

# YORK COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Minutes of August 20, 2024

The Board of Directors of the York County Agricultural Society met Tuesday August 20, 2024 at 8:00 p.m., in the York Fairgrounds 4H Building for their regular monthly meeting. The meeting notice was published publicly on or before August 13, 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.

Twelve (12) Directors were present; Cast, Ditloff, Gloystein, Heine, Heskett, Hoffman, Holtmeier, Quiring, Rathjen, Ziegler, Ziemke and Zoubek. Three (3) Directors were absent; Chrisman, Hoffschneider and Jackson.

Guests present: Tanya Crawford, UNL York County Extension Youth Educator; Jenny Rees, York County Extension Specialist; Dana Hall, McCool Junction FFA Advisor.

President Gloystein called the meeting to order at 8:03 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 July 16, 2024 York County Agricultural Society meeting were reviewed. There were no additions or corrections.

The Board reviewed the July 2024 Financial Report. Discussion on items: January through July 2024 Profit & Loss; How many funds should we move from the Foundation to the York County Agricultural Society for the building repairs, upgrades and maintenance? We need to make sure and send out thank yous to those who have made donations to the Foundations and what their donations were used toward; Zoll Medical Corporation – AED Units; Was Triple A Rents paid twice? Osceola Implement – PTO shield for the tractor mower; Tent was \$4,061.00; Tables & chairs for under the tent were \$1,516.25; NIRMA Insurance wants to send out a representative to meet with us and do a walk around tour of the grounds to make sure we are carrying enough insurance on our buildings, grandstand and equipment. Motion #1 was duly made by Ziegler to accept the Minutes of the July 16, 2024 meeting and the July 2024 Financial Records. Seconded by Heine. No further discussion. Twelve (12) votes for, Zero (0) votes against. Motion #1 carried.

## **Under Old Business:**

Julie Hoffman – YABAC Accessibility and Inclusion – Holtmeier did see one of their group attending our Fair. Gloystein will contact Julie to see if she will be attending our next meeting.

## **Building Committee Report:**

Ziegler has discussed with Mike Wright about finishing up the painting and interior of the Crow's Nest and the windows on the Fair Office before winter. Ziegler also asked Mike if he had any specific projects that he would like to work on this next year.

Ziegler discussed with the Directors other future projects that he would like to see worked on: Mercantile building's south side to be sided like the surrounding buildings (white above with a green lower façade); Mercantile roof, we are starting to have some leakage and rust issues, possibly getting a bid from Tolston's to spray on their rubber roof coating.

Additional West Parking Lot lighting – Additional lighting was pointed west off of the existing pole. It did give some additional lighting. Should we look at upgrading all of the parking lot lighting to LED?

Horse Arena – lighting is still dim in the northeast corner area. We either need to add additional lights to the pole on the northeast side or replace the existing lights with brighter lighting.

Ag Hall HVAC – Critel Enterprises mentioned during Fair that some used large air conditioning units may become available. Would we be interested in them for our Ag Hall air conditioning project? Yes, Ziegler will contact Chris Critel to discuss the units with him. We would also need to be upgrading the incoming electrical system and bypass doors if we do this project.

Church Food Stand Kitchen – Thrasher was out and looked over the uneven and cracked concrete floor in the kitchen. Their fix to repair the floor would be to foam jack the floor and seal the cracks. Their bid to do the project is \$14,744.50. Gloystein will talk with Jerry Stahr about his group helping us tear out the concrete and repouring the floor to our specs with a footing and rebar.

AED Units – What walls do we want them mounted on? Cornerstone Ag & Event Center, either in the kitchen or on the wall south of the kitchen entrance door. 4H Building, between the kitchen serving counter and the entrance to the restrooms.

Steve Postier with the Rotary Club – Would we like to have two bicycle racks to put on our grounds? Do we have to purchase them? We heard they were \$100.00 per bicycle rack. Are the racks associated with the bicycle trail that is going in around York?

Cornerstone Ag & Event Center – Jenny Rees – Still waiting on parts to fix the projector screen.

## **New Business:**

Livestock Premium Awards – There was an event this year on the last day of the Fair, not in any way connected with the York County Agricultural Society, where premiums were handed out to between ten and sixteen livestock exhibitors that showed goats, sheep, swine and cattle.

Tanya Crawford mentioned that Madonna Mougall reminded her that this was the last year for the Chamber of Commerce to be involved with ribbon premiums, which has in the past been around \$7,000.00. Ditloff said that she spoke with Madonna last Friday and Madonna said that the Chamber was not done with the additional premiums. Ditloff will follow up with Madonna.

### **Animal Barn Clean-up**

- There seems to be only two 4H livestock clubs that are sticking around to help clean up the cattle barns.
- Should we start a \$250.00 deposit for each 4H club that has animals?
- If the Club sticks around to help clean up the Club will get their deposit back.
- If the Club does not stick around to help clean up their deposit will be split up between

- the clubs that stayed to help with clean-up.
- Would the deposit discourage Clubs and exhibitors?
- The 4H Food Stand is having the same issues, there are many exhibitors and parents that do not take their turn working.
- What we really need are parents and leaders that take responsibility under their wing and make sure everyone is doing these jobs.
- Tanya will reach out more to the Clubs during the year and at 4H Club Leader Training.
- There were two clubs that had their herdsman ship premiums pulled this year.

York County Fair Foundation – Heskett only has 45 calendar raffle tickets back so far. There is only 45 days left to sell tickets for the 2024/2025 Calendar Raffle. The drawing will be held on September 30, 2025 and all tickets sold or unsold need to be back in his possession before then. A thank you goes out to Heine for decorating and setting up the Foundation booth in the Mercantile Building. Thank yous also go out to all of those who worked their shift to man the booth.

There has been some inquiries to some Directors about the Foundation/York County Agricultural Society purchasing the Pioneer/Corteva Office to the northeast of the Fairgrounds, which is totally false. What we do know is that a joint group of County Commissioners, Nebraska Extension and York School Foundation are looking at purchasing the buildings and site to make a FFA Learning Center and to move the Extension Office into the main office building. If this were to happen, then the County would utilize the current Extension Office as the Probation Office.

## **2024 Fair Comments**

Heskett

- Feels that the Fair was financially successful.

Ziegler

- What if we move the 4H Awards to Friday?
- Move the fashion show on stage under the tent on Thursday evening to help bring people on the grounds.
- Went through a list of ideas that Vicky Ziegler had during the Fair that would improve the Fair in future years (see added sheet).

Zoubek

- Ditloff's events went really well.
- Prok BBQ numbers were down quite a bit but the Beef Steak Fry numbers were higher.
- Ag Hall went well.

Hoffman

- Moving the vehicle show up increase auto numbers.
- Didn't feel that there was as many people on the grounds but all seemed good by the end of the Fair.

Rathjen

- Go Cart Races
  - Didn't see eye to eye with the Go Cart Race promoter.
  - Felt the Go Cart Races were good.
  - Go Cart races are the hot item down around Beatrice.
  - Maybe we could do better with a different Go Cart Race promoter next year.
- The Ranch Rodeo was a huge success again this year.
- Maybe one of the best Figure 8 Race events we have had, 44 cars.

- Bob Hansen was a great help.
- The tractor pull sled may be sold to someone over in Iowa. This year they only allowed two hooks per tractor which totaled 86 hooks compared to 160 hooks other years.

#### Tanya Crawford

- Can we find a time for the Dog Show before the arena floor gets put down? The issue is, there would be no perimeter fence if the floor is not installed.
- Shortage of electrical power in the sheep and goat area.
- Can the cattle scale be moved closer to the 4H Restrooms or better yet into the Cattle Barn?
- Bull calves and ram shows (intact males) went well.
- 90 Beef, 48 sheep, 27 goats, 16 dairy beef and 10 dairy goats this year.

#### Dana Hall

- The display monitor in the sheep barn is good, is there a way to get one into the Cattle Barn?
- Would like to see more electrical power in the sheep, goat and small animal barn.
- Can we supply additional shade cloth for the sides of the Sheep, Goat & Small Animal Barn?
- How many of the sheep and goat pens need welding or repairs? Dana's McCool Junction FFA group would do the repairs.
- Now that we have the nice projector and screen in the Cornerstone Ag and Event Center, would it be possible to have a movie night inside the air-conditioned arena during the Fair?
- Would it be possible to install exterior electric outlets on the west side of the Cattle Barn?

#### Jenny Rees

- All went well in Ag Hall.
- Zoubek and Jenny will work on clearing up monetary amounts on Ag Hall premiums.

#### Cast

- One family had trouble finding information about running and racing their go carts. That family said that they will definitely race again next year if we have the Go Cart Races.

#### Heine

- She gave Hoffschneider her notes during the Fair.
- It would be nice to have some holders to set our fliers in at different businesses.

#### Quiring

- Surprised that the Pork BBQ attendance was so low.
- Can we move the sheep and goats to a different location if their numbers keep increasing?
- The leader of Archery needs to explain to the crowd how archery is scored.
- Move the animal shows back to 9:00 a.m.
- Is it possible to get more golf carts and then rent them out to the elderly and handicapped?
- Many people didn't like the species banners hanging on the back of the bleachers in the Cornerstone Ag & Event Center, they claimed it cut down the air flow.
- There still needs to be a handrailing on the entrance to the Fair Office.
- Should we hand out goodie bags in our Fair Foundation booth?
- There were dogs everywhere on the Fairgrounds this year.
- We should end online ticket sales earlier.
- She had positive feedback on the show arena wood shavings.
- Should we have more money for the scavenger hunt?

- Cornhole has a sponsor and the Volleyball Tournament had entry fees.
- Holy Grounds coffee truck was awesome.

#### Ditloff

- The wood shavings in the Cattle Barn were bad.
- Livestock people need to fill the front end of the roll offs first and work toward the back.
- Too much late night loud camper music.
- Grandstand gate workers are having issues knowing who our volunteers are and if they should be let through the gate without a ticket. Should we have all of our volunteers have a specific shirt to wear?
- Blended Distilling was upset that they were not asked to participate in Taps, Taste and Tunes.
- The Cornhole Tournament was good.
- Comments heard from the Volleyball Tournament: there were rocks in the sand, the sand was too hot and people were getting blisters on their feet. Should we add fresh sand if we do the Tournament again next year? Should we water the sand down more often?
- People want bigger names for entertainment.

#### Holtmeier

- She will get some information on Logan Mize.
- The Mercantile was open for only two hours on Sunday, many of the vendors left Saturday evening.
- Billy's Grilled Cheese would like to know if he could store his food truck inside one of our buildings this winter. Yes, it is \$1.50 per foot per month.
- Many of the handicap parking areas on the north side of the Mercantile Building were being used by non-handicap vehicles, presumably livestock exhibitor families.

#### Ziemke

- Overall, it was a very good Fair.
- It was hot, but we have had much hotter Fairs.
- Attendance was down a bit on Thursday evening but the crowds seemed to pick up on Friday and Saturday evenings.
- The Carnival's revenue was down on Thursday and Friday but recovered on Saturday.
- Our share of the Carnival was within \$100.00 of last year.
- The 4H Food Stand definitely needs to have 4H families step up on their responsibilities and help out. They were very short on workers this year. Some Clubs worked additional shifts.
- Ziegler is correct. we need more 4H Clubs to stick around and help with clean-up in the livestock barns.

#### Gloystein

- Some people never saw any information about the Fair.
- How many Fairbooks did we have left over? One box.
- We need to make sure we change the font size in the 2025 Fairbook.
- The air conditioner units kept freezing up in the 4H Building. J&R was out three times during the Fair to work on them.
- Was the Pee-wee show bigger this year. Quiring, no.
- How did the virtual reality trailer do?
- Ranch Rodeo, Preston Hawley announced that the Ag Society would raise our \$1,000.00 donation to the pot up to \$1,500.00.
- We need to add Vicky Ziegler's comment sheet to the 2025 Fair items.
- We need to get rid of the old garage out north before next Fair so we can gain more

- organized camper spaces.
- Mary Gloystein ran the Foundation booth in the Mercantile Building and received many comments from the vendors about the hours on Sunday.
  - Deposits in the Mercantile Building.

### **2025 Fair Plans – July 31 through August 3**

- Carnival is here all four days.
- Dana Hall said there are some Fairbook livestock items that we need to change to line up with the State Fair livestock rules.

Gloystein passed out the thank you packets to the Directors. Each packet contained thank you cards, envelopes and postage along with a list of Fair Sponsors to write the thank yous to.

Just a reminder: Rathjen is the Grand Marshall at the Nebraska State Fair on Sunday August 25<sup>th</sup>. We are all invited to his reception upstairs in the Nebraska State Fair's main business meeting room. The parade will start at 2:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Directors, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

*Douglas Ziemke*

Douglas Ziemke  
Secretary