

ST. CLAIR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Monday, March 11, 2024 – Goodells County Park

1) ROLL CALL

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

Excused: Kent Renn, Kylie Veldman, Jake Sieloff.

Guests: Tom Stickley, Samantha Meier, Amber Patterson.

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

2) AGENDA

Letter received from Mya Peters under New Business. A motion was made by R. Vigneron, supported by A. Thueme to approve the agenda with the addition under New Business.

Motion carried.

3) HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Samantha Meyer from the St. Clair County Health Department gave a presentation regarding what the Health Department will have at the fair this year. They will have a nursing mother's area in the Visitors' Center again. Asking for more publicity to let people know it's there. They have purchased furniture for that area. Discussion about Community Building, working on getting Great Lakes Café for breakfast until 11 a.m. Church will be in the corner. Involving health department and Samantha talking about a family resource area and family activity tent behind the community center. Health Department will have a lactation consultant, someone that works for WIC, breast feeding comfort station Mon-Fri. Will add baby changing station. May consider a station in Community Building also.

Health Department thinking environmental health department will have a table featuring mosquito and ticks and storm water information, education outreach, info on all programs through SCC Health Dept, Medicaid application and community referrals, maternal health, lead and safe sleep. They will have a more solidified plan by the end of the month.

Discussion regarding not having lunch or dinner in the community building.

Amber Patterson from SCC Farm Bureau teaches at Woodrow Wilson, 2nd grade. Project Red. Woodrow Wilson children don't get a chance to go to the fair, Amber wants to make an agricultural video for her class, fair life, the week @ the fair. Clips of doing chores, pictures and videos. Want to have the school show the video and coloring opportunity. 23 elementary schools in the county. If Farm Bureau bought 23 carload passes at \$30 a piece, could they get a discount. Are we able to put posters up and look for their photos, t-shirts made for each kid. A motion was made by R. Ruemenapp, supported by L. Pennazoli to donate 46 daily admission car passes to Farm Bureau.

Motion carried.

4) SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made by A. Thueme, supported by L. Uppleger to approve the February 12, 2024 minutes.

Motion carried.

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5) TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion was made by R. Ruemenapp, supported by T. Warchuck to approve the treasurer's report.

Motion carried.

We will order the external admission passes this year. Discussion regarding Ag on the Move, haven't received our deposit back yet.

6) FAIR OFFICE REPORT – No report.

7) MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

4-H held their auction last month, just a few hundred dollars less than 2023. Classroom programming starting for Lori and Val, Urban Garden in Port Huron and partnering with SONS. From the Forest to the Table on Saturday. Kylie Veldman resigned from her position, that position is open.

8) COMMITTEES

A) AG EDUCATION

Lane Walker, author, sheep herder are confirmed. Opportunity to host alligator sanctuary group, Monday at 3 p.m., for an hour and they do a presentation, have a crocodile, tortoise, snake, lizard and meet and greet, photo opportunity. Brings a van and animal, reptiles. Coming from Athens, MI, cost is \$950 for an hour of presentation with the animals, www.alligatorsanctuary.com

Opening ceremonies at 1 p.m. A motion was made by T. Warchuck, supported by R. Ruemenapp to book the exotic animal show.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by R. Ruemenapp, supported by A. Thueme to book the Agri-Golf for the week.

Motion carried.

Randy Adams will run the car show. He's going to come back with a quote for us, using his services, trophies, prizes, gift basket, plaques for the cars and allow cars and vehicles in free and he would advertise for us and he has a following.

R. Vigneron has almost the entire week booked for bands in the meadow. Tuesday and Friday booked, Can repeat bands Monday and Saturday. Banner listing musical events.

Dave Goretski has connection with Armada robotics. We will likely have them near the Community Building.

B) AWARDS

B. Dudek reported the ribbons have been sorted and will work on getting a trophy sample. Committee will set a date to meet to discuss banners being used at the fair, what size, incorporating the Fair Board into the Leaders' Banquet.

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- C) AUDIT – No report.
- D) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS
Grant application due this week.
- E) CRATER – No report.
- F) ELECTRONIC TICKETING
Going to be using more Fair Bucks, Auction Bucks this year. Will use ticketing in Eventry for those.
- G) FACILITIES
Electrical upgrades on vendor alley discussed. Generator donated for west side of lane last year. Want to add 2 panels \$3000, north of Farm Museum, need to be able to plug in their camping area, 300-400 amps, to do that portion at \$7,000. Total cost \$10,000. A motion was made by M. Tomasek, supported by C. Ruemenapp to spend up to \$10,000 for the electrical upgrades.
Motion carried.
- Discussion about using the tram owned by Property Farms. J. Sieloff will be handling golf carts.
- H) HANDICAPABLE DAY – No report.
- I) LIVESTOCK
Scale was sold at the 4-H Council Auction for \$2,200.
- J) PARKS & RECREATION
There won't be any budging on the contract. May want to amend the contract in the future. A motion was made by R. Ruemenapp, supported by T. Vincent to approve the signing of the Parks and Recreation lease for the park for 5 years.
Motion carried. 1 opposed.
- K) PERSONNEL
Sheriff and EMS pushing to shut down County Park Drive. Will work on getting that permission from the Road Commission and signage.
- L) PUBLICITY
A motion was made by A. Thueme, supported by M. Tomasek to spend up to \$5,000 with Cumulus Media. 4-H Promotional Video is being worked on. MDOT cards ready to go, Linea Burch worked on those. Going to give us a MDOT number. College Hunks will put our yard signs and move to and from fair and providing 3 guys per night to help tram guys with spotters, in exchange for a sponsorship.

Discussed the new logo. Will contact Katie at Petoskey Stone Media for those revisions. A motion was made by A. Thueme, supported by L. Uppliger to approve it with the change of making the chicken on the barn smaller and add the establishment year.

Motion carried.

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- M) SAFETY
Committee met and working on updating emergency plan to be specific and talked about primary areas of concerns, vehicle traffic.
- N) SPONSORSHIP
Meeting on March 29th at 5:30 in fair office to finalize brochure. VIP tent booked in full. Tentative Monday, Alan working on it. 3 sponsors on Saturday, sharing the tent, add a potential pop up.
- O) STILL EXHIBITS – No report.
- P) SUPERINTENDENT DEVELOPMENT – No report.
- 9) OLD BUSINESS
 - A) THEME
No support for a theme for 2024. Will not choose from those submitted.
 - B) PONY PULLS/DRAFT HORSES
B. Dudek hasn't heard from the pony pull people. R. Usakowski will reach out to the Draft Horse Pullers.
 - C) BEN RISNEY
Ben would like a silent auction again in 2024 with his carvings.
- 10) NEW BUSINESS
 - A) PETERS LETTER
Letter read and submitted regarding the 14-Day biosecurity policy the fair has. Discussion why it was instituted, ramifications if we had to quarantine a species. This policy is not discriminatory against one species or exhibitor, but strong scientific support for the decision and it is uniformly applied. This is supported by MDARD.
- 11) ADJOURNMENT
A motion was made by A. Thueme, supported by R. Ruemenapp to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.
Motion carried.

Chris Ruemenapp, Secretary