

YORK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of August 15, 2023

The Board of Directors of the York County Agricultural Society met Tuesday August 15, 2023 at 8:00 p.m. in the York County Extension Office for their regular monthly meeting. The meeting notice was published publicly on or before August 8, 2023 at the York County Extension Office, York County Court House, York State Bank (York Main Office), Cornerstone Bank (Waco Branch) and the York County Fair website.

Twelve (12) Directors were present; Cast, Ditloff, Gloystein, Heine, Heskett, Hoffman, Holtmeier, Quiring, Rathjen, Ziegler (8:20 p.m.), Ziemke and Zoubek. Three (3) Directors were absent; Chrisman, Hoffschneider and Jackson.

Guests present: UNL York Extension Youth Educator Tanya Crawford; McCool Junction FFA Advisor Dana Hall; Ranch Rodeo event coordinator Preston Hawley; Valerie Nunnenkamp and Rhonda Veleba from V2 Graphics.

President Gloystein called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m.

Secretary Ziemke announced to all those in attendance that a copy of the Open Meeting Act has been placed on the meeting table for one and all to examine.

Additional items to the agenda this evening: Preston Hawley – Ranch Rodeo and V2 Graphics.

Minutes of the July 18, 2023 York County Agricultural Society meeting were reviewed with corrections of: spelling of Kera Rauert and that the name of the originally hired animal judge was Caden Church.

The Board reviewed the July 2023 Financial Reports with discussions on: Fair sponsorships; income and expense per individual event; \$785.00 was our share of Taps, Taste and Tunes; There was a total of 1720 ticket purchased for use at the vendors at Taps, Tastes and Tunes; Who ended up with the ticket count per vendor at Taps, Tastes and Tunes? If someone has the ticket counts, please get the counts to Heskett. Motion #1 was duly made by Rathjen to approve the July 18, 2023 minutes and the July 2023 Financial Reports. Seconded by Heine. No further discussion. Twelve (12) votes for, Zero (0) votes against. Motion #1 Carried.

Under Old Business

Memorials, Donations and Grant money at present date: Heine donation for Antique Tractor Barn \$100.00; High Lopers donation \$2,300.00.

Under the Building Committee Report:

Cornerstone Ag & Event Center – The Fire Alarm voice-evac control panel will be installed as soon as the equipment arrives.

Grandstand Ticket Office – Heskett is applying for a building permit. We should possibly update our insurance to include the new ticket booth. The walls will be insulated and lined yet this fall. The city of York will need to inspect the electrical before we line the inside walls.

Crow's Nest – Nothing will happen on it until after the September 9 Championship Demo Derby.

AED Units – November is the next application period that we can apply for a grant toward the purchase of AED units.

Home Economics Building – One of the air conditioning units failed. Luckily it wasn't extremely hot so we could make it through Fair with only one unit. McCormick's Heating and AC gave us a quick bid of \$11,000.00. We should put it up for bids this winter.

Fairgrounds Office – Rathjen mentioned to NIRMA that we felt we won't be able to piece in the broken siding pieces because the ones left are brittle and break as they are moved around. NIRMA is waiting for us to get a new estimate on residing the north and west sides. Ziegler asked if we can get an estimate to side it like they did with the new Ticket Booth. We need to widen the entrance steps before next year and add a handrail along the steps.

Grandstand – We have received complaints about how much the seams give due to weight when stepped upon. Is there any way to splice the seams?

Reseeding grass along North Nebraska Avenue – The worst areas are in front of the 4H Building and in front of the Cornerstone Ag & Event Center. Best time to seed grass is mid-September. Does anyone have an interseeder? In front of the Extension Office was seeded with a Turf Fescue Blend.

Guests

V2 Graphics

- Presented a Snap Shot of the 8 weeks prior to and during the Fair.
- We had 94,915 Facebook likes this year and 22,500 Facebook visits. Both are a large margin more than last year.
- See Facebook Insites.

Preston Hawley – Ranch Rodeo

- There were twelve teams that participated.
- Preston felt that it went very well.
- Contestants were happy.
- Winning team was from the Chambers Atkinson area and took home \$4,000.00 after purchasing themselves in the Calcutta.
- One contestant was from Sidney, Nebraska.
- Ord, Nebraska drew 14 teams to their Ranch Rodeo the same evening as our Ranch Rodeo.
- Should we have a beer garden next year?
- Should we give all the contestants a wristband that would get them into the dance and beer garden for free next year?
- Josh did a great job of getting sponsorships for the events.
- There were eleven sponsor's banners hanging on the fence.
- Everything was left very clean.
- Can we hold it on Friday again next year? Friday works well for everyone to get here on time to participate.

Under Other Business:

Dupont Grant for the Audio-Visual project in the Cornerstone Ag & Event Center was originally granted to us on May 10, 2022. They will be recognized for their donation. Ron Harmon asked that we recognize Corteva instead of Dupont. Heskett will send them a Thank You for their continued support of the York County Fair and donation toward the audio-visual project.

Nancy Heine – State Fair Grand Marshall

- Friday August 25, 2023
- There will be a noon reception for her and she needs a head count soon if any of us are interested in attending the reception.
- The State Fair parade, which Nancy will be part of, will be starting at 6:00 p.m. the evening of August 25th.
- Nancy will be riding in her son Mitchell's 1970 Chevrolet ¾ ton, 4-wheel drive pickup.

Soccer Complex – Gloystein and Ziegler along with Brian Tonniges will be meeting with Cheree Foltz and the Mayor of York this Thursday at 9:00 a.m. Cheree and the Mayor will be telling Gloystein and Ziegler what the city has in mind with the Soccer Complex.

Gloystein and Ziegler will be meeting with Randy Obermier, York County Commissioner, to discuss a new lease for the Fairgrounds this next week.

York County Fair Foundation

- We need to sell at least 47 more calendar raffle tickets to reach the break-even point.
- Should we have V2 Graphics do some Facebook posts for the raffle?
- Should we have a booth at the York Farmers Market to sell raffle tickets?
- Should we have a table at the September 9th Championship Demo Derby to sell raffle tickets?
- Heskett may have the Bronze displayed at different York State Bank locations.
- We are working on how we should memorialize the donators to the Foundation. Possibly a brick wall showing the different levels of donations.

Fall Championship Demo Derby

- Adding a weld class – limited weld.
 - Rathjen has had interest from about half a dozen local Demo Drivers.
 - Maybe 5 or 6 Demo drivers from the promoter's regular group are interested in the limited weld class.
 - It would be a \$100.00 pre-entry for the weld class.
- Looking at dropping the Mini Van class.
- Rathjen is looking to have a Demo car on a trailer to pull through the Yorkfest parade to advertise the Derby, Calendar Raffle and Foundation.
- Can we possibly ask for a grant from the Visitors Committee to help with the Demo? It was added that the Visitors Committee meets tomorrow night.
- We need to have a solid showing to make the Demo go well.
- Purse will be \$1,000.00, \$600.00, \$400.00, \$200.00.
- We can get cars that are left over from the Seward Demo.
- Who can all be there to help? Twelve directors are positive that they will be there to help.
- Pits open at 3:30 p.m., Ticket Booth opens at 5:00 p.m. and the Demo starts at 6:30 p.m.
- Do we want to handle the alcohol?

- We need to fill out a form online for Eagle Distributing.
- Eagle will supply a refrigerated trailer.
- We will need I.D. checkers.
- Kera Rauert's 4H group is doing the concession stand.
- They need to have the food at the concession stand ready by 4:00 p.m. if possible, for the drivers and pit crews.
- We will need change for the beer tent, ticket booth and early out at the pit entrance.
- Track construction: The officiating team didn't like the dirt being all the way up against the concrete wall at the County Fair. They would like at least six feet between the concrete wall and the dirt berm.
- We will need to have one or two security people at the pit gate from 3:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.
- We need to pay Sheldon at least \$1,000.00 for his time constructing the track.
- We need to see if we can do a Radio spot or two in the mornings with Gene Curtis.

2023 Fair Comments

Heskett

- Felt that everything went well.

Heine

- Facebook lookers were considerably up.
- Parking was tough – vendors vehicles were parked up around the tent and in the wrong places.
- Two many cars driving through the grounds during events.

Ditloff

- Is there any way to tie the Grandstand, restrooms, beer garden and tent together?
- Premium sale – Not part of the Agricultural Society. Someone else in control of it.
- Should we list the ending times of events under the tent?
- Wristbands with Carnival times.

Cast

- Some feel that \$10.00 is awfully high for entrance into the band/beer garden.
- How about a \$20.00 combo ticket for entrance into the Grandstand event and the band/beer garden? We should do it for the participants of the Ranch Rodeo for sure.
- What about free bands/music?

Ziegler

- Premium Auction
 - Ziegler had three people approach him about a premium auction.
 - He offered all three of them to be a committee chairman for the auction and all three declined.
 - Others Directors added:
 - If they want an auction that bad, they should be willing to work for it.
 - It can end up being a popularity contest.
 - What about a feed allowance? \$100.00/swine (29 head this year), \$200.00/beef (85 head this year), \$50.00/sheep & goats and \$25.00/Poultry?
 - What about a ribbon premium similar to what the Chamber is doing now?
 - Education costs!
- We need to make "Compost only in roll-offs" signs.
- York Title commented that they will donate towards a lighted sign over the top of the Ticket Booth.

- Ziegler will be speaking with Steve Klute about a tent type building where the tent is located.

Tanya Crawford

- The 4H Food stand ran out of bottled water during the Fair. They ran and got six more cases. Can we have Pepsi supply us with more bottled water next year?
- Fairbooks – We have too many left over this year.
 - They cost over \$8.00 each.
- Ribbons and Medals
 - We need to restock, some items are getting low.
 - Either Regalia or Rixtine is where Gina gets them from since she is not fabricating them any longer.
 - Regalia and Rixtine are both out at the NAFM Convention in Kearney.
 - We should take a few ribbons and medals along out to Kearney this winter to see if they can reproduce what we are using now and at what cost per ribbon and medal.
- The people entering into Static Open Classes need to read the York County Fairbook to see our requirements and those going to State Fair Open Class need to read the State Fair requirements on the State Fair's website.
- Waffle Man – 495 plates sold, \$2,400.00 toward the 4H Council.
- Pancakes next year? Does the 4H Council have enough volunteers to do a pancake feed?
- The 4H Council would like to utilize their profits this year toward a permanent Kid's Zone with rubber tid-bits for ground cover so it wouldn't get so muddy under the duck race area.
- We need to update the Directors and Veterinary names in the front of the Fairbook.
- Show Works worked this year!

Quiring

- Overall, it went well.
- Online ticket sales went well. We are looking at handling it ourselves next year.
- Hats and clothing requirements in the 4H Food Stand.
- Why wasn't the grounds public address system working during the Fair? We had a lost child Friday night and needed to utilize the system.
- Can we have the buildings open at 10:00 a.m. instead of noon? Especially on Saturday morning.
- The duck race water tanks are making a mess in the kid's zone. Children are falling down and getting muddy.
- We need a railing at the entrance of the Fair Office.
- Looking for a sponsor to finance a meal on Wednesday evening for the exhibitors.
- Can we get food coupons for the PeeWee judges?

Dana Hall

- We need more traffic cones or barriers to stop traffic flow during show and Fair events.
- We especially need barriers near and around the 4H Restroom area.

Zoubek

- The 150th Ice Cream Social went Great!
- The Bingo people said to thank the Agricultural Society.
- We need to make sure the time of the Style Review is placed on the schedule.

Holtmeier

- We need to change up the Vendor forms for next year.
- Should we request a deposit from the Food Trucks next year to keep them locked into

attending the Fair?

- Can we move the closing time on the Mercantile building from 10:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.?
- Most of the Mercantile vendors left early on Sunday.
- Next year we should state that if you are manning your Mercantile Booth or not on Sunday, your stuff needs to stay on display until 2:00 p.m.
- Next year should we up the price for the booths in the Mercantile Building and include the tables and chairs for their booth?
- There were issues with York Heating and Air Conditioning again this year over their designated spot.
- Comment from the group – Good job Megan! There were a large number of vendors and things looked great!

Hoffman

- Online ticket sales pickup worked very well with the new Ticket Booth.
- We need to have ear plugs for sale in the Ticket Booth at next year's Grandstand events.
- The new Ticket Booth worked great.
- Enjoyed the Ranch Rodeo.

Rathjen

- Grandstand events went well.
- Heard more appreciative comments this year.
- Figure 8 drivers were happy.

Ziemke

- This year's Fair was actually the most fun Fair that I've been involved in.
- We need to stop the cars and pickups from being driven through the grounds.
- We need to stop the vehicles from driving in and around the animal area during the shows before a child gets run over.
- We need to have designated parking by the tent for the entertainment, beer trailer, Knights of Columbus and the Fair Directors that are working under the tent. All other vehicles need to be parked either in the front row out west or out south.
- We need to look into a new freezer for the old pop stand and a new one with a lid that shuts inside of the 4H Building.
- We had many good comments on the TV monitors that were placed in the old sand arena and on the north end of the sheep & goats.
- Many would like to see a TV monitor in the Cattle Barn placed up high on the north wall.
- The cattle people would like to see a larger tie out area.
- There are still several repairs to the grounds that didn't get done before this Fair that need to be done before 2024.

Gloystein

- There needs to be better communication with Yeager's to make sure the tractor pull track area is in good condition and that all the equipment for track use is there and ready to use.
- The tractor pull sled is for sale. The sled master has announced that next year is his last year.
- Archery – does it have to be on the weekend that it was this year (This year it was two weeks before fair)? Can it be either the weekend of BB Gun and Air Rifle or the weekend before Fair? Either of the two times the bleaches would already be in the arena.
- The Fairbooks cost over \$8.00 each. We need to see how many we have left over and order accordingly next year.

President Gloystein handed out packages containing: a list of sponsors; Thank you cards; envelopes and stamps. Each Director is to write and mail a thank you to each sponsor listed in their package.

There being no further business to come before the Directors, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

Douglas Ziemke

Douglas Ziemke
Secretary