

# YORK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of February 20, 2024

The Board of Directors of the York County Agricultural Society met Tuesday February 20, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. in the York County Extension Office for their regular monthly meeting. The meeting notice was published publicly on or before February 13, 2024 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.

Eight (8) Directors were present; Cast, Heskett, Holtmeier, Jackson, Rathjen, Ziegler, Ziemke and Zoubek. Seven (7) Directors were absent; Chrisman, Ditloff, Gloystein, Heine, Hoffman, Hoffschneider and Quiring.

There were no Guests present.

Vice President Ziegler called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

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

Additional items added to the agenda: Chairs & tables for the 4H Building and Insurance items.

## **Minutes and Financial**

Minutes of the January 9, 2024 York County Agricultural Society meeting were reviewed. There were no additions or corrections.

The Board reviewed the January 2024 Financial Report. Discussion on: if Heskett could in the future do a year-to-date budget report to see how we compare year to year (example: February 2023 actual financial to February 2024 actual financial). Motion #1 was duly made by Rathjen to approve the January 2024 Financial Report and the January 9, 2024 minutes. Seconded by Jackson. No further discussion. Eight (8) votes for, Zero (0) votes against. Motion #1 carried.

## **Under Old Business:**

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

Should we move the High Lopers and Heine donations over to the York County Fair Foundation so they can be better recognized for their donations? Motion #2 made by Rathjen to move the High Lopers and Heine donations along with any other unused donations still in the general budget over to the York County Fair Foundation, along with a written report to be handed out at our March meeting of all the donations that were transferred. Seconded by Jackson. No further discussion. Eight (8) votes for, Zero (0) votes against. Motion #2 carried.

## **Under the Building Committee Report:**

Fair Office – Ziegler reported that Mike Wright will be starting the project of removing the storm damaged vinyl siding on the Fair Office building and start installing the green steel lower façade up to 39.5". Rathjen will be receiving the updated bid tomorrow for installing the white LP Smart Siding along with a drip edge at 39.5".

Crow's Nest – T&D Construction will be doing the concrete work. Ziegler will get the new location flagged out for Troy. Building pad is approximately 14 feet by 14 feet. Holtmeier will talk with the manager of York Overland Concrete, Sand and Gravel about donating the concrete for the project.

Home Economics Building 5 Ton AC unit – Bids for the 5 Ton Air Conditioning unit along with installation came in at: Critel Enterprises LLC \$6,995.49, McCormick's Heating and Air Conditioning \$10,150.00, J&R Heating \$17,000.00. Motion #3 made by Jackson to accept Critel Enterprises LLC's bid for the air conditioning unit and installation. Seconded by Heskett. No further discussion. Eight (8) votes for, Zero (0) votes against. Motion #3 carried.

4H Building – Gloystein went through all of the tables and chairs in the 4H Building to see what was in need of replacement. We need to replace seven tables and thirty-one chairs. Prices from U-Line are \$435.00 for the seven tables and \$837.00 for the thirty-one chairs. There are fifteen tables and one-hundred-twenty chairs that we use in the building. We can move some of the old tables that still have some life left in them to the Mercantile Building. Motion #4 was made by Zoubek to purchase the seven tables and thirty-one chairs from U-Line. Seconded by Holtmeier. No further discussion. Eight (8) votes for, Zero (0) votes against. Motion #4 carried.

### **York County Fair Foundation:**

- The York County Fair Foundation Directors will be having a meeting yet this spring.
- Most of the directors would like to see the Foundation do another calendar raffle again this year.
- The weekly winners of the current calendar raffle have been getting posted on the Fair's website and Facebook.
- Still working on Donor Memorial Wall ideas.
  - Gloystein and Ziegler visited the Seward County Fairgrounds to look at their Memorial wall.
  - Across the sidewalk to the North of the 4H wall and benches still stands out as a good outdoor place to put a memorial wall.
  - Scribner Fairgrounds has a nice outdoor Memorial wall.
  - Seward County Fair's Memorial wall is indoors.
  - If we do an indoor Memorial wall, it could possibly be in the Cornerstone Ag and Event Center.

### **2024 Fair Plans (August 1 – 4, 2024) Acres Of Fun**

- Waffle man vs pancakes, do we have a preference? It is totally up to the 4H Council what they chose.
- The Pork BBQ is a go. Farm Bureau will now be sponsoring the event.
- Thursday evening's event in the grandstands
  - Rathjen – No Thursday evening's event in the grandstands at this time.
  - Chris Wize will be doing the officiating at this year's Figure 8 instead of Dave Bryon.
    - Chris Wize is asking for 100% of his \$2,500.00 officiating fee up front. Normal policy is 50%. Mutton Bustin only asks for 25% up front. Rathjen will contact Chris Wize and tell him that the Directors are not comfortable with 100%, Rathjen will ask him if he will do 50%.
  - Thursday night is not a good night to draw cars for a Demo Derby.
  - Rathjen made calls to a couple of local Demo drivers asking what it would take to

put a Demo Derby together and what would we have to do to make it work for them.

- Should we look into Chain races for Thursday evening?
- Any other suggestions for Grandstand entertainment Thursday evening?
- What type of event do we try that will entertain our area residents so that they would want to come out and enjoy the Fair?
- Gloystein spoke with Midwest Motor Sports, go cart racing, out of Ord, Nebraska at the NAFM Convention.
  - What if we hire them and make it a free entry event?
  - Their price is within reason.
- Still looking to book a band for Saturday evening under the tent.
  - Moore Brothers? \$3,000.00
  - Iron Zepher? \$3,000.00
  - Brandon & The Elevens?
  - Holtmeier forwarded information to Hoffman on Mark Chestnut's son Casey. \$2,000.00
  - Luke Mills out of Holdredge had a bunch of bands in the NAFM Showcase.
- Lana will have the Fair logo done soon for the website and Fair Pins.
- Benedict Men's Club, Adam Watson, would like to meet with us next month. They have shown an interest in running a beer garden at the Ranch Rodeo.
- Holtmeier is working on Vendor forms and other items:
  - Can we do a \$250.00 deposit for food vendors that is non-refundable if they back out from attending the Fair? Yes, feel free to proceed with that plan.
  - Is there any way possible that vendors could sign up, pick their spots in the Mercantile Building and outside, plus also pay through the Fair's website? It may help to get the vendors to sign up earlier.
    - It could be set up like Jackson does the 4H & FFA Camper spot rentals.
    - We could post a map of the booth spots in the Mercantile Building and the outside booth spots.
    - Macee' helped Jackson with his maps, paying and picking their spots on the Fair's website, she may be able to help Holtmeier set this up also.
    - Ziegler, Jackson, Chrisman and Ziemke will assist Holtmeier by placing pins in the ground to set the outdoor vendor boundaries.
  - What hours should the coffee truck vendor be available? One hour before the animal shows start should be a hit.
  - What hours should we run in the Mercantile Building?
- We should move the animal show start times back to 9:00 a.m. in the morning instead of 10:00 a.m. We will speak to Tanja Crawford about resetting the times.
- Chamber of Commerce Ag Group
  - In the past the group raised funds that were directed to be paid as an extra premium award. It was started as a way to give the exhibitors an additional premium without the Fair having a livestock premium auction.
  - Ditloff, Hoffschneider and Ziegler spoke with the Chamber last Wednesday.
  - The Chamber is looking for Ideas.
  - One issue is that businesses are being asked for donations by the 4H Council, Chamber of Commerce and York County Agricultural Society and the businesses are confused as to whom and what they are donating toward.
  - The Chamber is, in a way, wanting to wash their hands of the premiums.
  - The Chamber used to have "Ag After Hours" event. They utilized the proceeds of the event for the premiums. Madonna Mogul said that the event cost the

- Chamber \$5,000.00 to put on and only made \$700.00 in the end.
- What if we gave the Chamber a free booth in the Mercantile Building and we partnered with them to try and get funds during the Fair?
- Dana Hall has her McCool Junction FFA students working on cutting out the plywood ears of corn for the Fair.
- Pioneer Farm Family – Only one family so far: Dey Farms (Hubert Dey) sponsored by Allan and Kristen Naber.

### **March Cornerstone Ag & Event Center Events:**

- March 18, 2024 – 7:00 p.m. Ag Society Directors install bleachers, set up arena and lay out the arena floor.
- March 19, 2024 – FFA Judging
- March 19, 2024 – Set up for Swine Sales
- March 22, 2024 – Swine Sale – Kyle Badey
- March 23, 2024 – Swine Sale – Carl Jacobson
- March 27 – 30, 2024 – York/Hamilton Cattlemen’s Beef Progress Show

### **2024 NAFM Convention Remarks:**

Rathjen – It was cold! Enjoyed the presentation on the Nebraska Passport program. Nebraska County Fairs will be added as part of the program in 2024.

### **2024 IAFE Zone 5 Conference:**

- Happening in Lincoln, Nebraska February 23 – 25.
- Is anyone interested in attending?
- The Ag Society will pay attending Directors their Conference fees and hotel accommodations.

### **Other Business**

Insurance – Rathjen

- Insurance is up for renewal.
- NIRMA will need a copy of our W3 and an electronic copy of our budget.
- The directors went through the renewal forms with Rathjen to update our numbers and answer NIRMA’s questionnaire. Most of the questions seem to be for Municipalities and Counties.
- Added in the new Ticket Office and made it separate from the Grandstand. Currently the Old Ticket Office and Grandstand are listed together at \$617,534.15.
- Removed the small animal barn (old bunny barn) from the policy.
- In 2022 our NIRMA insurance premium was \$21,000.00.
- In 2023 our NIRMA insurance premium was \$32,000.00.

There being no further business to come before the Directors, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

*Douglas Ziemke*

Douglas Ziemke  
Secretary