

Calhoun County Agricultural & Industrial Society
Minutes of Board Meeting
August 19, 2020 – Virtual/Remote Meeting - 7:00 PM

Call to Order

The August 19, 2020 Board meeting was called to order by CCAIS Board President, Bruce Rapp at 7:01 pm through in person and Virtual/Remote means to comply with the state ordered executive orders due to COVID-19 situation. In-person attendance was outside under the Covered Arena

A moment of silence was held in honor of Vic Parker, long time fair supporter and former Board member.

Attendance with Roll Call was conducted by Susan Baldwin.

Present: Bruce Rapp, Steve Benham, Jim Olds, Bill DeSmet, Susan Baldwin, Hope Horton, Teri Letts (7:10 pm), Chip Riddle, Lisa Sands, Steve Swafford, Doug Wildt.

Board Meeting

Approval of Agenda – Motion by Lisa Sands, seconded by Jim Olds, to approve the agenda as presented. Unanimous voice vote, all in favor, motion passed.

Secretary's Report of the July 15, 2020 minutes was given by Susan Baldwin. Motion was made by Susan Baldwin, seconded by Chip Riddle, to file the minutes. Unanimous voice vote, all in favor, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Bill DeSmet presented the Treasurer's report. Revenue YTD is \$187,002.55 and Expenses YTD are \$183,206.56 – net income of \$3795.99. Bill reported that there is no debt as the mortgage has been paid off. The organization has about \$36,300 in available cash including some remaining PPP loan funds. Once the PPP funds are spent, Bill will work on filing for PPP forgiveness. The Finance Committee met and reviewed remaining revenue opportunities. Winter storage should bring in about \$40,000. There are also 3 events in September and October with some potential for revenue. Expenses run \$7500 to 8000 a month for payroll, insurance and utilities. Budget process is coming up. Will have to report fees that have been paid for 2021 such as camping fees rolled over. The Battle Creek Community Foundation grant was a huge help.

Chip Riddle moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Teri Letts seconded. Unanimous voice vote, all in favor, motion passed.

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

- We received a grant for \$20K through the Battle Creek Community Foundation, which was funded in its entirety by a private donor who is wishing to remain anonymous
- I have also submitted grant requests with the Marshall Community Foundation for \$10K and the Michigan Small Business Restart Program for \$20K
- Exhibitors who registered for fair in ShoWorks and paid their fees should expect a refund by mail within the next couple weeks
- 2021 CCAIS Membership Information will be mailed this Friday to all current members
- Fall Camping Weekend and Cornhole Tournament will be October 16-18, contact the office to register or find the event on Facebook
- Winter storage put-in will be the week of October 19-24, we have received several dozen calls already in the office, many of which are first timers. The staff will do put-ins over a week to keep face-to-face time down.
- I would like to thank the Swafford Family, Todd & Chris Landis, and Kassie Hamaker for organizing the swine, beef, and poultry shows last weekend
- We are currently accepting bids for the repair of roofs on seven of our buildings that were damaged by the wind storm on June 10, those wishing for information on submitting a bid should contact the Fairgrounds Office for details, bids are due by Friday, September 11, and work must be completed by December 10, 2020. Bruce Rapp stated that we will work hard to get the roofs repaired.

Public Comment - requested for any agenda items.

Kris Landis expressed concerns about the kids who are aging out of fair showing this year. She feels that 22 and 23 year-olds should not be competing against younger kids. The older kids can come back as volunteers.

Jordan Vandenberg stated that his family has been involved in the fair for years. He would have shown this year as his last year. He is thankful to be in this community and

for past participation at the fair. He has supported the younger kids. He would like the Board to consider extending eligibility for 1 year due to Covid situation.

Discussion Items and Special Presentations

A. 2020 Aging Out – The Board members discussed the matter. Chip Riddle stated that he was sorry that seniors were affected but things happen. These are young adults and they need to understand the difficult situation. Chip does not support extending eligibility. Teri Letts asked whether a special class could be set up for older kids. Jordan Vandenberg stated he could support that idea – he wants the opportunity to show one more year. Kris Landis replied that she is concerned for the younger kids. Hope Horton supported the kids asking for the one-year extension. As CCAIS has a youth fair, we can be flexible and hold the kids in high regard. Susan Baldwin expressed concerns about the older kids competing against younger kids. Hope stated that the showmanship classes are divided by age, but it classes are divided further, there may not be enough kids in a class. In market classes, kids ages 5 to 21 all show together. Susan could support allowing the older kids to show if age categories can be set up. Lisa Sands stated that this is a tough decision. Lots of kids missed the end of their senior years in school. Things just happen. She would like time to consider her decision. Doug Wildt respects the passion that some of the kids have shown about showing one more year.

B. Golf Outing Proceeds - Jen stated that there were \$5228 in profits from the event this year. Bruce Rapp discussed ideas for how to use the proceeds. He prefers to prioritize infrastructure. Jim Olds would rather spend these funds on maintenance – the Board could specify a project. Bruce noted that earlier in the year, the Board had discussed using the proceeds for general funds given the Covid situation. Lisa suggested that the Board wait to decide until we hear on the grant applications. Doug stated that several buildings need roof work. Bill stated that he would normally like to have the funds earmarked for a project but could use this year for the Covid situation. The Board could earmark a project or for facilities, with the caveat that if needed the funds could be used for general expenses this year. Bruce noted that things do come up like the plumbing repair this year. Chip doesn't want the money to just get lost. Fred McMillan was allowed to comment – he noted that the clubs would let the Board use the club money if it was really needed to run the fairgrounds this year.

C. Bylaws – Susan Baldwin presented the report of the Bylaws Committee. She went over the four proposed changes which the Committee is recommending be put to a vote of the membership at the 2020 Annual Meeting including: 1) removing the provision that a member receive a fair week pass as part of their membership dues, 2) changing the membership year to the calendar year, 3) removing the provision for absentee voting at Annual Meetings, and 4) adding a term limits provision for Board members. (A copy of the detailed recommendations will be attached to the minutes.) Hope Horton expressed concerns about losing the option for absentee voting. She feels that November is a very busy time of the year. She also noted that there was bad weather in 2018. Lisa Sands stated that there would still be the provision to use a proxy ballot if someone could not attend the meeting. She supports removing the absentee voting option. Steve Swafford was concerned about the retirees that go to Florida. The proxy option is not as easy to use. He does not support removing the absentee voting. Lisa noted that she understands Steve Swafford’s position. Jen Rice suggested adding a provision that a member would have to request an absentee ballot. Bill DeSmet was concerned about the misuse of absentee voting. Using a proxy keeps the process cleaner. Teri supported keeping it simple and felt the proxy serves the need. Hope was concerned that the proxy holder would be able to vote for someone not on the ballot. She would prefer the option to have someone request an absentee ballot, like a state election. Bill noted that absentee voters don’t hear the issues that are discussed at the Annual Meeting.

D. Fund Raiser – Cindy Thomas discussed the need to cover CCAIS expenses and emphasized that we need to work for the kids. She has been looking into other fund-raising options since the raffle had to be cancelled this year. Fair supporters and funders have been asking what we are doing for the kids. She noted the example of Bruce Rapp working to raise funds to pay off the mortgage. She and others have come up with a fund-raising idea to have a “Sustaining Campaign” to raise \$50,000. She noted that Southern Michigan Bank has offered to be an early donor of \$1500. The campaign would emphasize kids programming. The Finance Committee has reviewed the proposal. She also welcomes other ideas.

Action Items:

- A. 2020 Aging Out** – Prior to Board discussion, Jordan Vandenberg was allowed to make an additional comment. He is concerned that the Board make a decision quickly as kids may have to commit to buying animals or starting other projects soon. The Board members made several statements about wanting to have time to consider this decision. A motion was made by Lisa Sands, supported by Jim Olds, to postpone this matter for up to a month. Unanimous voice vote, all in favor, motion passed.
- B. Golf Outing Proceeds** – Chip Riddle moved that the 2020 golf outing proceeds be placed in the mortgage fund account for infrastructure repairs with the provision that the funds could be loaned to the general fund on Board action with the loan to be paid back within 12 months of the loan. Bill DeSmet seconded. Unanimous voice vote, all in favor, motion passed.
- C. Annual Meeting Date** – Susan Baldwin noted that a date needed to be selected for the Annual Meeting so that dates for membership applications and notice of the meeting could be set. She stated that Wednesday, November 18 would meet the Bylaw requirements and would be the usual third Wednesday date for monthly meetings. Susan moved, supported by Lisa, that the CCAIS Annual Meeting be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020. The actual mode or place of the meeting would be dependent on any Executive Orders in place at the time regarding Covid. Unanimous voice vote, all in favor, motion passed.

Committee Reports

- A. Operations Committee** – Jim Olds reported nothing new at this time.
- B. Bylaws Committee** – Susan Baldwin stated nothing additional at this time.
- C. Nominating Committee** – Bill DeSmet expects activity shortly.
- D. Employee Committee** – Bruce Rapp stated no report at this time.
- E. Volunteer Appreciation Committee** – No report.
- F. Livestock Committee** – Hope Horton stated no report at this time.
- G. Livestock Auction Committee** – Steve Benham stated no report at this time.
- H. Livestock Judges Committee** – No report.

- I. **Non-Livestock Committee** – Jen Rice stated no report at this time.
- J. **Non-livestock Auction Committee** – No report.
- K. **Non-livestock Judges Committee** – Jen Rice stated no report at this time.
- L. **Fair King and Queen Pageant Committee** – Teri Letts stated no report at this time.
- M. **Grandstand Events Committee** – Jen Rice stated no report at this time.
- N. **Membership Committee** – Lisa Sands reported that the Committee has discussed new membership levels including \$25, \$50, up to a Prime level Friend of the Fair for \$175. The Committee is continuing to look at other options.
- O. **Cruise at the Fountain Committee** – Jen Rice stated that the Event has been cancelled for 2020. The majority of the participants and sponsors are rolling their payments over to next year. 2021 event date will be Fourth of July weekend. Website www.CruiseMarshall.com
- P. **Golf Outing Committee** – Jen reported that the golf outing had 19 teams. They had a total revenue of \$9893.50 with a net profit of \$5228.50.
- Q. **Halloween Camping Committee** – Jen stated that the office has received 35 calls with interest so far. The Halloween event is still scheduled for Oct 9-11. Register by calling the fair office or find the event on Facebook.
- R. **Merry Mile Committee** – Jen stated that work has started on emptying the semi and testing/repairing decorations. Presale vehicle passes will be available at the beginning of September.

Events and Community Reports:

- A. 4H Council – Kathy Fischer provided the 4-H update: The Virtual Showcase is completed and was a success with 133 entries. Participants will receive ribbons and certificates. The Michigan State Fair is hosting a Virtual Showcase. It is open now with entries closing on August 23rd. There are \$50,000 in scholarships associated with this event, not only for high school seniors, but younger youth as well. We will be continuing with virtual programming until further notice. I am working on several project or activity kits that youth will be able to do at home, as well as a

virtual escape room and supporting leaders in continuing to engage with their members. We are still looking for 4-H leader and youth award nominations. These awards will be celebrated in the Advisor and Shopper this year. We will be creating a member or volunteer spotlight to be published monthly in the Advisor and Shopper. This will showcase an individual and what they have accomplished through 4-H and their other activities. 4-H Enrollment for the 2020-2021 program year will begin in mid-September. The \$20 annual participation fee is being waived for this year.

- B. FFA Report – no report.
- C. Floral Hall Building – no report.
- D. Houston School – no report.
- E. Maple Grove Church – no report.
- F. Fair Museum – no report.

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

_____ has a building that they would like to move to the fairgrounds. They were working on this building with Vic Parker. His daughters would like to make the donation in their Dad's honor. He has contacted a mover about the project. The building is a granary with 4 bins from the mid-1800's, built on the Parker farm. It was later moved to a neighboring farm. It could be used for the Farmers Hall of Fame. Jim Olds stated that he has looked at the building. Vic Parker loved it and Jim supports moving it to the fairgrounds.

Amy Cobb spoke regarding the Aging Out issue. She stated that the kids could move to the open classes. Why not handle the issue that way. Hope Horton responded that some of the kids like the club structure and would prefer to compete with the youth. Lisa Sands noted that the kids cannot be in the auction unless in the Youth classes.

Doug Wildt noted that Vic Parker did many projects for the fair and the grounds. He worked on the roads and got many donations for the fair.

Ellie Woods spoke on the Aging Out issue. She is the parent of two young boys. The seniors help out a lot in the barns and really are leaders. Jordan has helped with her kids. She stated that Kelsey has been good and her kids know she is there to help. Ellie

noted that they are only asking for one additional year to compete. Her kids see this as one more year with their leader.

BOARD COMMENTS –

Bruce Rapp stated that, due to Covid, they would not be holding any regular auction fundraiser events this year. There will be one outer auction on September 19.

Chip Riddle stated that the granary building would be a nice addition to the grounds. We would need to plan and analyze sites. Bruce noted that the building could be split into two pieces to move it.

Adjournment – There being no further business to come before the meeting, motion made by Lisa Sands, seconded by Steve Benham, to adjourn the meeting – voice vote, all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Submitted by Susan Baldwin, Board Secretary