

Calhoun County Agricultural & Industrial Society

Minutes of Board Meeting

April 20th, 2015 – Marshall Middle School - 7:00 PM

Call to Order

The April 20th, 2015 Board meeting was called to order by CCAIS Board President, Doug Wildt at 7:00 pm at Marshall Middle School.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vic Parker.

Attendance with Roll Call was conducted by Susan Baldwin.

Present: Doug Wildt, Jim Olds, Tom Carr, Susan Baldwin, Amanda Shreve, Steven Benham, Nick Collier, Hope Horton, Vic Parker, Vic Potter (7:15 pm), Shirland Redfield.

Secretary's report of the March 16th, 2015 minutes was given. Susan Baldwin thanked Megan Harvey for handling the minutes for the March meeting as Baldwin was unable to attend the meeting. Motion was made by Susan Baldwin, supported by Steve Benham to file the minutes as presented. Vote was all in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Amanda Shreve provided the treasurer's report. She presented the balance sheet and the Profit and Loss statements, and discussed various line items. Shreve also reported on the discussions at the Finance Committee. Shirland Redfield moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted and put on record. Jim Olds seconded. Motion was approved.

Public Comment - requested for any agenda items.

Russ Clutter commented on the beer sales license. He is not in support of selling beer at the Cruise the Fountain event or the fair. At the last car event for which Clutter volunteered, the committee decided to do a beer tent. One of the big participant groups was not in favor of this and refused to return. He is concerned that someone could get drunk and hurt. Also concerned that teens may get access to beer. Does not want to compete with local businesses.

Richard Hazen, President of Fredonia Grange, presented a resolution from the Grange opposing sale of alcoholic beverages at the Calhoun County Fair Grounds. The Grange members are concerned about costs, liability, harm to fair goers and the community.

The Grange would like the Board to reconsider the decision to sell beer at the Fair.
(Copy of the document is attached.)

Bonnie Rocco stated her concerns about a beer tent and selling beer. There is already beer showing up in the barns and trailers.

Discussion Item:

- 1. Electrical Wire for New Primary Line** – Phil Smith updated the Board regarding the status of the new primary electric line. There are still two poles to be purchased from the storm damage which should be covered by insurance. Would like to propose removal and relocation of overhead wires in the carnival area. Cost for new line and work should be approximately \$6000. Smith would like a budget of \$6500 in case of any unforeseen expenses. The Board discussed location of the lines and asked additional clarifying questions. After discussion, the Board referred the issue to the Finance Committee to consider availability of funds.

New Business:

- 1. Entry Fee - Finance Committee Recommendation** – Amanda Shreve discussed that the current CCAIS budget does not have any provision for substantial repairs or upgrades in facilities. Shreve and the Finance Committee have been considering ways to generate new revenues and to appropriately cover certain costs of operating the fair. The Committee would like the Board to consider adding certain fees. Currently, Youth are not charged fees for pens, entry or manure handling. The costs to handle and remove manure now run close to or over \$1600. Regarding exhibitor fees, Open classes are charged a \$10.00 exhibitor fee plus \$3.00 per head for horse, dairy, beef, sheep and goats. Rabbit and poultry entries are \$1.00 per head. It is proposed that Youth classes now be charged those fees.

The Committee suggested that exhibitor fees would go into a fund to finance upgrades and maintenance of the fairgrounds as well as infrastructure improvements. Manure fees would go into a specific line item to offset manure handling costs. The Board asked clarifying questions. There was discussion about how clubs handled the costs of maintaining buildings in the past. The discussion broadened into prior practice of collecting a small percentage when animals were sold to cover barn expenses and pens. Vic Potter emphasized that we need to find a way to afford the fairgrounds. Amanda Shreve discussed

options for cases of financial hardship. Hope Horton mentioned the ribbons, trophies, manure handling as all costs that the fair is providing – there needs to be a plan to cover these costs.

The Board took input from attendees. Several Members raised concerns about costs to families with several children participating or who show a variety of animals. Marilyn Letts was concerned that craft kids won't want to pay the \$10.00 entry fee and won't submit entries. She was upset about youth paying so many fees generally. Joanna Wilson asked for clarification between animal fees versus craft entries. Al Seedorf suggested looking at raising open entry fees.

Following consideration of comments from Board members and meeting attendees, the Board discussed referring this issue to the Finance Committee for further consideration. Amanda Shreve moved and Vic Potter seconded to transfer this to the Finance Committee. Motion was approved.

- 2. Beer License for Cruise and Monday/Tuesday nights during Fair – Susan Baldwin** discussed that there has been a proposal to submit an application to sell beer during the Cruise the Fountain event in July, as well as extend the days to sell beer at the Fair to include Monday and Tuesday nights. If CCAIS wants to proceed with these proposals, additional action would be required by the Board.

Vic Potter stated that he did not feel it was worth the effort to sell beer during the Cruise event. There are no Saturday events planned. He also noted that beer sales had not done well at a prior Cruise event. Vic Parker stated he felt there would be opportunity for revenue. Doug Wildt and Jim Olds asked if CCAIS could apply for the license but decide not to proceed with any or all of the dates. Nick Collier stated that the Cruise Committee was still discussing adding events. Doug Wildt would like more information on how the Cruise beer sales would be handled. Jim Olds was concerned that if the Board does not vote to apply for a special license for the Cruise event now, there would not be time to file the application. Jim Olds moved that CCAIS should apply for a special license to sell beer at the Cruise the Fountain event on July 3 and 4, as well as amending the application for the special license to sell beer during the Fair to include Monday and Tuesday of fair week. Nick Collier seconded. A roll call vote was taken: In favor – Doug Wildt, Jim Olds, Tom Carr, Susan Baldwin, Amanda Shreve, Steve Benham, Nick Collier, Hope Horton, Vic Parker. Opposed – Vic Potter, Shirland Redfield.

Events and Committee Reports:

- a.** 4H Council – Marilyn Letts discussed the Relay for Life event and the Adventure 3-day event at Cornwells. Four kids qualified for \$2000 scholarships to Michigan State University. 4H Exploration Days are coming up.
- b.** FFA Report – Megan Harvey shared a report from Lora Finch - Homer FFA has 50 members competing at MSU at the state ag skills contests. Three members competed in horse judging and 12 attended the livestock judging session. The club is looking forward to a judging contest at the fair, as well as at the State FFA in July. Amanda Shreve stated that Marshall FFA is putting together an advisory board.
- c.** Floral Hall Building – John Taylor – Looking into a sign for Floral Hall.
- d.** Houston School – Bonnie Rocco – committee will be meeting soon.
- e.** Maple Grove Church – Margaret Taylor reported that committee raised \$1600 from the auction fund raiser. And there are two weddings coming up at the Church.
- f.** Grounds – Phil Smith – the Spring clean up went very well. Many thanks to Greg Smith and Shannon Flynn for helping with the bailer. Annual banquet for Olivet FFA is coming up and Phil will attend. A tractor event is coming up on June 6 – will be getting the pulling area ready.
- g.** Marketing Committee – Hope Horton reported that the folding brochure proof has been reviewed and should be printed shortly. WIN 98 has announced the Love and Theft concert for Fair week. Tickets go on sale to the public on May 1. All tickets will be under \$20 for pre-sale. Nick Collier stated that tickets will be pre-sold to the membership – the info will be posted on Facebook.
- h.** Sponsorships – Megan Harvey reported contacts are going well. She has made several new contacts. Received the matching grants from the Soy Bean Council for \$5000.
- i.** Operation Committee – Vic Parker - no additional report.

- j. Cruise the Fountain – Leslie Parker stated that the next committee meeting is coming up on April 22 at the Fair office.
- k. Fundraisers – Cindy Thomas provided an update on the golf outing. Working hard on sponsorships and donations – need hole sponsors. Still plenty of room for golfers. Next committee meeting is April 22 at Country Kitchen.
- l. Fair Museum – JoAnne McKeever – no report.

PUBLIC COMMENT – three minute time limit and one opportunity to speak.

Marilyn Letts asked if there would be a veterinarian checking animals for the rodeo scheduled for the Fair. Animals will need to be checked for TB and tags. Nick Collier indicated that this would be handled by the rodeo company. Letts also was concerned about any animal rights presence. Letts also expressed concern about fees to kids and suggested that the Board do other fundraisers.

Chris Landis is concerned that the rodeo and steer show are scheduled on the same night during the Fair. Also has concerns about the \$10.00 entry fee proposal – would like that tabled for this year. How would fees be handled for one calf being shown by a youth in a youth class and an adult in an open class. Landis also asked about posting of fair minutes and notice of committee meetings – sometimes the notice is too late.

Bud Moe asked if the meeting seating arrangements could be changed so that the attendees are not so far from the Board – difficult to hear. Moe also asked if a golf cart was being given away at the fair this year? Megan Harvey stated that the Fair only made \$1500 last year and was not sure if was worth the effort.

Ann Myles asked about the 50/50 raffle.

Annette Stewart stated that everyone needs to treat each other with respect. Feels that some ideas or proposals are not thought out. Understands the discussion about the entry fee and need for more funding but need to build trust.

Tim Zimmerman disagreed with holding the beer sales at the Cruise. Feels that CCAIS is opening itself up to liability – there are big hot rods around and could be trouble.

Kim Mowery asked about the barn that was damaged and plans to get it repaired. Need to get it on the agenda. Doug Wildt stated that this is a good example of why CCAIS needs the infrastructure fund. He appreciates all the work the Minnie Whinnies did for

their barn which the club funded. We need to make some changes and find a good medium ground.

Margaret Taylor noted that a person can enter many items in the Fair for the \$10.00 fee.

Johanna Wilson is the leader of the Minnie Whinnies – suggests a different entry fee for crafts-only participants. Noted that some people are not selling their animals. Nick Collier commented that maybe we need to call it something else – but the reality is we need to protect the future to keep the fairgrounds. We need systems and processes in place to protect what we have.

Shirland Redfield also noted that we need to remember what got us into trouble – the land purchase, the comfort station. Need to put the blame in the right place.

Diana Wagner asked what is being done to better utilize the fairgrounds all year around. Megan Harvey explained that new events are being brought in, including an antique tractor show and market, dog shows, demo derby. Most are for weekend events – looking for more week-long events. Hope Horton noted that Megan Harvey offered the idea to sell space on the fairgrounds during the Marshall community garage sale – that has gone well.

BOARD COMMENTS –

Nick Collier shared more details on the concert and asked everyone to spread the news.

Amanda Shreve noted that we need to be cognizant of parliamentary procedure when something is referred to a committee. The Committee reviews and recommends ideas/proposals to the Board. The Board considers the topic, then acts or sends the issue for more consideration. Also – the Board needs a copy of the small animals bylaws – they need to be incorporated or referenced in the CCAIS bylaws.

Vic Potter reported that the committee will be setting a master plan update meeting. We also need to get an audit done to be able to apply for grants.

Adjournment – Motion was made by Amanda Shreve, seconded by Vic Potter, to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm.