

Calhoun County Agricultural & Industrial Society
Minutes of Board Meeting
June 17, 2020 – Virtual/Remote Meeting - 7:00 PM

Call to Order

The June 17, 2020 Board meeting was called to order by CCAIS Board President, Bruce Rapp at 7:00 pm through Virtual/Remote means to comply with the state ordered Stay-at-home executive order due to COVID-19 situation.

Attendance with Roll Call was conducted by Susan Baldwin.

Present virtually: Bruce Rapp, Steve Benham, Jim Olds, Bill DeSmet, Susan Baldwin, Hope Horton, Teri Letts (7:15), Chip Riddle, Lisa Sands, Steve Swafford, Doug Wildt

Board Meeting

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

Secretary's Report of the May 20, 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. DeSmet discussed May report – loss for the month was \$6647.33. Cash flow is still substantially off due to Covid-19 situation. YTD Loss is \$77,483.50. Working to preserve the small revenue coming in and limit expenses. CCAIS received the PPP loan. Bill shared with the Board an update on how that program works. Mortgage balance is \$22,335.31. Cash in bank from PPP is \$20,885.00. Some bigger bills coming up are insurance and salaries. The Board discussed that amounts might have to be refunded at this point if there was no fair. Estimate is \$700. Bill and Jen Rice are hoping the vendor fees would be applied to 2021 if this year is cancelled. About \$200 to \$300 has been received in pen fees so far. Lisa Sands moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Jim Olds seconded. Unanimous voice vote, all in favor, motion passed.

Fair Manager Report – Jen Rice provided the Fair Manager report. She is considering a fair food event the weekend of July 4. The car show has been moved to Labor Day weekend. The Blue Grass event is probably moving to July 18-26. The Watson Diesel event is looking at July 31 to August 1. Winter storage date is October 24. A camping

and corn-hole tournament is scheduled for July 10-12. Jen is looking into purchasing 3 mist sprayers for cleaning the comfort center.

Public Comment - requested for any agenda items.

None.

Discussion Items and Special Presentations

A. Doug Burtch – Legislative Update – Doug is with the carnival that CCAIS contracts with. He shared the challenges his company has in dealing with the Covid-19 situation. He has been on the Governor’s task force. Big carnivals are not expected to open until the state moves into Phase 6 of the recovery. He and others are lobbying to allow carnivals in Phase 5 as they are outdoors and if protections are put in place. Doug stated that the Governor might consider 50% reduction on occupancy of grounds but also wants advance online ticket sales to eliminate lines. Six foot distancing would be required for lines and restrooms. Periodic cleaning of public spaces – every 30 minutes to an hour. These rules would apply to shows, classes, auctions and rides – although Doug is not sure how that would work. Most carnivals are down to 5-6 events for this summer - insurance and operations costs are having a serious impact. In response to a question about how capacity would be determined, Doug stated that national organizations look to acreage. The state wants 50% - might look at past attendance numbers. Doug stated that big shows base their economics on full attendance and cannot afford to do the shows at 50% as the operations costs are still there. The Board discussed what it would take to get to phase 6 but that would require a vaccine and no new cases for 30 days. Chip Riddle noted that for restaurants, capacity is based on fire marshal’s numbers. There was also discussion about mandates from the state and whether that could be reimbursed. This is still under discussion at the state.

B. Drawdown Event – Susan Baldwin shared an email from Cindy Thomas. The decision has been made to cancel the event for this year. The event does not lend itself to social distancing. Further, Wilder Creek has determined to cancel all events for the rest of the year. Bruce Rapp shared an idea he is proposing to approach select fair supporters to pay down the fair mortgage. The fair Board is continuing with extra workshops to closely monitor the finances and fair situation.

- C. Fair Schedule** – The Board discussed the issues with holding a fair in the pandemic. Lisa Sands stated that youth groups are waiting on the Board decision – kids are wondering about continuing to put money into their animals. Doug Wildt noted that ribbon and premium costs are high. Jen rice noted that the fair could save some costs by adjusting ribbons and premiums. The Board will continue to monitor the situation and will hold a workshop again soon.

Action Items:

- A. New Youth Culinary Arts Superintendent** – Jen Rice discussed the proposed change to Superintendent and Judge. Amy Jones will become the new Superintendent and Shelly Densmore will become the judge. The Non-livestock Committee reviewed and supported the proposal. Steven Benham moved that this proposal be approved, Jim Olds seconded. Voice vote taken, all in favor, motion passed. Jen noted that there are still some vacancies the Committee is working on.
- B. Livestock Committee Vacancy Recommendations** – Hope Horton discussed the Committee vacancy. Alex Scott is recommended for the vacancy. Doug Wildt moved to approve, Steve Swafford seconded. Voice vote taken, all in favor, motion passed.

Committee Reports

- A. Operations Committee** – Jim Olds reported that the mowing is getting under control.
- B. Bylaws Committee** – Susan Baldwin stated the committee has received a copy of the current bylaws and a list of suggestions that have been raised over the last couple of years.
- C. Nominating Committee** – Bill DeSmet stated that this committee will be meeting in the next couple of months.
- D. Employee Committee** – Bruce Rapp reported that Kathy is back in the office 3 partial days a week. There are many phone calls to handle regarding events, the fair, and changes that may happen due to Covid-19.
- E. Volunteer Appreciation Committee** – Kathy Miller. Nothing at this time.

- F. Livestock Committee** – Hope Horton thanked the Board for approving the Committee appointment. There are two open Superintendent spots – some letters of interest have been coming in. The Committee wants to hold a strategy meeting. The Committee is watching what other fairs are doing. There is concern about processing animals and shipping..
- G. Livestock Auction Committee** – Steve Benham stated there was nothing at this time.
- H. Livestock Judges Committee** – No report.
- I. Non-Livestock Committee** – Jen Rice stated the committee met last week. They may do judging by appointment to promote distancing.
- J. Non-livestock Auction Committee** – No report.
- K. Non-livestock Judges Committee** – Jen Rice stated that the office is still getting judges contracts back, about 2/3's are in.
- L. Fair King and Queen Pageant Committee** – Jen Rice reported that she is updating the forms for participation.
- M. Grandstand Events Committee** – Jen Rice stated that there would be no concert. We might have to plan for no grandstand events. If the state allows things to open up, a demo derby and a combine derby could be put together on short notice.
- N. Membership Committee** – Lisa Sands reported that the Committee is working on a color printed flyer. Seeking donations for the marketing.
- O. Cruise at the Fountain Committee** – Jen Rice reported that the event has been moved to Labor Day weekend and will occur with the Vintage Market.
- P. Golf Outing Committee** – Jen stated she will be working on registrations. Hole sponsorships are available for \$100.
- Q. Halloween Camping Committee** – Jen stated that the Halloween event is still scheduled for Oct 9-11. Information will be on Facebook.
- R. Merry Mile Committee** – Jen stated that she had nothing to report.

Events and Community Reports:

- A. 4H Council – Kathy Fischer reported that they are still doing virtual classes. Activity kits went out Monday – they had a good response. The Goose Chase scavenger hunt goes active next week – Monday through Sunday. Kids answer questions and take photos. Kids have been asking for a similar scavenger hunt during fair. MSU has virtual show options.
- B. FFA Report – Lora Finch reported that all chapters are doing things virtually. The plant sale went very well – many thanks to the fair for hosting. FFA is adjusting banquet plans. Some kids have moved to smaller animals as they are less costly. The Miracle of Life tent is in a holding pattern due to the situation.
- 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.

Tracy Wilson asked about the deadline for horse barn camping. Jen said the deadline was July 1.

BOARD COMMENTS –

Hope Horton reminded all of the committees that there were rules to follow.

Doug Wildt expressed concerns about the amount of money coming in in July. May need to be refunded if events or the fair are cancelled. He is worried that we are spending what we don't have.

Adjournment – There being no further business to come before the meeting, motion made by Lisa Sands, seconded by Steve Banham, to adjourn the meeting – voice vote, all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.

Submitted by Susan Baldwin, Board Secretary