

St. Joseph County Grange Fair Association

Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2023

Barn# 52

St. Joseph County Grange Fair
316 East Charlotte Street
Centreville, MI 49032

Meeting called to Order: President Keith Bower called the St. Joseph County Grange Fair Association Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. in the building #52 located on the Fairgrounds of the St. Joseph County Grange Fair in Centreville Michigan.

Pledge of Allegiance: The St. Joseph County Grange Fair Association Members stated the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:01 p.m.

Present: The St. Joseph County Grange Fair Association Members. All members were asked to sign the sign in sheet when they entered the meeting. There were 57 Fair Association Members present at the meeting.

Review and Approval of the Agenda:

MOTION by: Kristine Kirsch, Second by: Shirel Hart

Motion to approve the meeting agenda was made by: Kristine Kirsch and second was made by: Shirel Hart

Motion carried without dissent.

Approval and adoption of the May 16, 2023, Fair Association Meeting Minutes:

MOTION by: Teresa Hufstedler, Second by: Tricia Ulsh

Motion to approve the May 16, 2023, St. Joseph County Grange Fair Meeting Minutes with the suggested correction from Tricia Ulsh was made by: Teresa Hufstedler and second was made by: Tricia Ulsh

Motion carried without dissent.

Treasurers Report:

a. **2023 Financials**

The Fair Association Members reviewed the presented financial statements.

MOTION by: Shirel Hart, Second by: Louanne Younts

Motion to place on the record the presented financial statements was made by: Shirel Hart and second was made by: Louanne Younts.

Motion carried without dissent.

Fair Managers Report:

Christina Yunker, Fair Manager gave her Fair Managers Report on the following items:

- Commercial Barns #40, #41, and #42 are all Full. Barn #49 is full of vendors on the one side and the rest is Heritage Hall.
- There are still 3 – 4 food vendor spaces available.
- The south end of barn #16 will be the Market area.

- Passes, tickets, and wristband vouchers have been on sale.
- Kristine Kirsch has been counting and sorting ribbons for open class.
- We have \$6,800 more in sponsorship money this year.
- Saturday, August 26, 2023, will be volunteer workday.
- We are already booking 2024 off season events.
- The Burr Oak Street fence will be moved next week.
- Dry Wells will be cleaned next week. They have not been cleaned since 2006.
- The Fair Board approved the overhead door and cement approach for the maintenance barn.
- The 4-H office had a leak and toxic black mold in the office. This is being cleaned up.
- Our Emergency Action Plan has been updated with Erin Goff and Emergency Services.
- Barn Spraying will be August 23rd and 24th.
- We will have new trash cans around the fairgrounds this year. VRT gave \$750.00 for new trash cans but does not want their names on them.
- Campers are allowed to leave water hooked up during Fair Week, but you must have a backflow preventer. We will have them for sale and the camping office.
- We are using the Sheriff's Department and a private security company for this year's security. The private company will also be doing bathrooms and trash.

Public Comment:

The following Fair Association Members stood up and were given 3 minutes per person to speak.

- Jeff Brazo – The public complaining and snarky comments from Fair Association Members needs to stop. If you have an issue or questions, please all the appropriate person and make a resolution.
- Angie Mingus – We have made big strides and a lot of effort to stay as a team with Christina Yunker and Kayla Mitchell communicating everything that deals with 4-H. They are working together as a unit and Christina keeps the Fair Board up to date.
- Wendy Guess – Still needing a few workers and judges for the Grange Building.
- Kevin Yeager – There are no sides between the Fair and 4-H. Everyone needs to work together as a team.
- Stacey Bower – The transparency in the Fair Office and atmosphere is a lot better than it has been.
- DeWayne Cunningham – 4-H is not the main property; the Fair is the main property.
- Debbie Davis – Asked Kayla Mitchell what we as a Fair need to do or change with the Fair/4-H relationship.
- Tricia Ulsh – Read the Fair's Mission Statement.
- Jeff Brazo – We as the Fair must meet stated purpose in our articles of incorporation.
- Cindy Gordon – Work on a bartering system.
- Kayla Mitchell – The table situation has been resolved. The Fairgrounds is the Fair's home. 4-H does

not have a home and volunteers are willing to do anything and partnership with the Board and Association to make this partnership work.

- Shirel Hart – There are a few 4-H volunteers that are Fair Association Members. The Fair is a business and 4-H should not accept things for free.
- Angie Mingus – Thank you Kayla for speaking. We do need a common ground and to continue to work through everything. Negativity is not allowed, and we are a team.
- Lisa Soule – 4-H is a big part of this Fair and if the animal barns are not full then we would not have a Fair.
- Teresa Hufstedler – Asked about the digital marquee. Christina Yunker stated that some of the LED panels were defective during shipping. The panels will be replaced before Fair. We are extending contracts for digital advertising.

Director and Committee Reports:

- ***Mindy Timm***
 - *Fair Advertising and Marketing –*

Fair Association

- Membership Applications back table. Sign up tonight.
- Everyone must fill out a form.
- Week Passes tonight get yours

2023 Fair Marketing/Advertising

- Hop On Over to the 2023 St. Joseph County Grange Fair
- Harietta (Live Mascot)
 - Pictures and photo opportunities
- Brochures are here.
 - Sign up to distribute, list of areas in the back.
- Yard Signs are here please take one for your house and if you are taking some please fill out the sheet.
- Fair marketing is in full swing website Facebook social media.
- TV Commercials
 - WWMT
 - PBS
- Radio Stations
 - WRKR 107.7
 - WIN 98.5
 - WBET 99.3
 - Thunder Country 105.5
 - DUKE 94.1
 - WLKM 95.9
 - Three LIVE Radio Remotes during Fair Week
- Signage around the Fairgrounds Fair Week with the daily schedule
- Hands on things Fair Week

- Scavenger Hunt
- Photo Booth/Selfie Station
- Giveaways
 - Yo-yos light up.
 - Light up bouncy balls
 - Stress Balls
 - Sunglasses
- Facebook
- Instagram
- TikTok
- Media Luncheon is set for Thursday before Fair, September 14th at 11:30 a.m. west end of Grandstands.
- New Grandstand Event Dirt Drags on Thursday night. Group is out of Cass County, Michigan.
- We will be inducting two members into this year's Hall of Fame and both our members of the Fair Association.
- **Tricia Ulsh**
 - *Grange Building Superintendent*- Wendy Guess has been working hard on the Grange Building.
 - *Milking Parlor* – No report to give.
 - *Policy and By-Laws Committee* – The committee has been working on by-law changes. The suggested by-law changes have to be given in writing to the Fair Board Secretary 45 Days before the Annual Fair Association Meeting. There are 22 proposed changes. The proposed changes must go out to all Association Members no later than 30 days before the Annual Fair Association Meeting.
- **Bill Younts**
 - *Birthing Tent Committee* – The Birthing Tent will go up the week before Fair. The FFA group will be helping with setting up.
 - *Grants* – We did fill out and apply for the AARP Grant. The grant was for sidewalks to help the senior citizen get from the parking lot the roads on the Fairgrounds.
- **Barb Weston**
 - *Free Stage and Community Tent* – All spots are full for both the Free Stage and Community Tent. The Pie Eat Contest will feature area High School Football Coaches. We do still need BINGO Prizes.

MOTION by: Stacey Bower, Second by: Yolanda Dolman

Motion to give \$250.00 for the pie eating contest was made by: Stacey Bower and second was made by: Yolanda Dolman.

Motion carried without dissent.

- **Angie Mingus**
 - *Machinery Dealers/Tractors Committee*- We are getting all our tents from Rouch again this year. Parking this year will be better, we have added parking in the middle of the practice track.
 - *Beer Tent*- We will have the Beer Pavilion again this year and at the west end of Barn# 53.
 - *Heritage Committee* – Heritage Park will include the garden, antique tractors, petting zoo, pony rides, Pork Chop Revue, and Ag Educational area. The Ag- Educational area will include sawmill, corn sheller, black smith, threshing machine, and barrel maker. Barb and Ron Weston have been working extremely hard on Heritage Hall. Heritage Hall is a tribute to the 50's. There will be vehicles, motorcycles, firetruck, camper, kitchen, DAR, military, and items from the Constantine Historical Town, business, High School, agricultural, and the Barry Society.

MOTION by: Angie Mingus, Second by: DeWayne Cunningham

Motion to give a \$250.00 donation to the Barry Society for everything they have let us borrow for the Heritage Hall display was made by: Angie Mingus and second was made by: DeWayne Cunningham

Motion carried without dissent.

- **Keith Bower**
 - *Ice Committee* – We have been making ice and are down to one condenser.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business:

a. Signs for the end of the Barns

Fair Manager Christina Yunker presented the Fair Association with the new design of the signs that hang at the end of each barn on the Fairgrounds.

MOTION by: Bill Younts, Second by: Kristine Kirsch

Motion to for the Fair Association to give \$8,000.00 towards the new signs for the end of the barns was made by: Bill Younts and second was made by: Kristine Kirsch.

Motion carried without dissent.

Adjournment of Meeting:

MOTION by: Teresa Hufstedler, Second by: Lisa Soule

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by: Teresa Hufstedler and second was made by: Lisa Soule.

Motion carried without dissent.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by: Mindy Timm – Fair Board Secretary