

**St. Joseph County Grange  
Fair Board Meeting Minutes**

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Fair Office

St. Joseph County Grange

Fair

316 East Charlotte Street

Centreville, MI 49032

President Keith Bower called the St. Joseph County Grange Fair Association Fair Board Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. in the Fair Office located on the Fairgrounds of the St. Joseph County Grange Fair in Centreville Michigan. Keith Bower also mentioned to all Directors and visitors that the meeting was being recorded and all meetings will be recorded moving forward.

***Pledge of Allegiance:*** The St. Joseph County Grange Fair Association Members stated the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:02 p.m.

***Present:*** The St. Joseph County Grange Fair Board Members that were present; Keith Bower, Angie Mingus, Mindy Timm, Bill Younts, Charlie Carpenter, Gary Clark, Dan Mourey, Tony Hochstetler, Bill Lindsley, Tom Miller, Betty Persons, Tricia Ulsh, and Barb Weston.

***Absent Directors:*** Deborah Davis and Eric VanHeukelum

\*Deborah Davis walked into the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

***Excuse any absent Directors:***

**MOTION** by: Tom Miller, Second by: Dan Mourey

Motion was made to excuse absent Directors. **Motion passed 11-1**

\*Discussion was made regarding looking at creating a policy regarding Directors being absent and being excused. Three unexcused absents for Directors until it is looked at them being off the board. Angie mentioned it is important for us to be at all meetings but with COVID we understand if people do not feel comfortable being here. Deborah Davis said that her and the Policy and By-Law Committee will get together.

\*\*\* **MOTION** by: Bill Younts, Second by: Charlie Carpenter

Motion was made to hand this over to the Policy and By-Laws Committee to put together different options and present to the board. Motion was made by Bill Younts and second was made by Charlie Carpenter. **Motion passed 13-0**

***Review and Approval of the Agenda:***

**MOTION** by: Tom Miller, Second by: Tricia Ulsh

Motion to approve the meeting agenda was made by Tom Miller and second was made by Tricia Ulsh. **Motion passed 13-0**

***Adopting of the Minutes:***

**\*\*Table to March 7, 2022, Meeting\*** Meeting Minutes are not completed from February 5, 2022 All Day Meeting due to turn around time.

***Recognition of Visitors:***

Visitors: Ellen Mourey.

***Old Business:***

- a. It has been proposed to name a building or road on the grounds in honor of Jerry Waltke. Discussion on this proposal.***

***\*\*Tabled for the next meeting\*\****

***.\_\*\*The board has decided to table this discussion for the next meeting\*\****

- b. The issue board created Fair Week- Go through each item on the white board.***

- a. Passes- All free passes to those who are camping. Deborah Davis put this on the white board.***

i. Deborah state that when you purchase your campsite, she thought in years past everyone got a pass with the campsite. She was informed that now you have to pay for your passes with your campsite. Missi stated that with camping each site gets to purchase two week passes for \$25.00 each instead of the \$35.00. Barb Weston stated that all campers should be offered the \$25.00 with no limit to two per site. The board decided but with no vote needed that we need to make sure it states on the camping paperwork that you have to purchase passes and for the price. Also, promote this information better on the website and Facebook.

- b. Parking lot issues on and parking lot in general.***

i. Missi stated that she is working with Chris Smith from the Mounted Division regarding the parking lot. Chris has offered to help us with the parking lot and design a better flow. Missi proposed to Chris that if he helps us with the parking lot set up, layout and monitor during fair we as the fair will pay for paint for the Mounted Division to paint their barn.

- c. Internet/WIFI on Fairgrounds***

i. Angie Mingus stated we all know that this is a big issue, and we need to have WIFI and internet on our grounds this year for the 2022 Fair. Bill Younts stated that the MDARD Grant is now available, and we need to pick as a board what we will be going for with the grant. The grant is for infrastructure so roads, buildings, roof, electrical...something tangible. Missi stated that she is working with MEC to find out when they will be installing

their line out in front of the fairgrounds and what it will take for us to get it into and on our grounds.

Discussion was then had about more electrical upgrades and Harry's proposal that is on the agenda. Deborah Davis stated that she feels electrical still needs to be a priority especially in our campground areas. The board then reviewed Harry's proposal and what he feels needs to be completed or updated on the Fairground's. Bill Younts stated that there is money in Bill Lindsley's Buildings and Grounds budget for some electrical.

**\*\*\* MOTION** by: Deborah Davis, Second by: Angie Mingus  
Motion was made that we spend \$10,000 out of our budget for electrical upgrades on the Fairgrounds. Motion was made by Deborah Davis and second was made by Angie Mingus. **Motion passed 12-1**

**\*\*\* MOTION** by: Barb Weston Second by: Angie Mingus  
Motion was made that we apply for the MDARD Grant for our electrical upgrades. Motion was made by Barb Weston and second was made by Angie Mingus. **Motion passed 13-0**

-More discussion was had regarding the MDARD Grant. Bill Younts stated he has a phone call into MDARD to fully understand what is eligible for the Grant and what would be in our best interest to focus our grant on. He would like to know what the board would like to do if electrical upgrades are not an option for the Grant since we did that three years ago and received a grant for it.

**\*\*\* MOTION** by: Angie Mingus Second by: Tricia Ulsh  
Motion was made that we as the board give Bill Younts permission to make the decision and option based on his conversation with MDARD which would be best for us for the grant. Motion was made by Angie Mingus and second was made by Tricia Ulsh. **Motion passed 13-0**

**d. Gate Issues**

- i. This has been resolved. The board voted at the February 5, 2022, to meeting to open the Nottawa Walk-in Gate by the Garden for the 2022 Fair Week.

**e. Garbage Bags**

- i. During fair week Kris Kirsch asked for everyone all Directors to carry garbage bags with them, so if we needed to change a trash we could.

**f. Camping spots for 2022**

- i.* After our inspection for our camping license for the 2021 Fair our camping spots will/need to be bigger for code. This will eliminate some spots, but those people have already been notified for the 2022 Fair.

**g. Free Stage and Beer Tent Together**

- i.* This has been resolved the Free Stage will be moved closer to the Beer Tent and Barb Weston is taking over the Free Stage and all of the Entertainment for it.

**h. 4-H Passes and Issues**

- i.* This was discussed and handled at our February 5, 2022, all day meeting.

**i. Water Hookup/Backflow Preventors**

- i.* Missi is going to contact Lee Zimmerman regarding the water hook up issue for the campers. Branch county is allowed to keep their campers hooked to water all Fair Week. Keith stated we need to better understand and why we cannot have our hooked up but branch can.

**j. Light down by Franklin Street Gate**

- i.* Missi stated that we noticed the first night of Fair that it is very dark down by the Franklin Street Gate and we are needing a light down there. Putting a light down at the Franklin Street Gate is part of Harry's quote.

**k. Livestock Exhibitor entry gate and chore time.**

- i.* Deborah Davis asked if we could open the gate by the baseball fields to let 4-H livestock be able to come in and out of the gate for chores. She mentioned how last year on Friday people were unable to get into the grounds or sat in traffic and could not feed their animals during feeding time. Keith Bower stated that if we were to open that gate, we would have to have someone there to man the gate and also flow traffic differently. The Board will have to see if there is a better option

**l. Milk Parlor Vacuum System**

- i.* Last year there were complaints regarding the Milking Parlor and having set times of the Milking Parlor. Tricia Ulsh stated that there was an individual that complained about everything regarding the milking parlor last year. She is going to have it serviced this year to fix things and does have set milking times.

**m. Commercial Barn Vendors Requirements for closing the barn doors**

- i.* After Fair last year it was brought to the board's attention the issue that happened at Fair last year regarding AFR and Niala's Goats. The Fair Board decided that we have signs that state all doors must remain open and have them posted on doors and inside the doors. The Board would also like Missi send a letter to ARF regarding the door policy.

**n. Camping Process**



**\*\*\* MOTION** by: Deborah Davis, Second by: Barb Weston  
Motion was made that we invite the Tractor Club back to the Fair but for their new location over in the old kiddie land by the garden. Motion was made by Deborah Davis and second was made by Barb Weston. **Motion passed 11-1**

**d. Discuss the number of horses/rented stalls in Barn #8.**

- Gary Clark stated that there are 8 horses in the barn. Yes, it was stated that there would be 12 horses, but the one person sold their horses. Gary is paying his rent/stall fees to Missi every month and is taking care of everything that was agreed upon.

**e. Discuss the manure from Barn #8.**

-Angie asked who is supposed to be taking care of the manure pile for barn #8. Gary stated that he takes care of it when it is needed. Tony has been taking care of it because he feels that it has not been. The board decided that Gary Clark will continue to take care of the manure as stated.

**f. Discuss the volunteers and insurance**

**\*\*Tabled for the next meeting\*\***

**-\*\*The board has decided to table this discussion for the next meeting\*\***

**g. Addendum to the Carnival contract with Skerbeck.**

-The Executive Committee met with Skerbeck Saturday afternoon at the MAFE Convention. Mindy Timm stated everyone should have those meeting minutes in front of them to review. During the meeting Angie Mingus asked about our contract and if we have another year added on as 2020 did not happen. Sonja Skerbeck stated that yes, they would like to have the contract go until 2026. Missi is asking if the board would like to sign that addendum to have Skerbeck for the 2026 Fair.

**\*\*\* MOTION** by: Tom Miller, Second by: Barb Weston

Motion was made that we obtain with Skerbeck to have our contract go through the 2026 Fair. Motion was made by Tom Miller and second was made by Barb Weston. **Motion passed 12-0**

**h. Applying the profits earned over \$75,000 for Winter Storage to the principle of Building #53.**

**\*\*\* MOTION** by: Tricia Ulsh, Second by: Gary Clark

Motion was made that we pay the difference on the principle with the profits earned over \$75,000 for Winter Storage. Motion was made by Tricia Ulsh and second was made by Gary Clark. **Motion passed 10-1**

- i. John Visaggio has offered to run the blanket wheel this year at Fair. It is something the board would like to pursue.*

-The board agreed to pursue this.

**\*\*\* MOTION** by: Deborah Davis Second by: Charlie Carpenter

Motion was made to adjourn our Fair Board Meeting. Motion was made by Deborah Davis and second was made by Charlie Carpenter. **Motion passed 11-0**

***Adjournment of Meeting:***

Meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.