

Calhoun County Agricultural & Industrial Society
Minutes of Board Meeting
October 16, 2019 – Marshall Middle School - 7:00 PM

Call to Order

The October 16, 2019 Board meeting was called to order by CCAIS Board President, Vic Potter at 7:00 pm at Marshall Middle School.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bruce Rapp.

Attendance with Roll Call was conducted by Susan Baldwin.

Present: Vic Potter, Doug Wildt, Jim Olds, Bill DeSmet, Susan Baldwin, Steven Benham, Hope Horton, Bruce Rapp, Chip Riddle, Steve Swafford. Excused: Erik Myers.

Comments by Board Chair

Vic Potter shared comments from the Fair Board regarding concerns brought forth at the September meeting. Board is taking no further action at this time. In the future, public comments will be limited to three minutes per speaker in accordance with meeting rules, and personal attacks on a Board member or CCAIS member will not be tolerated. Members with complaints are asked to bring concerns or complaints to the fairgrounds manager or a member of the Board Executive Committee. The Board will be re-examining committee structures and Board assignments after the election at the Annual Meeting.

Board Meeting

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Susan Baldwin, seconded by Bruce Rapp, to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor, motion passed.

Secretary's Report of the September 18, 2019 minutes was given by Susan Baldwin. Motion was made by Susan Baldwin, seconded by Steve Benham, to file the minutes. All in favor, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Bill DeSmet presented the Treasurer's report. DeSmet discussed Budget vs Actuals and the variance report. He noted electrical work and equipment maintenance expenses. There is a YTD loss, however the original budget included a grant which was not received. There were also variances due to the Cyrus concert. Overall, the profit from Grandstand events was \$42,441. DeSmet will be finalizing numbers in the next couple of weeks for year end. Staff is also working on the budget

for next year. Currently there is approximately \$128,000 in the bank and a mortgage balance of about \$33,000. Following discussion by the Board, Bruce Rapp moved that the Treasurer's report be filed. Seconded by Doug Wildt. All in favor, motion passed.

Fair Manager Report – Jen Rice provided the Fair Manager report.

Yesteryear Tractor Cancer Drive was Sept 21. There was beautiful weather and a good turnout.

Bewitching Peddlers was Sept 28. There were issues with a leaking roof on Friday night in the Merchants Building. Staff is looking into options for repair or replacement. Staff offered the group the Sheep Barn for future events but they think the roof is too high.

October 5th was busy with a wedding, Relay for Life Mum Fundraiser and Goat Show.

October 7th was the Dream Dollar raffle in the sheep barn and the 4H Youth Awards in Floral Hall.

October 10th was the first 2020 Cruise at the Fountain meeting – a committee is being formed. BluFish is working on a new car show logo.

Halloween Camping weekend was good. Heavy rain Friday night but Saturday was sunny. There were 70 campers and 140 kids.

Monday Oct 14th was the MAFE Zone meeting at the BE Henry Building. Meeting was well attended by representatives from area county fairs. Dinner by the BE Henry volunteers was wonderful.

Membership forms and dues must be paid by Friday, Oct 18th at 3 pm for voting rights at the Annual Meeting.

Fairbook advertising information is going to Albion and Marshall Chamber members.

Winter storage put-in is next weekend (Oct 26)

Oct 31st – November 3rd Kathy and Jen will be attending the Michigan Festivals and Events Association Convention.

November through the end of April, the Marshall Area Farmers Market will be in Floral Hall every Saturday. The Market Board is considering a night market to coincide with the Merry Mile event.

November 16th will be the Fiber Arts & Animals Festival in Floral Hall.

Public Comment - requested for any agenda items.

None.

Discussion Items

- A. Nominating Committee** – Bill DeSmet reported for the Committee. All four current Board members expressed interest in running again for the Board – Vic Potter, Steven Benham, Erik Myers and Susan Baldwin. Four other individuals submitted their names. Teri Letts and Lisa Sands met the qualifications and will be on the ballot. Another nominee did not meet the qualifications as he was not a CCAIS member and one person withdrew their name.
- B. Start of 2020 School Year and Fair Week** – Bill DeSmet shared that, due to changes in the school schedule, the start of school for 2020 is the Wednesday of fair week. The CISD has set this date for all schools in the area and it cannot be changed. DeSmet is talking with Dr. Davis of Marshall Public Schools to see how absences might be handled. The school schedule was changed to finish the semester before the Christmas break and to better coincide with college schedules for the dual enrollment students. School will be starting on the third Wednesday of August annually. CCAIS looks back to the 3rd Wednesday prior to Labor Day to set its schedule. The situation is still being discussed but this will be an issue for the next three years.

Action Items:

- A. ShoWorks Software** – Steve Benham shared additional information about the new software package to handle fair exhibitor and entries management which was discussed in September. Creating reports is more convenient and flexible. There are better end user screens. The package would cost about \$6000 for a program that would handle 10,000 entries. CCAIS currently has about 7,000 entries. Currently, it costs \$500 a year for the Blue Ribbon software updates but CCAIS also pays for a license for each laptop using the program. Other fairs using ShoWorks include Jackson, Armeda, Ingham and the Ohio State Fair. Motion was made by Bill DeSmet, seconded by Doug Wildt, to purchase the ShoWorks software. Voice vote of the Board members in attendance was taken. All in favor, motion passed.

Committee Reports

- A. Operations Committee** – No report.
- B. Livestock Committee** – Hope Horton stated that the committee has completed the superintendent reviews. They are now looking over the fairbook for any changes. A meeting is scheduled Oct 23 with the horse supers. There is an opening for the Show of Champions Superintendent. The next Livestock Committee meeting is Nov 13.
- C. Animal Auction Committee** – No report.
- D. Non-Livestock Committee** – Jen Rice noted that fairbook changes are due by Nov 1.
- E. Non-livestock Auction Committee** – No report.

Events and Community Reports:

- A. 4H Council** – Kathy Fischer reported that the leaders banquet had 60 people. There were 140 kids at the annual convention with many youth awards. They are considering new programs such a welding – kids can learn to weld and create projects for fair.
- B. FFA Report** – Hope Horton stated that the FFA sale has started and runs through Oct 31.
- C. Floral Hall Building** – Bruce Rapp noted that nothing is currently scheduled in the short term for the Floral Hall, the School, the Church and the Museum Committees.
- D. Houston School** – see above.
- E. Maple Grove Church** – see above.
- F. Fair Museum** – see above.

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

Harmony Dawson stated that Jen Rice had presented to the MAEDA Board and was well received. The Merry Mile is coming up. Many events are scheduled for Floral Hall. She raised some concerns about keeping the building warm and offered suggestions, including some portable heating. Asked that some long term solutions be considered such as windows for the Hall and replacing a barn door with a French door.

Kim Lowry shared that the cancer tractor drive went well. Many thanks to the fair for allowing them to use the grounds. About \$7000 was raised. The next event is Sept 19, 2020.

Cindy Thomas noted that Lee Fischhaber had passed away and expressed many thanks for his long time commitment to the fair.

Grant Myers suggested that a temporary 36 inch door could be used at Floral Hall for the Merry Mile event.

Tracy Myers Malone stated that she was interested in running for the fair board. Vic Potter explained that it is past the deadline to be put on the printed ballot but that she can be nominated from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Chip Riddle stated that he supports Tracy and that it was an issue of missing the date for nominations.

BOARD COMMENTS –

Hope Horton shared a report about the MAFE Zone meeting at the fairgrounds. It was a good meeting with many thanks to the BE Henry folks for their hard work.

Susan Baldwin also noted that the MAFE meeting was very successful and thanked the BE Henry volunteers.

Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm by Vic Potter.

Submitted by Susan Baldwin, Board Secretary