

ST. CLAIR COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of Monday, July 8, 2024 – Saturday, July 20, 2024

Monday, July 8, 2024

1) ROLL CALL

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

Excused: Jake Sieloff, Kent Renn.

Guests: Lois & Bob Podgorski, Megan Tomasek, Tom Stickley, Ashley Sebastian, Connie Murray, Selby Wetherford, Crystal Blumerich, Ken Sieloff.

2) AGENDA

A motion was made by T. Vincent, supported by R. Vigneron to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

3) HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Tom Stickley inquired what time to be here on Friday to help with unloading wood chips.

Connie Murray indicated there will be some horse haul in's on Tuesday and throughout the week.

Ashley Sebastian inquired about whether fair is allowing dairy to show in 2024. Our fair vet is not recommending that dairy show at the fair, as well as poultry. The Fair has not taken any action on those recommendations. Dairy and poultry will exhibit at the fair as outlined in the fair book.

4) SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made by A. Thueme, supported by R. Vigneron to approve the minutes of June 10, 2024.

Motion carried.

5) TREASURER'S REPORT – No report.

6) FAIR OFFICE REPORT – No report.

7) MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

There are 250 gold-level volunteers, 541 youth and 118 Clover Sprouts. L. Warchuck said enrollments are trending towards pre-Covid numbers. R. Ruemenapp reported there are 665 exhibitors and 6,000 entries for the fair this year, compared to last year of 611 exhibitors and 5,600 entries.

8) COMMITTEE REPORTS

A) AG EDUCATION

Committee needs to lay out their area, everything has been confirmed. Need singers at the Crater. Wood carvings will have a silent auction, need help at 6:45 on Saturday.

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Need someone with an iPad to take credit card payments and moving carvings to their cars. Dog project requested fence posts, Donna will provide those. Travis Fahley will have FFA exhibitors at the 2025 fair, so we will work on how to incorporate them into the fair.

B) AWARDS

B. Dudek indicated there was a glitch in the counting system, ribbons counted twice, so they are short grand and reserve ribbons, which have been ordered.

C) AUDIT – No report.

D) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

Waiting on meter at the Crater, don't have permanent power yet.

E) CRATER

Mark Pederson has a show for intermission during the monster truck show, \$2000 to do both intermissions. A. Thueme needs help on Wednesday and Friday during fair to sell pit passes. Determination made that we will do our own intermission show in order to save money, shoot off shirts and do some sort of race with costumed characters.

F) ELECTRONIC TICKETING – No report

G) FACILITIES

The east gate wants a tent and generator to charge devices. MGM has 15, 35 gallon garbage cans. We don't want them. Will get new dumpsters on Wednesday and Saturday.

H) HANDICAPABLE DAY

There will be two rounds of buses coming in, 10:00 and 11:30.

I) LIVESTOCK

Fairbanks will be here on Friday to certify the scales. Plan to get fans up early before set up. No fans in the still barn.

J) PUBLICITY

Will do more signage for biosecurity reasons.

K) SAFETY

Homeland Security will bring their trailer out this year.

L) SPONSORSHIP

We have a sponsor donating a pallet of water. Marine City TSC is providing tractor and lawnmower.

M) STILL EXHIBITS

Baker family are not exhibiting this year due to judging being on Sunday. Exhibitors who are not able to be present during judging times can drop of their projects and write a note with their project and submit it for judging.

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9) OLD BUSINESS – None.

10) NEW BUSINESS

A) FAIR BUCKS

A motion was made by A. Thueme, supported by R. Vigneron to provide fair bucks for PARC employees, \$10 each, in lieu of a lunch after the fair.

Motion carried.

B) COLLEGE HUNKS

College Hunks will provide two employees at \$40 an hour to work with us on Sunday clean up from 10-4. A motion was made by C. Ruemenapp, supported by A. Thueme to hire them. They will also be providing volunteers throughout the week to drive trams.

Motion carried.

C) ELECTRICIAN

Matt Liebetreu was told to keep track of anything required to do outside of his contract to bill us for that, since there may be additional work this year due to moving of a tent, expanded Kid Zone.

D) FAIR CLEAN UP

We cannot leave anything behind the storage building this year, PARC wants that area cleaned up.

E) FAIR MEETINGS

Meetings will be held at noon during the fair. We will meet on Wednesday after the meeting to take a photo on Shredder.

11) ADJOURNMENT

Meeting recessed at 8:31 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024

Present: Tom Vincent, Tim Warchuck, Kevin Smith, Lindsey Uppleger, Rob Usakowski, Kylie Veldman, Lori Warchuck, Liz Pennazoli, Rick Ruemenapp, Robin Vigneron, Bernie Dudek, Donna Wojtysiak, Bob Podgorski, Lois Podgorski, Ken Sieloff, Chris Ruemenapp, Jake Sieloff, Kent Renn, Alan Thueme, Mike Tomasek.

During horse check in there was a horse that came in pretty skinny. Vet recommended modified exhibition. Will participate in Walk/Trot at vet's recommendation.

North end confusion with manure by rabbits and poultry. Dumpster is there for that.

We've had a couple slip and falls in front of the Community Building due to uneven cement. There is also uneven cement into the rabbit barn, 1.5" step up.

Starlink is up and running at the ticket booth.

Kid Zone area is nice. Agri-Golf is larger than expected and their electrical requirements per their contract were not what they needed when they arrived.

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Road Commission dropped off road signs by maintenance building. Cannot do electronic sign because they're being used for road projects.

Yale group doing parking did a nice job.

Getting new tires for handicap tram. MacAllister SxS will pull it.

Jake has a final plan for emergency protocol. Last set of bleachers set up.

Travis Fahley and Katie Fahley. New Ag Science and FFA advisor for Capac Schools. Capac building them a \$400,000 barn.

TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024

Present: Rob Usakowski, Chris Ruemenapp, Donna Wojtysiak, Lindsey Uppleger, Liz Pennazoli, Kent Renn, Tom Vincent, Mike Tomasek, Alan Thueme, Kylie Veldman, Robin Vigneron, Linda Taylor, Bob & Lois Podgorski, Jake Sieloff, Ken Sieloff, Linea Burch, Rick Ruemenapp, Tim Warchuck.

We can leave 1 tram in the Quonset Hut, help us out a bit.

Kids are dumping manure in the back of the dumpster, needs to be pushed forward. Putting the dumpster today at the west barn. Liz Pennazoli stated MGM not happy with dumpsters and requests.

Rodeo had a couple people injured. J. Sieloff spoke with crews, bull stepped on a rider and fell on him. Initially it looked like a bad outcome, but by the time he got to the hospital he was alert and talking, doing okay today. Preliminary scans, hairline fractures, far better outcome than originally anticipated.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024

Present: Alan Thueme, Kylie Veldman, Dennis Delor, Nate Havens, Lindsey Uppleger, Robin Vigneron, Colleen Provost, Tim Warchuck, Linea Burch, Kevin Smith, Chris Ruemenapp, Bernie Dudek, Linda Taylor, Kent Renn, Liz Pennazoli. Nick Neibauer, Rick Ruemenapp, Tom Vincent, Ken Sieloff, Donna Wojtysiak.

Parks will store one of our trams, the red one.

Someone hurt on Jeremy's monster truck. They have tires with spikes and someone was cut. Those spikes need to be removed.

No meeting tomorrow.

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2021

Lunch provided by Bechlers. Discussion held about identifying what conflicts we may have in 2025 with another fair running simultaneously.

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Motion to eliminate Brianna Rich from cake decorating and exhibitor of the year due to confirmed cheating, supported. Exhibitor remorseful, made a mistake in attempt to win exhibitor of the year. Felt pressure to complete 168 projects and ran out of time.

Motion carried.

A motion was made by L. Pennazoli to allow her to participate in sweepstakes, supported by T. Warchuck.

Motion carried. 3 opposed, 1 abstain.

Present: Linda Taylor, Tom Vincent, Colleen Provost, Kent Renn, Linea Burch, Donna Wojtysiak, Rob Usakowski, Kevin Smith, Rick Ruemenapp, Alan Thueme, Liz Pennazoli, Mike Tomasek, Robin Vigneron, Mary Ruemenapp, Bob Podgorski, Lois Podgorski, Carly Vertz.

Snacks provided by Another one Bites the Crust.

Carly Vertz said the carnival numbers are good. Will work on presales and redemptions for 2025.

Visitors' Center has been locked on Friday and Saturday to reduce issues in that area. There are groups of teens with stocking caps hanging out in that area causing problems. The person that has the ATM machine in there will be guarding that area today.

D. Wojtysiak didn't like the livestock dinner option this year with the Auction Bucks.

Dennis Delore was taking Pete Letz from the PARC board around the fair.

The dumpsters at the north end were hard to get in. Will look at what is needed versus what is used so we can ask for bids for 2025.

Rabbits – Public comments. Parents unhappy with judging outcome and loudly saying bad things about the judge when they were working. Then did survey asking if the judge was good.

Eric Burgess works in logistics for the Army and Air Force. This is his third year at the fair and studies leadership and policy. Stated there is an appearance of impropriety and asked to survey the rabbit barn. He passed them out to people in the barn to get their opinions. Survey completed last weekend. Questioned why he didn't provide it to the board before disseminating it. Livestock committee is used to filter suggestions, complaints, improvements. E. Burgess believes exhibitors and parents cannot go to the rabbit leadership since actions will be taken against their kids. Passed out 40 surveys, 16 returned. Asked for the results.

Cathie Usakowski and Jessica Usakowski complaint against Carrie Werth. There was swearing by a 4-H leader at judging this year. The leader grabbed the survey being given, and also grabbed her wrist aggressively. Most frustrated that it happened in front of kids.

Parties advised to call for fair board if there are problems or these things continue.

Motion made by R. Ruemenapp, supported by A. Thueme to adjourn.

Motion carried.

Chris Ruemenapp, Secretary