

Calhoun County Agricultural & Industrial Society

Minutes of Board Meeting

September 21st, 2015 – Marshall Middle School - 7:00 PM

Call to Order

The September 21st , 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, Steven Benham, Nick Collier, Hope Horton, Vic Parker, Vic Potter, Shirland Redfield. Excused: Amanda Shreve

Secretary's report of the August 10th, 2015 minutes was given. One correction to the minutes were offered – Shirland Redfield asked that his statement under Board Comments be corrected to state that he would like to see the blacktop fixed "before" the Relay for Life event. Motion was made by Susan Baldwin, seconded by Jim Olds to file the minutes as corrected. Vote was all in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Megan Harvey provided the Treasurer's report in Amanda Shreve's absence. She shared the financials for the month. Harvey reported that the Finance Committee met. A decision has been made to implement a purchase order system. The Finance Committee met with Doug Burtch of TJ Schmidt to negotiate the 2017 and 2018 contract for the fair. Harvey also reported that the General Fund checking account was compromised. There was no loss but the Bank would like CCAIS to set up a new account.

Regarding the carnival contract, Vic Potter stated that CCAIS needs to pin down the contract to ensure we have a carnival. Baldwin expressed concern about an item in the contract which would appear to give TJ Schmidt the right to limit vendors which CCAIS selects if any current vendors cancel. Potter moved approval of the contract with the proviso that Baldwin and Harvey clarify the language about vendors. Hope Horton seconded. Motion approved.

Regarding the purchase order system, Potter moved approval of the program, Tom Carr seconded. Motion approved.

Regarding the general checking account matter, Potter moved that CCAIS should open a new account to replace the compromised account, with the same signatories as the previous account. Tom Carr seconded. Motion was approved.

Public Comment - requested for any agenda items.

None.

New Business:

1. **Bylaws** – Susan Baldwin reported on the status of the Bylaws Committee work. A working draft was made available for anyone to review. The next Committee meeting is September 25th. It is still the plan to have the proposed changes mailed to the membership with the Annual Meeting notice.
2. **Master Plan Update** – Doug Wildt reported that Dick Sweet has been working with the Master Plan Committee. He would like to have Sweet assume the Chair position given his experience with other organizations. Vic Potter, current Chair, agreed to have Sweet step in as Chair.

Hope Horton moved approval of both sets of guidelines, seconded by Tom Carr. Motion was approved.

3. **Policy Implementation Development Committee** – Cindy Thomas reported for Amanda Shreve. The Finance Committee discussed the need to have policies in writing. This is required to prepare for the audit. CCAIS will need better records to meet the audit. Cindy Thomas is willing to chair this committee.

Events and Committee Reports:

- a. 4H Council – Marilyn Letts reported that the gates and benches have been put away and the building straightened up. There is a 4H conference coming up on October 5.
- b. FFA Report – Megan Harvey reported that Marshall FFA is having a fundraiser at Culver’s in Battle Creek on Sept 29. Chris Landis reported on Homer FFA, sharing information on awards received. Currently signing up kids and leaders. Homer FFA is volunteering at the Homer Fall Festival on Saturday.

- c. Floral Hall Building – Melvin Banfield – commented that there needs to be a more common time for exhibits being brought in to Floral Hall. It is disorganized now. Some of the display cases are falling apart. The Committee is looking into replacements. Several have been offered. John Taylor shared that many people came through Floral Hall during the fair and there were many positive comments. Margaret Taylor reported that there were the same number of entries as last year. Just a few youth. She said many thanks to the volunteers for prepping Floral Hall for the fair.
- d. Houston School – Bonnie Rocco – Lots of visitors came through the school during the fair. Lots of kids participated in the programs.
- e. Maple Grove Church – Margaret Taylor reported that there was very good attendance at all of the programs during the fair. Wednesday in particular was packed.
- f. Grounds – Phil Smith reported that 99% of the grounds have been cleaned up from the fair. Now preparing for fall events. The sidewalk by the ladies restroom has been replaced.
- g. Marketing Committee – Hope Horton reported that she and Megan have collected samples from other fairs to use for developing materials for next year.
- h. Sponsorships – Megan Harvey reported that sponsorships for the fair week were very successful. Funds collected have reached just over \$111,000, the highest in recent history. Fair week was very successful in all areas. Huge thank you to each and everyone for helping. We could not do this event without all of the great volunteers. In other events - Halloween Camping Extravaganza is set for Oct 16-17, a family-friendly camping experience. There will be costume contests, pumpkin carving, T-shirt coloring. Megan was able to find many sponsors for the events.
- i. Operation Committee – Vic Parker had no report. Vic Potter spoke with Bruce Rapp on status of building.
- j. Cruise the Fountain – No report
- k. Fundraisers – golf outing – no report – still looking for a committee chair.

- l.** Fair Museum – JoAnne McKeever reported that attendance was down Monday and Tuesday but good the rest of the week. They made \$907 on the raffle. The Committee is checking into a floor treatment. Sixteen new items have already been received for this year. Thanks to Shirland Redfield for putting in the new light bulbs.
- m.** Five Year/Master Plan – Doug Wildt said that Dick Sweet would like to make a few comments about the Master Plan committee and plans for moving forward. (Sweet provided a copy of his remarks – a copy has been placed in the Board meeting files.) He included comments about his experiences with volunteers at the Cheyenne Frontier Days rodeo. Vic Potter noted that the plan is to achieve more donations if we are organized and all on the same page. Susan Baldwin was asked to be one of the Vice Chairs.
- n.** Small/Large Animal Committee - Tom Carr reported on the small animal auction. He noted that rabbits doubled in sales over previous years. There were increases in all categories. The auction committee had \$4430 in income and \$4421.50 in expenses. Moving the auction to Thursday night was well-received. Kori Albrecht reported on the large animal auction. There was an increase in folks in the meal line – 850 to 900 were served, up 100 than last year. They are still finalizing the financials with a rough estimate of \$6100 in income. Everything worked well between the committees and the set-up on Thursday carrying into Friday was good.
- o.** Beef Breeding – Kim Mowry – 64 head were in the barn. There were more activities for the kids. Twenty-some kids participated in the lifestyle event. It was a great week.
- p.** Beef – Greg Smith – 61 members showed Wednesday evening. It was well-received to have the event in the evening.
- q.** Dairy - Marilyn Letts reported that it was a small but decent show. There is not much commercial dairy activity in Calhoun County. There is a rumor about building a milking parlor but that would be way too expensive for the small participation.
- r.** Dairy Starter – Tom Carr reported that the numbers were up and it was a good show.

- s. Draft Horse – Annette Stuart reported 13 kids showed with several younger ones participating. There is an issue with showing in the arena, not enough room to get the horses to trot.
- t. Companion/Dog – Nancy Gallant stated that there were lower numbers this year but several new kids participated. Kids exhibited in Obedience, Agility, Showmanship and Rally. The kids volunteered at the Battle Creek Kennel Club to earn money for prizes.
- u. Goat – Hope Horton reported that there were lots of fun events for the kids on Tuesday for Kids Day. For the goat show, there was \$800 in donation prizes. The club received \$1900 from selling the goat milk at the auction.
- v. Horse – Mark Cummings reported that numbers were down a bit but it was a good show.
- w. Mini-whinnies – Hope Horton reported for Ken Flanders. She noted that fair book show times did not match up with actual show times.
- x. Poultry – Tonya Wagley noted that this was a tough year for poultry due to the bird flu issues. 38 carcasses were sold. Several kids made displays.
- y. Rabbits – Shawn Green reported that there were 112 rabbits in the barn. Ten kids auctioned their animals, up from 7 last year. They made over \$5700 gross receipts in the sales. He expressed appreciation to all of the folks who helped this year.
- z. Sheep – Kori Albrecht reported that numbers of participants were up - the age changes helped. The time of the show ran 4 to 5 hours. Maybe could swap with the draft horses.
- aa. Swine – Hope Horton reported that there were ups and downs with the swine show. She thanked folks for supporting the fundraisers.

Non-Livestock Superintendents

- bb. Youth Ceramics – no superintendent - no report
- cc. Youth Clothing – Andrea Boughton reported that numbers were way down. Setting up on Friday worked well. There might have been some

confusion on the times. She noted that some of the tables are in rough shape. Not all of the club members showed.

- dd.** Youth Clowing – Hope Horton reported, noting that the fair book information will need to be re-written for this category. Workshops will be held in May.
- ee.** Youth Creative Arts/Craft – LeeAnn Fischhaber reported that numbers were down 60%. Noted that there was an issue with a dirt pile just outside the building, making the waiting area difficult.
- ff.** Youth Culinary Arts – Hope Horton gave the report.
- gg.** Youth Floriculture & Horticulture – Hope Horton reported for Amanda. She would like a unified time for judging for all projects. She suggested an event with various clubs demonstrating what they do so kids could see the options.
- hh.** Youth Leadership/Development – Lee Fischhaber reported that participation was up from last year. Need to educate youth about importance of leadership. He suggested cross-marketing to animal clubs. Need a positive spin for youth so they come back in the future.
- ii.** Power Safety/Woodworking – Hope Horton reported that there is a need to clarify youth and open classes in this category.
- jj.** Youth Photography – Nancy Sutherland shared that participation was about the same as last year. The quality this year was outstanding. She shared a letter from a participant to a judge about how the judge had made a good impression on the student.
- kk.** General Market Projects – Kathy Philo reported that there were 13 exhibitors with 22 projects. She hopes to increase participation next year. Would like to connect youth with businesses. Many thanks to all of the volunteers.
- ll.** Antiques – Denise Banfield thanked all of the folks who helped out. It was a great show.
- mm.** Culinary Arts – no report
- nn.** Floriculture – no report

- oo.** Needlework – Marilyn Jones stated that entries were down. The Knit-out event went very well – this is the third year.
- pp.** Antique Tractor Pulls – Kim Mowry reported that 32 tractors were on display. This was the 5th annual cancer drive and 89 tractors participated. They raised \$7000 this year, totaling over \$24,000 over the years for this event. Many thanks to CCAIS for allowing the group to participate.
- qq.** Fine/Folk Arts – Edith Smith shared that there were really interesting exhibits this year. They included woodworking and fine arts. The youth had nice exhibits.
- rr.** Photography – Karen Dean stated that the display set up was much nicer this year. The judges commented on this. Need to review the fair book on the categories. There was a medical issue with one judge but otherwise the event went very well.
- ss.** King & Queen Pageant – no report
- tt.** Truck Pulls – Vic Parker reported that the truck pulls had a great year. The numbers were up.
- uu.** Demonstrations – Donna Zenker reported that they had many entries. The judges were very good and encouraging to the kids.
- vv.** Show of Champions – Chris Landis reported that the show went well. Looking for sponsors for scholarships for the seniors. Some kids don't want to attend the show – too busy. Made a suggestion for a junior kids section. The show lasted about 1 hour and 45 minutes. There was an issue with not enough kids showing in certain species.

Hope Horton announced a meeting for all supervisors.

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

Marilyn Letts feels that the fair seems to be pushing the youth participation and this seems to have alienated the adults. They don't seem welcome.

JoAnne McKeever shared that she spent a lot of time at the fairgrounds during the fair and wanted to say that CCAIS has some of the best grounds crew.

Rexine Cockroft said that the tables and canopies by the restrooms were great. She saw one incident at the fair where people were throwing rocks at a building – may need someone to monitor the grounds. In another note, she stated that the lights in the parking lot went out when people were trying to go out to their cars later in the evening.

Tonya Wagley said thanks to Vic Parker and the others for helping with the chicken barn.

Mo Marshall offered thanks to Greg and Shannon for working on the beef club.

Kathy Fischer said she thinks a lot of kids sign up for many events then don't show up. Need to look into this. She also noted that it is too challenging to do non-livestock project set up and loading animals in the same day.

Kim Mowry offered thanks to Greg Smith for all of his help and barns working together.

Shirley Myers made a comment about the auctions. She heard that some businesses couldn't attend two days in a row for the auctions. She also mentioned the pancake brunch fundraiser for the BE Henry Building on Sunday, Sept 27. Hoping to raise money for the carpet.

Michelle Van Sickle said good job to Greg and Shannon – always very helpful.

Pattie Baughman stated that she thought it was a good idea to have the parade downtown but there were big gaps. Need to have better supervision. Horses need more room and times for exercise. Regarding the classes, she noted that the kids often hear feedback from the judges. This would be a good idea for open class participants to hear from the judges as well.

Dick Sweet said the parade had some issues but it is a good event to have. Just needs to be better organized. Thanks to Megan for handling this.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COMMENTS –

During her report on Sponsorships, Megan Harvey noted several items. Membership cut-off date for participating in the Annual Meeting election is Monday, October 19. Dues can be paid online. The Office will be open that day for payments. The calendar of events was distributed. Please let Megan know if anything is missing or needs to be updated. The Volunteer Dinner is October 3 at 6:30 pm. Office hours for the fall are

now posted as Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. Megan can always be reached by email to arrange a meeting time.

BOARD COMMENTS –

Jim Olds expressed that he really enjoyed the fair and felt it went smoothly.

Doug Wildt said thank you to all of the Superintendents and asked them to write down any comments and get the information to the office. He also said that he felt Megan did a great job managing the fair week.

Tom Carr said many thanks to Steven Benham for the technology help. It really helped with the auctions and organization.

Vic Potter noted that the Board needs to do a review for Megan.

Hope Horton announced that there are a number of open superintendent positions and asked that applications be submitted in two weeks. The open positions are: Open Classes - Foods and Floriculture. Youth Classes – Rabbit, Floriculture, Ceramics, Leathercraft and Education/Entomology.

Nick Collier said thank you to Ryan Harvey and Josh Darrow for being extremely helpful and setting good examples for the youth during fair week. Nick also noted that older members in the clubs volunteered.

Adjournment – Motion was made by Vic Potter, seconded by Nick Collier, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. Motion passed.

Submitted by Susan Baldwin, Board Secretary