

YORK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of June 18, 2024

The Board of Directors of the York County Agricultural Society met Tuesday June 18, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., directly after the Fairgrounds Pre-Fair walk around tour which started at 7:15 p.m., in the York County Extension Office for their regular monthly meeting. The meeting notice was published publicly on or before June 11, 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.

Thirteen (13) Directors were present; Chrisman, Ditloff, Gloystein, Heine, Hoffman, Hoffschneider, Holtmeier, Jackson, Quiring, Rathjen, Ziegler, Ziemke and Zoubek. Two (2) Directors were absent; Cast and Heskett.

Guest present: Adam Watson representing the Benedict Men's Club; Jeff Meredith, Mike Parish and Justin Ott representing the Livestock Banner Auction Group; Julie Hoffman, Paul Jackel and Janace Bestwick representing the YABAC; Tanya Crawford, UNL York County Extension Youth Educator; Dana Hall, McCool Junction FFA Advisor.

President Gloystein called the meeting to order at 8:02 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.

No additional items.

Minutes and Financial

Minutes of the May 21, 2024 York County Agricultural Society meeting were reviewed. There were no additions or corrections.

The Board reviewed the May 2024 Financial Report. Discussion on two items: Siding for the Fair Office, \$22,800.00; 2024 Fairbooks, \$3,800.00 approximately \$10.25 per book. Noted: the question last month about the Aurora locksmith's bill, it was for the Cornerstone Ag & Event Centers doors. Also noted: the hourly increase of wages has gone into effect. Motion #1 was duly made by Ziegler to accept the Minutes of the May 21, 2024 meeting and the May 2024 Financial Records. Seconded by Heine. No further discussion. Thirteen (13) votes for, Zero (0) votes against. Motion #1 carried.

Under Old Business:

AED Units – The units are here. Poet Bioprocessing of Fairmont, Nebraska is graciously paying for one of the units. Thank you, POET Bioprocessing! One unit will be installed in the Cornerstone Ag & Event Center and the other in the 4H Building.

Visitors Bureau – Approved \$10,000.00 for us to use toward advertising.

NIRMA Insurance – There is a 12.5% increase again this year of approximately \$4,000.00 which brings the yearly renewal fee to approximately \$35,000.00. Needs to be paid as soon as possible to keep our coverage.

Building Committee Report:

Fair Office – LP Smart siding is complete except for the interior of the foyer area which will be finished once the new entrance doors are installed. The first set of entrance doors that came in were the wrong size. The correct size doors are now here and ready to install.

Crow's Nest – It has been placed on the new concrete slab. The new lower door and windows have been installed.

Horse Arena/Track Area – The Electricians will be working on installing new lights on the poles that were moved closer to the arena. They will also be trenching for wiring to the poles and relocating electrical wiring to the Crow's Nest location. Power boxes will be reinstalled in the lower portion of the Crow's Nest.

Ag Hall HVAC – Ziegler has spoken with Critel Enterprises LLC for direction to see if it would be feasible to air condition Ag Hall. It would take at least four 5 Ton air conditioning units at approximately \$7,000.00 per unit. There would still be additional electrical upgrades, ductwork and labor expenses involved to complete the installation. It would work best if the building was insulated. Insulating the building would have a negative effect on the rustic aesthetic looks of the interior. It cost around \$20,000.00 to spray insulate the Mercantile building. We will look closer at the possible project after the 2024 Fair.

Cattle Barn – Ziemke spoke with Joel Troester about the water leaks in the roof area of the Cattle Barn. Joel spent nearly four hours working on the roof before the Demuth cattle show along with several other visits prior. Several issues have led to the leaks. The worst issue is not having enough air flow in the building during the year to completely dry out the dirt floor after all the water that has been sprinkled and hosed onto the floor and animal bedding during the Fairs and livestock shows which has led to condensation get trapped between the insulation and roof tin while the building is closed up. This in turn has rusted the screws and tin roof seams which is letting rain to get in from the top side which is making the issues worse. In the near future we need to add some ventilation to the building to keep the leaks from getting worse.

Summer Swine Show – It is this coming weekend in the outdoor arena. Barricades will be put out in the area. They have asked for a roll-off to place their waste material in. We need to look closer at our rental agreements in the future, a roll-off rental costs us more than what we are charging for the facility. We need to put in the rental agreements that the renter is in charge of obtaining and paying for the removal of their waste materials. It was stated that Demuth takes care of their Scottish Highlander show's waste material. Could we possibly bring the trash container from the 4H Building to the outdoor arena for this event?

Church Kitchen – The concrete floor in the kitchen area is terrible! Cracked, broken and very uneven. Thrasher, NO. Jerry Stahr says he has a crew that would help him remove the existing concrete. Would they be willing to also help with the pouring the replacement concrete?

Antique Tractor Barn – Mike Wright had the York College students scrape the building. Mike will probably not have time to paint it with all the other projects he is trying to get done before Fair. What about a 4H Club or Diversion kids to do the painting? Dana Hall and Katie Quiring offered the help of their McClover Junction 4H Club members and parents to do the painting.

Mike will get the paint and other materials lined up for them.

Cornerstone Ag & Event Center – Resealing the concrete floor. It will have to wait until after the Fair.

New Business:

Benedict Men's Club, Ranch Rodeo Beer Garden – Their group would like to wait until next year to operate the Beer Garden. They feel by taking a look at things during this year's Ranch Rodeo it would make next year's Beer Garden run more smoothly for their club.

- Issues that were discussed
 - Adults only in the Beer Garden.
 - Mud around the new location of the Crow's Nest.
 - Beer and alcohol in spectators' vehicles.
 - How does a liquor license work if it rains and the location needs to be changed?
 - We need to remove the Ranch Rodeo Beer Garden from the Fair's advertising.

Julie Hoffman, Paul Jackel and Janace Bestwick representing the YABAC – Presentation for Handicap Inclusion and Accessibility.

- Many people have mobility issues.
- They would like to see the Fair and Fairgrounds to be more inclusively accessible.
- They would like to do a walk around tour with one or two of the Directors during the Fair to examine what they would like to see changed and if the changes they proposed would be possible.
- They are willing to help us find grants that would help cover some of the costs that would be involved in any changes and upgrades to the Fair and Fairgrounds.
- One of the issues they would like looked into is the livestock buildings accessibility.
- They brought up that the new playground equipment just south of the Cornerstone Ag & Event Center was not inclusive and that they had visited with the Benedict 4H Club that worked to get the funds to purchase the equipment.
- The Board encouraged them to contact us right before Fair so that we could set a time and day during the Fair to do a tour of the grounds with them.

Livestock Banner Sale Group – Justin Ott, Jeff Meridith & Mike Parish

- The group presented an idea of having a livestock Banner Auction this year to help out the livestock exhibitors with expenses. A Banner Auction is a different concept from what other counties do for an auction.
- Not for showmanship.
- Non-political, blind auction, the purchaser of the banner would not know who was going to be the champion or reserve champion of their classes.
- There are about 40 banners given out each year.
- The online auction would be held before the Fair and run for of 7 to 10 days ending one week before the Fair.
- Opening bid would start at different amounts due to the difference in species.
- Purchaser of the banner would get recognition by announcement at the livestock show.
- Their initial thoughts are that 75% would go to the exhibitor that won the banner and the other 25% be pooled together and divided amongst the rest of the exhibitors.
- There will be a group of individuals to oversee the sale, presentation & recognition. The group could possibly be derived from a representative of each species or from each 4H

Club.

- The auction may not bring in the anticipated amount of funds the first year.

Discussion:

- What about a split of 60% to the exhibitors that won the banners and the other 40% pooled to divide between the other exhibitors that could not afford to purchase a Champion animal?
- This is the last year that the York Chamber is supporting the exhibitors with Chamber Checks, approximately \$7,000.00, that is to be used around the businesses in York to help defer some of the expenses associated with raising their animals.
- Businesses are already getting 4 letters pertaining to and asking for funds to help support the Fair.
- Hoffschneider voiced concern about having an auction this year since letters have already been sent out for sponsorship of the Fair and that people and businesses would get the wrong idea by being hit up again for funding. She would like to see them wait until next year.
- Seward and Polk Counties are trying new versions to their auctions this year.
- If the group does a Banner auction in the future, do we, the Agricultural Society still solicit for funds for exhibitor feed allowances?
- Do we wash our hands of any auction?
- We need to make sure that they are not tapping into our gracious sponsors that are supporting our Fair.
- Worried about the logistic of it starting an auction this year.
 - Does the group have an official name?
 - Is the group going to be tax exempt?
 - Do they have a tax I.D. number?

Motion #2 was duly made by Ziemke that: The York County Agricultural Society supports the idea of a Banner Auction but we encourage them to pursue and refine their ideas for the 2025 York County Fair. Seconded by Jackson. Discussion incurred to insert: due to current sponsorships and donation commitments for the 2024 York County Fair, and also add: to gain funds to increase money for livestock incentives. Motion #2 now reads: The York County Agricultural Society supports the idea of a Banner Auction but due to current sponsorships and donation commitments for the 2024 York County Fair we encourage the Livestock Banner Sale Group to pursue and refine their ideas for the 2025 York County Fair to gain funds to increase money for livestock incentives. Thirteen (13) votes for, Zero (0) votes against. Motion #2 carried.

York County Fair Foundation – If you haven't gotten your tickets to sell for the 2024-2025 Calendar Raffle, please get them from Heskett. We need to push the new Calendar Raffle on Facebook very hard before and during Fair.

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

- Kera Rauert's group will do the Grandstand concessions for all Grandstand events except the Sunday Antique Tractor Pull which will done by Yeger's group.
- The Veteran's Memorial Wall would like to get into the Mercantile building on July 29th to set up their display. They will have to be located inside the east entrance this year.
- Still looking for a coffee truck on Saturday.
- Forby's Shaved Ice will be here for the Volleyball Tournament on Sunday.
- We still need to put pins in the ground to mark the vendor's areas around the grounds.
- Go Cart Company – Midwest Motor Sports LLC will keep in touch with Ziegler.

- Grand Central Super Value – Can we get a list of all the alcohol vendors that will be contributing to Taps, Tastes and Tunes?
- Provide the Shirts and Skirts group with meals for their presentation under the tent.
- Lana would like some old seed corn bags to use on the back drops of the stage under the tent. Ziemke will see if he still has some that can be used.
- The York Chamber members have volunteered for Thursday evening at the Grandstand entrances.
- Teammates will be helping with Saturday evening's Figure 8 Races.
- We need to see if the County can deep rip the track area to comply with the requests of the Antique Tractor pullers. Remember there is an underground electrical wire near the south end that runs from the transformer southwest of the Grandstand over to the pole southwest of the Crow's Nest!
- Tanya Crawford:
 - Tanya noticed that we are low on Open Class entry forms. See if Macee' can look into getting more forms printed at North Office Supply.
 - The 4H Food Stand will be managed by Amy Pohl and she will have it open on Tuesday and Wednesday of Fair week from 10:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. along with the normal Fair hours on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Amy is still looking for volunteers to help run the food stand. Possible volunteers: Farm Credit Services of America from the Grand Island Office – Luke Wright; Young Professionals.
 - A non-working freezer in the Pop Stand was removed after the Fair last year. Was it replaced? Do we need another freezer? The 4H Council may be willing to purchase one if needed. No, an additional freezer is not needed at this time.
 - Amy and the Extension staff would like to put up some shelving above the stove area in the 4H Building on the east wall. Yes, proceed with installing some shelves.
 - Do we need more bags of wood shavings for animal bedding? Yes, we need two pallets of low dust, very good quality, to keep the dust down in the Cornerstone Ag and Event Center so the Air Conditioner filters do not get clogged. The wood shavings need to be ordered from the Aurora Cooperative; Jeff Meridith is the person to contact. Tanya will order the wood shavings.
 - The Waffle Man is confirmed.

There being no further business to come before the Directors, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

Douglas Ziemke

Douglas Ziemke
Secretary