

Calhoun County Agricultural & Industrial Society

Minutes of Board Meeting

September 19th, 2016 – Marshall Middle School - 7:00 PM

Call to Order

The September 19th, 2016 Board meeting was called to order by CCAIS Board President, Doug Wildt at 7:00 pm at the Marshall Middle School.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Nick Collier.

Attendance with Roll Call was conducted by Susan Baldwin.

Present: Doug Wildt, Vic Potter, Jim Olds, Amanda Shreve, Susan Baldwin, Steven Benham, Tom Carr, Nick Collier, Hope Horton, Art Kale, Matt Ivey. All present.

Approval of Agenda - motion by Susan Baldwin, seconded by Vic Potter, to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Secretary's report of the July 18th, 2016 minutes was given by Susan Baldwin. Motion was made by Susan Baldwin, seconded by Vic Potter to file the minutes as presented. Motion passed. Baldwin discussed the upcoming Annual Meeting. The Board will be setting a date in the near future, most likely December 1 or 8 depending on available locations. Any proposed Bylaws changes that a member wishes to have the membership consider must be given to the Board in writing no later than 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting - ten current members must sign on the request. Baldwin reminded attendees that to be eligible to vote the Annual Meeting for any business coming before the meeting, a person must pay for their membership no less than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. Baldwin discussed that a Nominating Committee must be appointed and moved that the Board approve a committee with membership to be appointed by President Wildt with advice from the Board. Tom Carr supported – motion passed.

Treasurer and Finance Committee Reports – Amanda Shreve presented the report. She noted the assets, restricted and liquid, as well as liabilities. Shreve noted that final proceeds from the golf outing netted \$9,348.15. Motion was made by Vic Potter, seconded by Steve Benham, to accept and file the financial portion of the report. Motion approved.

Executive Director's Report – Megan Harvey expressed sincere thanks to the many volunteers who helped out during fair week. Superintendents have suggested developing better ways for contact information as so many things are going on during that week. Megan Harvey would like any fair book changes submitted by November 1. She also reminded everyone about membership renewals being due now. Megan reported that the master Plan Vision Map was on display during the fair and a few comments were submitted. The Marshall – All Things Vintage event is coming up on Sunday. Halloween camping event is set for Oct 14-16 – reservations are way up over last year.

Public Comment - requested for any agenda items.

None.

New Business:

- A. Determination of Protest Filed** – Doug Wildt reported that a protest had been filed regarding removal of a youth exhibitor during fair week. He noted that the protest was incompletely filed – the required fee was not submitted.
- B. Board Discussion and Action on Superintendent Recommendation** – Doug Wildt reported on a recommendation from a Superintendent that a youth exhibitor be excluded from participating in the fair in the future. The exhibitor's inappropriate behavior following participation in a livestock event was noted by the Superintendent and the fair office received at least 10 emails and letters regarding what other individuals had witnessed the incident. Motion was made by Vic Potter, seconded by Tom Carr to not allow this person to exhibit as a youth participant for the remainder of their eligibility. Roll call vote was taken – all in favor.
- C. Dumping Fee** – Doug Wildt discussed that the Board is looking into better management of the area the fairgrounds where infill is in process. The Board is discussing limits and possible fees but nothing has been established as yet.

Discussion Items:

- A. Volunteer Dinner** – Megan Harvey stated that the dinner is set for October 12 at the Belcher Building at 6:30 pm and asked folks to give the office their RSVP.

Committee Reports

- A. **Operations Committee** – Vic Potter stated no report this month.
- B. **Marketing Committee** – Megan Harvey reported that the committee is advertising winter storage and ideas for next year's plan.
- C. **Superintendent Committee** – Hope Horton reported that under the new Superintendent procedures, this year many of the contracts are up for renewal. The new procedures were put into place three years ago. Interested folks are welcome to apply for the same position or others if they are interested. Please submit letters of interest to the fair office. The following terms have expired: Open class – Needlework, Fine Arts, Folk Art, Antiques. Non-livestock Youth – Clothing, Clowning, Creative Arts, Demonstrations, Family Mgt/Home/Personal Improvement, First Aid/Conservation, Food & Nutrition, Horticultural, Knitting & Crocheting, Leadership/Personal Development, Petro Power/Safety, Photography, Woodworking/Electric. Livestock – Beef Breeding, Dairy, Dairy Starter, Youth Draft, Goats, Youth Horse, Sheep. Current open positions are Poultry and Ceramics.
- D. **Small Animal Auction Committee** – Tom Carr stated that an October wrap up meeting is planned. The committee will start again in January.
- E. **Large Animal Auction Committee** – Michelle Albrecht reported that they are still working on the final numbers and should have things ready by next month.
- F. **Livestock Committee** – Tom Carr reported that the committee is still working on scheduling the next meeting. Anyone should feel free to submit comments and suggestions.
- G. **Master Plan Committee** – Doug Wildt reported that Megan is compiling the information from fair week.
- H. **Policy & Procedure Committee** – Cindy Thomas reported that the committee is still collecting documents.
- I. **Millionaire Raffle Committee** – Jim Pardoe reported that almost 100 tickets have been sold. Lots to sell and committee is working hard. Rainy weather

during fair week was a challenge. Moose Lodge is really stepping up to support the event. This is a good event for the kids.

- J. Beef Breeding** – Kim Mowry shared many thanks for all of the volunteers. Rain was a challenge – had to replace bedding. 80-some head of cattle in the barn. For the judging competition, there were 20 kids – Kim could use some helpers for the next event.
- K. Beef** – Greg Smith reported that the evening show went well. Everyone worked around the rain. There were not many dairy steers but had good quality.
- L. Dairy** – Beth Letts reported that their barn did not flood and they were able to take in “refugees”. Had a good week.
- M. Dairy Starter** – no report.
- N. Youth Draft Horse** – Randy Combs – everything went smoothly though rain was a challenge.
- O. Companion/Dog** – Nancy Gallant – had to cancel agility event due to the rain.
- P. Goat** – Hope Horton reported that they had their largest auction in 7 years – 27 animals were sold.
- Q. Horse** – Mark Cummings stated that they had a good show – rain hurt some of the work.
- R. Mini-whinnie** – Al Seedorff stated that things went well – lots of participation.
- S. Poultry** – No report.
- T. Rabbit** – Shawn Green stated that it was a huge year for the auction. Made \$1300 on fundraiser.
- U. Sheep** – Michelle Albrecht stated that the change in date did not cause any issues.
- V. Swine** – No report.

- W. **Draft Horse** – Amy Cobb reported that they had a great week. Barn was painted and looked great.
- X. **Horse Pull** – Jack Van Voorst reported conditions were not good – rain did not help. Perhaps could prep the track before fair.

Non-Livestock Superintendents

- Y. **Youth Ceramics** – no report
- Z. **Youth Clothing** – Andrea Boughton stated there was an increase in numbers. She has concerns about non-livestock area being so empty during show. There were some issues with exhibitors being registered for the wrong section – Open versus youth. Perhaps the fair book could be clearer. In the past, winners were announced in the newspaper – would like to see that practice again. Using the arena on Friday worked well. Thank you! for the tables.
- AA. **Youth Clowning** – Hope Horton reported that there were no entries. Sandi Christie has talked about doing a clinic to draw more interest.
- BB. **Youth Creative Arts/Crafts** – LeeAnn Fischhaber reported that it was great to have the new tables. Entries were way down – that is disappointing. Art Kale asked why the decrease in participation. LeeAnn feels it is due to so many events happening on Saturday and long lines. She suggest extending hours to bring in projects. Kori Albrecht said many kids are encouraged to sign up for everything then cannot get all of the projects done. Also – some categories just go through ups and downs. Doug Wildt expressed concerns about animals taking time from non-livestock events. Will look at scheduling.
- CC. **Youth Culinary Arts** – Shelly Densmore reported that Youth numbers were down. Open class had more entries than last year.
- DD. **Youth Floriculture, Horticulture and Agriculture** – Amanda Shreve reported that numbers were down from previous year and judges expressed some concerns about quality.
- EE. **Youth Leadership/Development** – Lee Fischhaber stated that about 15 youth were signed up. His challenge is to get more entries for 2017. One student's project was his analysis of where he was going to college.

- FF. **Power Safety/Woodworking** – no report
- GG. **Youth Photography** – Nancy Sutherland reported that there were about the same numbers as last year. Many more photos because digital is easier.
- HH. **General Market Projects** – Kathy Philo stated that there were 18 exhibitors. Made \$1650 in auction.
- II. **Antiques** – Denise Banfield stated that numbers were down but it was a good show. Nothing was broken and they had a great week.
- JJ. **Open Culinary Arts** – no superintendent
- KK. **Open Floriculture** – Amanda Shreve reported that they had good flower exhibits but vegetable entries were down – perhaps due to the weather.
- LL. **Needlework** – No report.
- MM. **Antique Tractor Pulls** – Kim Mowry reported that pull didn't happen due to conditions but had a good display.
- NN. **Fine/Folk Arts and Photography** – Karen Dean reported that numbers were down but many items entered. She appreciates the new cabinet. She noted that there were three different times for judging in the various categories and that was an issue because they usually close the building during judging. Need more volunteers to watch the building and close up at night.
- OO. **King & Queen Pageant** – Beth Letts reported it was a good event and the kids had a good time.
- PP. **Demonstrations** – Donna Zenker reported that they had a good show and quality participants.
- QQ. **Truck Pulls** – John Hamilton – pull did not happen due to conditions.
- RR. **Show of Champions** – Chris Landis reported that they has a great show. The traveling trophy is full – she suggested that the trophy could be split into large and small animals.

Events and Community Reports:

- A. 4H Council – Marilyn Letts reported they were getting ready for the annual awards convention that will be held at Marshall High School.
- B. FFA Report – Lora Finch reported for Marshall. She is the new ag teacher. So far so good. Teaching 5 Agriscience classes with about 120 students. Not sure about FFA membership at this point. Forms still being turned in. Also getting members signed up for the National FFA convention in October in Indianapolis, the fall leadership conference in Lansing and the broiler chicken project.
- C. Floral Hall Building – John Taylor reported that Floral Hall events went very well during fair week. The showcase donations helped greatly.
- D. Houston School – no report.
- E. Maple Grove Church – Margaret Taylor reported that they had good programs all week and received some donations.
- F. Fair Museum – JoAnne McKeever stated that there were 25 to 30 visitors during the Home Tour. Attendance was down at the fair due to the weather. Megan is looking for a volunteer to serve on the Home Tour committee so the fair has more input.
- G. Cruise the Fountain – no report
- H. Fundraisers/Golf Outing – Amanda Shreve reported that the committee is just starting to look at plans for next summer's event.

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

Kim Mowry wanted to express many thanks to Darryl McCormick for the great job he did all week at the fair!

Chris Landis shared her recent experience judging the St. Joseph County Fair with Todd Landis. That fair no longer requires kids to keep feed records. She handled 25 kids aged 11 -14. Todd reviewed the older kids. Instead of reviewing feed records, the judges talked to the kids and asked questions about proper feeding, specifics about different feed, proper care of animals and so forth to test the students' knowledge. She also passed around a sample interview and evaluation scorecard. She highly recommends that Calhoun County look into such a program.

Nancy Sutherland shared an issue regarding the photography class. Apparently some photography and ceramics entries had the same registration numbers and this caused confusion. Megan Harvey explained that the non-livestock section of the fair book will be getting a complete re-write this winter and this should take care of the issue.

Kathy Philo was concerned that a lot of people did seem to understand that the fair parade was starting downtown – need better notice and communication.

Harry Pratley from the Farmers Hall of Fame organization expressed thanks for the space in the Belcher Building. They have bylaws in place now and are getting organized. Thank you to staff and volunteers for their help. The group is discussing how to do inductions next year – perhaps not during fair week or at a better time.

BOARD COMMENTS –

Vic Potter wanted to support Jim Pardoe’s comments about the drawdown raffle fundraiser. The raffle will be a fun evening and is a good fundraiser for the kids. Potter also mentioned the Farmers Hall of Fame and that perhaps it could be better showcased during and outside of the fair. He also noted it would be good to make the fair more of a destination during the Home Tour.

Joanne McKeever mentioned that visitors were looking for food on the fairgrounds during the Home Tour – perhaps this would be a way to attract more people to the fairgrounds.

Tom Carr talked about the great cooperation during the rain in fair week. Everyone was helping each other with moving animals and addressing the flooding.

Jim Olds addressed the dumping fees issue. He also said the fair needs to post “No Dumping without Permission” signage. Darryl McCormick stated that a few are hauling in concrete. The dumping without permission is more of an issue on weekends. He mentioned Nashville Construction. Doug Wildt said he would look into it.

Nick Collier wanted to express many thanks to the guys who worked the infield during fair week – they did a fantastic job.

Doug Wildt expressed many thanks to all of the volunteers.

Adjournment – Motion was made by Tom Carr, seconded by Vic Potter, to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm. Motion passed.

Submitted by Susan Baldwin, Board Secretary