one contact person for our fair instead of multiple people. That person will gather information on what our fair needs are and work that into an agreement with their office so that there is no unmet expectations. K. Veldman will be the fair's contact person.

Fred Peasley from the Farm Museum reported the Farm Museum will do the sawmill and manure removal in 2024.

4) SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made by M. Tomasek, supported by A. Thueme to approve the minutes from January 8, 2024.

Motion carried.

5) TREASURER'S REPORT

No report. Acer Campbell is requesting to have his fair check re-issued.

6) FAIR OFFICE REPORT

No report. L. Burch on vacation.

7) MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Currently their office is working on the 4-H Council Auction, thank you for the donation of 10 weekly admission passes in baskets. The From the Forest to the Table will be held in March, currently working on that also. Likely to have the clerical job posted.

8) COMMITTEE REPORTS

A) AG EDUCATION

Still waiting for deposit back from the Ag on the Move trailer from 2023. Blacksmith demonstration still planned for 2024. Car show vendor is \$100/hr. and he handles the awards, sound, registration, judging, and has a following. Johnathan Rand is booked.

A motion was made by M. Tomasek, supported by T. Vincent to hire the car show vendor to handle the car show on Saturday of the fair, not to exceed \$500.00.

Motion carried.

B) ENTERTAINMENT

A motion was made by R. Ruemenapp, supported by A. Thueme to approve a budget of \$6,000 for music entertainment for the meadow.

Motion carried.

Mini golf is available Monday-Wednesday at \$1350 a day. The synthetic ice skating rink is available but the cost would be approximately \$13,000 for the week, plus the foundation to set the rink up. This does not include any employees to man the rink, and it's recommended you have 2 employees/volunteers working at a time.

C) ELECTRONIC TICKETING – No report.

D) FACILITIES

Committee met tonight and have all aspects of their committee handled.

E) HANDICAPABLE DAY – No report.

F) LIVESTOCK

There were 47 primary steers and 7 alternates tagged in January. Potential issue arising that we have an exhibitor who tagged a steer in our county and allegedly had the same steer tagged in Lapeer County. Need to add a rule to the fair book where exhibitors cannot exhibit the same animal/species at two different youth fairs. Intention is not to penalize exhibitors exhibiting at 2 fairs, just that they cannot exhibit the same species at two youth fairs. The committee would like to sell their beef scale at the 4-H Council Auction. The plan is to do it on this auction in order to give everyone a fair opportunity to purchase the scale at the highest price possible.

Committee recommending moving the sale to 2:00 p.m. from 4:00 p.m. Buyers will be given "fair bucks" when they check in, that they can turn around and purchase dinner/lunch at any vendor they wish, at any time they wish. Projected that the sale will end about 6:00-6:30 p.m. Need a tent for steers 40x80 or 30x100. Goats will need a tent of their own for their new location. Beef will have the tent that was formerly housing the goats in order to allow

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them to spread out their tack and beef chutes. Grand and Reserve Champion poultry and rabbits will sell first on the auction, so that those lots are sold prior to the silent auction closing. Veal and goats will sell prior to the swine on a rotating basis as in the past.

G) PARKS AND RECREATION

We have a proposed lease from PARC which increases our rent from base of \$6,600 to \$12,200 and \$10,000 to \$20,000, still 6% of admission. Committee will look at this and discuss potential of counter offer taking into consideration the grant dollars that we have put into the park in the last few years and potential for more during term of lease.

H) PERSONNEL – No report.

I) PUBLICITY

The committee will be meeting next week.

J) SPONSORSHIP

College Hunks will move our office to and from Goodells Park. There is no incentive for them to put out our yard signs so they won't be doing that. Committee discussed some alternates, but decides best plan was to just proceed as in past years with the yard signs.

9) OLD BUSINESS

A) PARKING LOTS

T. Vincent has found groups to cover the lots, \$7000 for the south lots and \$3250 for the north lots. A motion was made by T. Vincent, supported by M. Tomasek to hire the groups that T. Vincent has lined up.

Motion carried.

B) FAIR THEME

Tabled to allow everyone to think about how to incorporate a theme.

C) MAFE CONVENTION UPDATE

Running out of time to discuss tonight, however there were several sessions about fair/4-H relationship and we are very lucky that our fair has a good relationship with the 4-H staff in our county, most counties seem like they don't.

10) NEW BUSINESS

A) DAIRY JUDGE

D. Wojtysiak would like \$200 to spend for a judge. A motion was made by T. Vincent, supported by M. Tomasek to pay \$200 to the dairy judge.

Motion carried.

11) ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by A. Thueme, supported by M. Tomasek to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

Motion carried.

Chris Ruemenapp, Secretary