

Calhoun County Agricultural & Industrial Society

May 19, 2021 Board Meeting

Calhoun County Fairgrounds – Sheep Barn 7pm

Called to Order: President J Olds called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

J Olds announced that Fair Manager J Rice was let go, the board would not address due to employee/employer confidentiality.

Roll Call: Secretary H Horton. Present; J Olds, D Wildt, M Burkwalt, S Benham, L Sands, T Miller, H Horton, C Newsome, H Dawson, T Landis, T Letts. All present

Approval of Agenda: J Olds motions that the agenda be approved, seconded by H Horton. All in favor, motion carried

Secretary's Report: H Horton requested to rescind the March 17, 2021 minutes previously approved and replace with the revised March 17, 2021 minutes received by the board due to not properly reflecting the proceeding of the meeting. Motion made by H Horton, supported by H Dawson. All in favor, motion carried.

H Horton requested the acceptance of the April 21, 2021 minutes as written. Supported by M Burkwalt. All in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: C Newsome provided account balances, profit/loss statements, balance sheet, and grant opportunities. C Thomas announced a Battle Creek Community Foundation Grant for \$10,000 to buy a new mower and repair our other equipment. C Thomas also anticipates a \$4,500 grant from BCCF for Fair Safety. Motion to approve the treasurer's report H Dawson, supported by M Burkwalt. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment on Agenda items only:

P McCann, spoke of the code of conduct and expressed concern.

Action Items:

- a. Covid Plan- a covid plan was presented to the Calhoun County Health Department and given high remarks. However, the board has not approved it and needed to. H Horton motioned to approve the covid plan as presented. Supported by T Letts. All in favor, motion carried.
- b. Fair Book – the fair book needs to be approved by the board and made public on the website and social media. Motion made by H Horton to approve the fair book and add that changes can be made if needed. Supported by J Olds. All in favor, motion carried
- c. Fair Week Camping – a decision needs to be made as to dogs in the campground. Motion made by H Horton, supported by H Dawson. Discussion: There have been many problems in the past, H Horton stated. J Olds questioned by punishment if dogs are found. They will be asked to take them home. The board will discuss further action if needed. All in favor, motion carried.

- d. Code of Conduct – in years past the youth code of conduct has been done by paper or done online by checking a box on the entry. H Horton motioned that for 2021 all youth exhibitors sign a paper Code of Conduct and submit to the Fair Office by the July 9, 2021 entry deadline. Supported by M Burkwalt. All in favor, motion carried.
- e. Social Media – the Fair social media accounts currently are not managed by a fair employee or board member. J Olds motioned that the Board President, Board Secretary and anyone they deem to have access have the passwords to those accounts. Supported by H Horton. Discussion, amend the motion to be all executive board members. Motion to amend J Olds, supported M Burkwalt. All in favor, motion carried.
- f. Grandstand Volunteers: H Newcomb discussed the volunteer proposal at the April board meeting. Motion to approve J Olds, supported D Wildt. All in favor, motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- a. Operations Committee – J Olds repairs to the west water line are being made, as well as, the sheep barn
- b. Granary Project Committee - D Wildt stated the funding for the granary is by grants and donations. There is no fair money going into this project. Progress is being made, it will be buttoned up by fair.
- c. Bylaw Committee – C Thomas, nothing at this time
- d. Nominating Committee – D Keissling, March 17, 2021 item was tabled, need to reschedule
- e. Livestock Committee – J Darrow, DNA due May 15th.
- f. Livestock Auction – S Benham, Sales promo meeting June 28, 2021 at 7pm in the Covered Arena
- g. Livestock Judging Committee – starting to get judges contracts sent
- h. Non livestock Committee – T Letts, nothing at this time
- i. Non livestock Auction Committee – S Benham, nothing at this time
- j. Non livestock Judging Committee – nothing at this time
- k. King & Queen Committee – na
- l. Sponsorship Committee – H Dawson, meeting Thursday in the church
- m. Grandstand Committee – H Newcomb, working on a new event for Friday night. H Newcomb thanked her core group of people and the volunteers.
- n. Cruise Committee- nothing at this time
- o. Golf Outing Committee – H Newcomb, nothing at this time
- p. Halloween Camping Committee – H Newcomb, nothing at this time
- q. Merry Mile Committee – H Dawson, nothing at this time

Events & Community Reports-

- a. 4-H Council – K Fischer, 4-H is back face to face
- b. FFA – A Boughton, President of Farm Bureau. Homer High School has an opening for an Ag teacher. Marshall FFA plant sale, very successful. D Keissling thanked the fair for allowing them to host the Peterson Brothers, the event was successful.
- c. Floral Hall – na
- d. Houston School -na
- e. Old Maple Grove Church – na

- f. Fair Museum – J McKeever stated it would be open during the car show, bluegrass festival and the fair.

Public Comment:

J Rice read a statement regarding her position and her termination.

H Newcomb stated what the fair ment to her, the volunteer work she has done and announced she was stepping down.

M Wilson stated she was an employee for six years, how much work it takes.

T Cheney-Huggett questioned the direction of the CCAIS

K Miller stated she enjoyed her position at the fair, felt the board could do more and announced she was resigning.

C Letts stated he sat in the boards seat, took some heat, knew what the board was going through.

V Potter stated he did not support the boards decision, has a petition for members to sign.

F Weidlich stated he was resigning from Cruise at the Fountain Chairman

T Kenworthy stated she enjoying volunteering at the fair with J Rice and would be stepping down.

S Washburn, Washburn Concessions, stated his support for J Rice, his concern and has talked to other vendors.

K Letts stated her passion for the fair, thanked the volunteers and hopes everyone can bring it together for the kids

J Washburn stated his many years growing up at the fair, his volunteer positions and doesn't support the decision and is stepping down as announcer.

K Letts stated he grew up at the fair, volunteered at track events and hauling manure. Doesn't feel the board appreciates the volunteers, track help. Resigned as a volunteer

T Ivey stated he served on the board, asked what the board members do up there to volunteer.

M Letts stated the kids depend on the fair, feels the board is on a power trip.

K Fischer stated she's sad and disapointed at the people stepping down, and the decisions being made.

K Dean stated she grew up here, volunteers. The fair is for the kids.

J Mayo stated timing is bad, three months before the fair.

J Adams stated he'd been there a lot of years, helps on the infield committee. He too is stepping down

N Newcomb stated he's stepping down

Brent Hamilton stated he's stepping down

A Adams stated her dad served on the board, volunteers left. It will happen again.

H Irish stated there are kids involved, participation is down, kids are busy with other things, we need to keep them here. People don't realize what it takes.

G Sands stated this decision wasn't made by the board.

B Grable, Lions Club stated the people in attendance are all good people. You will do the right thing, pass this to the next generation.

K Day replied to an earlier comment, what does S Benham do? He works the beef shows, swine shows, auctions. Steve does a lot for the fair, Several board members do a lot!

C Landis stated S Benham does a lot behind the scenes, electronically with computers and speakers.

L Day stated it's sad were losing volunteers, is it for the right reasons? Step up, respect one another. A lot of people want to be here.

T Smith stated all the volunteers in this room are committed, dedicated. Ask the board to reconsider.

S Washburn, Washburn Concessions, has volunteered for years on the mounted Sherriff, were committed to each other. Come together as one.

A Cobb stated she's a leader, volunteer urged people to work together, support each other, don't make it personal.

R Hazen, Fredonia Grange President, A lot of people are here in support of J Rice, will you rescind your vote?

Board Member Comment:

L Sands, Thanked people for coming, expressing their concerns.

T Letts, Thanked everyone for volunteering. Thanked Jen. Doesn't feel she personally has gotten her hands dirty enough.

J Olds, we are passionate about what were doing, we are all looking to help the kids, make things better, take it to heart.

Meeting adjourned by President J Olds at 8:56pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Hope Horton, Secretary

Approved June 16, 2021