

Fair Committee - Minutes

May 22, 2024, at 7:00pm

Eau Claire County Extension Office 227 1st Street West, Altoona WI 5472

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Meeting Notice – Derrick Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Derrick Nelson, Devin Hadorn-Papke, Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Rachel Hart-Brinson, Tammy Schlewitz, Meg Mueller

3. Public Comment, No public comment. Tammy Schlewitz moved to close public comment. Derrick Nelson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Committee Minutes

a. April 10, 2024 – minutes - Discussion/Action

Derrick Nelson motioned to approve the minutes as distributed. Devin Hadorn-Papke seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. County and Fair Relationship – Discussion/Action – Derrick Nelson and Meg Mueller reported on meeting progress so far. Committee members were invited to think about if they would like to continue the transition year joint committee. The committee structure is still under consideration, but the subcommittee is recommending a nine- or eleven-member board be set by September. Rachel presented a draft organization chart. Devin suggested that the superintendents for the livestock species should be a part of the structure, so they have authority to make basic decisions.

a. Fair Structure

b. Roles/Responsibilities

6. 2024 Fair - Discussion/Action- No additional superintendent applications. Swine, Dairy and Foods are still open, and we will need people in these roles.

a. Superintendents/Superintendent Meeting – meetings are scheduled for Monday, June 3rd at 2:30 p.m. at the Pleasant Valley Community Center and Tuesday, June 4th at 6:00 p.m. at the Pleasant Valley Community Center

b. Committee Updates/Review – Meg shared with Derrick that Diggers Hotline will need to be contacted two weeks in advance and fire extinguishers will need to be rented from Summit Fire Protection. We had a brief discussion about belt buckles for showmanship.

c. 100 Year Activities – A celebration committee has been formed and folks are working on getting people to the events. Jodi will coordinate with Kayla Davis to set up a barn quilt project meeting to promote barn quilt special contest. Jenny Haan will be facilitating a Fair hype event at HyVee on June 9th from 1 to 4.

d. Fair Awards – Meg will send a list of both distinguished fair service and partner in the fair award lists so we can review and bring suggestions to our next meeting. Committee members should review the list and come with nominations. Meg indicated that we could award more than the typical number in honor of the 100th year.

7. Fair Committee Structure Fair Representative Reports – Discussion/Action –

a. County Board – Loralee Clark has been assigned as the representative for Extension. Heather DeLuka will serve on the planning committee.

b. Livestock – Derrick -at the next meeting youth will draw their numbers for the Livestock Auction following the plan that they have created.

c. Extension – Rachel – There is a new community development agent who has started. The new staff member can help with strategic planning and visioning. Rachel will offer an in-person and zoom option for new families to learn about the fair, the schedule of the year and record books. The meeting will take place at the Extension Office on June 3rd. The 4-H Summer Intern has started and is working on educational sessions, scavenger hunt and a goose chase for the Fair.

d. Friends of the Fair – Tammy - Friends of the Fair met on April 23rd. Silent Auction will go live in June. Commemorative stones will be placed in honor of the 100th anniversary of the fair. A grill has been donated for the raffle. Brochures are finished and Devin will deliver them to Meg. FOF is looking at billboards. Benches are available for order as a promotion for the fair. The assistant fair coordinator's salary was approved. Food trucks have been secured. FOF will meet on May 28th.

8. Fair Coordinator Report – Discussion/Action – Working to make sure Fair Entry is ready to go live next weekend. Making contacts with potential partnerships. Beer will be sold at the Rodeo event.

a. Updates

9. Announcements – Breakfast on the Farm is June 15th. There are still shifts open.

10. Future Agenda Items – Awards discussion and action

11. Future Meeting Date:

a. June 13, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Extension Office

12. Adjournment- Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jodi Thesing-Ritter, Clerk