St. Joseph County Grange Fair Board Meeting Minutes January 27, 2024

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 8:00 a.m. in the Fair Office located on the Fairgrounds of the St. Joseph County Grange Fair in Centreville Michigan.

Pledge of Allegiance: The St. Joseph County Grange Fair Association Fair Board Directors stated the Pledge of Allegiance at 8:00 a.m.

Present: The St. Joseph County Grange Fair Board Members that were present; Keith Bower, Angie Mingus, Mindy Timm, Stacey Bower, Charlie Carpenter, Deb Cupp, Deborah Davis, Kristine Kirsch, Bill Lindsley, John Tate, Mark Trowbridge, Barb Weston, Ron Weston, Bill Younts, and Fair Manager Christina Yunker.

Absent Directors: All Fair Board Directors were present in person.

Excuse any absent Directors: All Fair Board Directors were present. There were no absent Fair Board Directors.

Review and Approval of the Agenda:

MOTION by: Kristine Kirsch, Second by: Debbie Davis Motion was made to approve to presented agenda with the corrections of the Directors Committees and adding e.) Barn#53 Money – Angie Mingus under the Treasurer's Report, was made by: Kristine Kirsch and the second was made by: Debbie Davis **Motion passed 14-0.**

Adopting of the Minutes:

MOTION by: Kristine Kirsch, Second by: Stacey Bower Motion was made to approve the December 4, 2023, Fair Board Meeting Minutes, was made by: Kristine Kirsch and the second was made by: Stacey Bower. **Motion passed 14-0.**

4-H Update – Kayla Mitchell:

Kayla Mitchell 4-H Program Coordinator presented the Fair Board Directors with a 4-H update. Currently there are 464 4-H Members ages 8-19 years old and 95 Clover Buds (5 – 7 years old). There are 70 outstanding enrollments. Officer training will be held next Thursday. County Awards for 2023 will be held in March 2024. Summer camp planning is in the works. Youth Council has 10 scholarship opportunities.

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Kayala Mitchell mentioned the struggles with the relationship between the 4-H and the Fair. The Fair Board of Directors had discussion on this with Kayla Mitchell regarding how we move forward and build the relationship.

Kayla Mitchell asked when she will have a confirmed date on all of the tagging dates and 4-H dates that she had sent to Christina Yunker. Christina Yunker stated she is working with our new insurance company on a contract. All contracts have to go through the Fair's insurance company to be approved and signed by the Fair and 4-H.

Kayla Mitchell asked about the Fair using Fair Entry and switching to a Youth Fair. Kayla heard comments were being made at the 2024 MAFE Convention. Angie Mingus stated that she and Christina Yunker did talk with Fair Entry regarding expanding open class, which the Board has agreed to move forward with looking into expanding our open class for both the still exhibits and animal exhibits. The Fair has already purchased Fair Entry.

A question was asked of Kayla about the breakdown of the \$15,000 the Fair gives to 4-H. Kayla Mitchell stated that she already had presented that information to the Board. Mindy Timm stated she would re-email the meeting minutes from the November 2023 Fair Board Meeting to the Directors to review the breakdown.

Angie Mingus asked Kayla Mitchell about their financial records and that the Fair Board is looking at the \$15,000 we currently give to 4-H and how that money is spent and what it is used for. Kayla Mitchell stated that she is unsure she can provide all financial information, but she will check on it. The question was asked about the Livestock Association and how come we write the check to the Livestock Association and not to 4-H. The question was also asked if the 4-H program receives money from the United Way. Reason for this was the Fair received a post card in the mail for the United Way Celebration night and 4-H was listed on the back as a foundation that receives funds from the United Way. Kayla Mitchell stated that they have not received funds from United Way in five years.

Recognition of Visitors:

Visitors at the meeting were: Kayla Mitchell and Ella Yunker

Public Comments:

There was no public comment.

\$15,000 Donation to 4-H:

Before the Fair looks discusses and approves the 2024 budget the Fair Board of Directors discussed the \$15,000 donation that the Fair Board gives to 4-H. The Fair Board of Directors asked Kayla Mitchell regarding her 2024 budget and if she can share that with us. Kayla Mitchell stated that she does not have a 2024 budget. The Youth Council is currently working on their 2024 Budget.

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MOTION by: Mark Trowbridge, Second by: Kristine Kirsch

Motion to lay this discussion and topic on the table for the next Fair Board Meeting on February 8, 2024, was made by: Mark Trowbridge and the second was made by: Kristine Kirsch.

Motion passed 14-0.

Treasurer's Report:

Christina Yunker, Fair Manager and Bill Younts Chair of Finance and Budget Committee presented the Fair Board with the following financial documents; Budget vs. Actuals FY 2023, Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2023, and Statement of Activity FY 2023 Accrual Method.

MOTION by: Angie Mingus, Second by: Mark Trowbridge Motion to place on the record the Treasure's report that was presented to the Fair Board was made by: Angie Mingus and the second was made by: Mark Trowbridge. **Motion passed 14-0.**

Proposed 2024 Budget:

Christina Yunker, Fair Manager and Bill Younts Chair of Finance and Budget Committee presented the Fair Board a paper with proposed fee increases for the 2024, per the suggestions from the Finance and Budget Committee. The Fair Board of Directors reviewed and discussed the proposed fee increases.

MOTION by: Angie Mingus, Second by: Barb Weston Motion to increase vendor camping for Fair to \$220.00, in the areas without updated power, was made by: Angie Mingus and the second was made by: Barb Weston.

Motion passed 15-0.

Motion was rescinded – 13 -1.

MOTION by: Angie Mingus, Second by: Barb Weston Motion to increase all upgraded camping sites for Fair Week to \$325.00 was made by: Angie Mingus and the second was made by: Kristine Kirsch. Motion passed 8-5. Yes – 8 No – 5

MOTION by: Mark Trowbridge, Second by: Deb Cupp Motion to increase all non-upgraded camping sites for Fair Week to \$270.00, was made by: Mark Trowbridge and the second was made by: Deb Cupp. **Motion passed 15-0.**

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MOTION by: Angie Mingus, Second by: Barb Weston

Motion to reconsider first motion that was made on increasing vendor camping to \$220 for Fair Week, was made by: Angie Mingus and the second was made by: Barb Weston. **Motion passed 13-1.**

MOTION by: Angie Mingus, Second by: Deb Cupp

Motion to amend dollar amount for vendor camping during Fair Week, will be set at the same price as the standard general camping rate, was made by: Angie Mingus and the second was made by: Deb Cupp.

Motion passed 13-1.

MOTION by: Angie Mingus, Second by: Deb Cupp

Motion to set vendor camping during Fair Week at the same price as the standard general camping rate, was made by: Angie Mingus and the second was made by: Deb Cupp. **Motion passed 13-1.**

MOTION by: Stacey Bower, Second by: Kristine Kirsch Motion to increase golf cart permit price to \$75.00 and bags of ice to \$7.00 per bag was made by: Stacey Bower and the second was made by: Kristine Kirsch.

Rescind MOTION by: Stacey Bower, Second by: Kristine Kirsch Motion to rescind the motion to increase golf cart permit price to \$75.00 and bags of ice to \$7.00 per bag, was made by: Stacey Bower and the second was made by: Kristine Kirsch. **Motion passed 13-1.**

MOTION by: Stacey Bower, Second by: Kristine Kirsch Motion to increase the price of golf cart permits to \$75.00 was made by: Stacey Bower and the second was made by: Kristine Kirsch. Motion passed 15-0. **Policy Change**

MOTION by: Stacey Bower, Second by: Kristine Kirsch Motion to increase the price of a bag of ice to \$7.00 a bag, was made by: Stacey Bower and the second was made by: Kristine Kirsch. Motion passed 15-0. **Policy Change**

***10:13 a.m. – Took a 10-minute break

***10:23 a.m. – Back in session from 10-minute break

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***10:24 a.m. – Angie Mingus left the meeting for a funeral and joined the meeting via phone call. Angie Mingus called Mindy Timm's phone and was on speaker phone.

The Fair Board of Directors dove back into discussion and reviewing the budget page by page.

MOTION by: Kristine Kirsch, Second by: Mark Trowbridge Motion to approve the proposed 2024 Budget that was presented to the Fair Board was made by: Kristine Kirsch and the second was made by: Mark Trowbridge. **Motion passed 13-1.**

Correspondences:

Fair Board Secretary, Mindy Timm asked all the Fair Board of Directors to pick up their brown envelopes as she is going to read the letter and documents enclosed in the envelope. Christina Yunker stated that this letter is from her husband David Yunker, but she does not know what the letter says. This will be her first time hearing the letter. The Fair Board of Directors had discussion before the information was read.

MOTION by: Ron Weston, Second by: Debbie Davis Motion to ask the Yunker's to leave the room, was made by: Ron Weston and the second was made by: Debbie Davis.

Motion passed 8-4. Yes – 8 No - 4

Fair Board Secretary, Mindy Timm read a letter from David Yunker. The Fair Board had discussion on the letter and the information that was included in the letter.

MOTION by: Kristine Kirsch, Second by: Ron Weston

Motion to have Mark Trowbridge and policy committee create an exhibitor policy and bring it back to the Fair Board to discuss and approve at our February Board Meeting, was made by: Kristine Kirsch and the second was made by: Ron Weston. **Motion passed 12-0.**

MOTION by: Debbie Davis, Second by: Stacey Bower

Motion to have a committee/policy and by-law committee investigate the allegations David Yunker stated in his letter regarding the Holtz family, was made by: Debbie Davis and the second was made by: Stacey Bower.

Motion passed 9-3. Yes – 9

No – 3

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***Break for Lunch at 12:22 p.m.

***1:00 p.m. resume from lunch

Fair Board Secretary, Mindy Timm read a from Penny Waltke. The letter was Penny Waltke's letter of resignation as a Fair Board Director from the Fair Board.

Director Reports and updates for the Committee's each Director Heads-up

- Bill Younts
 - *Finance and Budget Committee* No report to give, gave during Treasures report.
 - o Grants/Legacy Committee- Report will be given under new business.
 - o Birthing Tent Committee- Changing sheep breeders to one in Athens.
- Debbie Davis
 - *4-H Extension Liaison* Debbie will have a meeting with the committee and will make a plan together so everyone can work together.
- Keith Bower
 - Entertainment Committee- Report will be given under new business.
 - *Ice Committee* No report to give.
 - Antique Tractors in Heritage Park No report to give.
 - \circ *Parking Lot* No report to give.

• Charlie Carpenter –

- *Fair Week Maintenance* No report to give.
- Bill Lindsley
 - No report to give.
- John Tate
 - No report to give.
- Barb Weston
 - *Community Stage Committee* The Community Tent and Free Stage will be combined as one to make the Community Stage. It will be moved to a new location up by the M-86 gate.
 - \circ *Fair T-Shirt* Need to get around and start selling sponsorships for the T-shirts.

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• Mindy Timm

- Fair Advertising and Marketing
 - MDARD 120 Day Report
 - Our MDARD 120 Day Report was submitted to MDARD on Saturday, January 20, 2024, via email. The report was emailed to Christina Yunker if you would like to review it.
 - MAFE Convention
 - Communication Awards received at MAFE 2nd place on everything we submitted.
 - I will be emailing everyone that went to convention a survey and also an email regarding MAFE committees.
 - Marketing Committee
 - Had a committee meeting on Thursday. We went over the marketing plan and S.O.P. and brainstormed new ideas for this year.

• Kristine Kirsch

- *First Aid Station* Put together a draft on what to do if someone commits suicide on the Fairgrounds. That was a topic of discussion at the MAFE Convention.
- \circ *Ribbons* No report to give.
- Draft Horse and Ponies Report during new business.
- Deb Cupp
 - *Courtesy Carts* Received information regarding the sponsors last year for the courtesy carts.
- Ron Weston
 - *Heritage Hall* This year we will feature the 40's and Three Rivers will be the town that will be featured. Ron has been in contact with everyone.
 - *Heritage Park* Ron presented a piece of wood that was made here at the Fair during the 2023 Fair from the sawmill.
- Stacey Bower
 - Harness Racing Harness Racing will be Monday and Tuesday at Noon during Fair Week. Colt Stakes and Overnights Gate training will take place on Memorial Day Weekend, Gary Clark is helping with the gate training.
 - *Personnel Committee* Completed Christina Yunker's evaluation with the Executive Committee. Discussed the results with the Fair Board

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Directors.

• Nominating and Elections Committee – No report to give.

• Mark Trowbridge

- Technology Committee New website sjcgfair.com
- Farm to Table Project in Heritage Park No report to give.
- *Policy and By-Law Committee* Created google folder to have all policy committee documents digitally accessible to make changes.

***1:33 p.m. Angie Mingus is back on the phone. She was off the phone from 11 a.m. to 1:33 p.m.

Manager's Report:

Fair Manager, Christina Yunker, presented the Fair Board with the following Manager's Report.

- Maintenance
 - Roof Leaks: Barns 40, 41, 42: see attached documents that were presented to each Fair Board Director in their packets.
 - South Property Line Fence: see attached documents that were presented to each Fair Board Director in their packets.
 - Carpet/Flooring Replacement in Office: see attached documents that were presented to each Fair Board Director in their packets.
 - Barn 6: see attached documents that were presented to each Fair Board Director in their packets.
 - Electric Upgrades: see attached documents that were presented to each Fair Board Director in their packets.
 - 1. Campsites
 - 2. Lighting in Office and Maintenance Building
 - Metal (sides) on Barns 40- 44: Leon has been contacted and will be an early 2024 project. We received invoice for ½ down to be able to start project, payment will be sent.
 - **M86 Gate Repair:** Repairs are done; money from insurance company received.

Angie Mingus stated that the building and grounds committee will take all of this to the committee and work on a plan with priority list and bring it back to the board.

- Report
 - 1. Gate Price Suggestion from Gate Employee see attached documents that were presented to each Fair Board Director in their packets.

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The suggested prices for 2024 are: Children 10 & under: FREE Kids 11-16: \$5.00 Adults 17 – 100: \$10.00

Senior Day: \$5.00 Veterans Day and spouse: \$5.00 Include the spouse in this is a thank you to them as well.

The Fair Board of Directors had discussion on this.

MOTION by: Mindy Timm, Second by: Kristine Kirsch Motion to accept the presented suggested gate price increases for the 2024 Fair was made by: Mindy Timm and the second was made by: Kristine Kirsch. Motion passed 7-6. Yes – 7 No – 6

2. Conflict of Interest Form – Refer to policy attached that were presented to each Fair Board Director in their packets.

Please complete and place it in my box today.

3. Reverse Raffle Flyer – Let me know if you need tickets.

4. Articles of Incorporation

Jeff Brazo brought it to Christina Yunker's attention at last Association Meeting. Please view, read, and understand our Articles of Incorporation.

5. 2024 Manager Goals

Christina Yunker presented the Fair Board with her 2024 Manager Goals.

6. Director Questionaries

Please find attached in your packets the results from the Fair Board Questionnaire.

7. Parliamentary Procedure Guidelines

8. Meeting with Skerbeck Entertainment a. See attached meeting minutes.

The Fair Board of Directors reviewed the meeting minutes and all the information that was discussed regarding wristbands, MEGA Bands, and times. of operation.

b. Sunday, September 22, 2024

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During the Executive Committees meeting with Skerbeck, Christina Yunker brought up the idea of having rides and staying open on the second Sunday. We would not charge admission to get into the fairgrounds, vendors or anyone that would want to leave would have to be out by 11 a.m. on the second Sunday. Mega Bands would be good for the second Sunday, and they will offer a ride wristband for that day. Fireworks and entertainment at dusk. The Fair Board of Directors had discussion on this topic.

MOTION by: Mindy Timm, Second by: Kristine Kirsch Motion to proceed with the proposal to have the midway/rides, entertainment, and fireworks on Sunday, September 22, 2024, with free gate admission into the Fair, was made by: Mindy Timm and the second was made by: Kristine Kirsch. **Motion passed 14-0.**

9. Vendor Camping contracts a. Being updated; Exhibits & Concessions Information Manual

10. 2024 Management Conference – April 29 - May 1 a. Request for lodging and conference registration – reimbursement up to \$1,750.00.

MOTION by: Kristine Kirsch, Second by: Stacey Bower Motion to approve the 2024 Management Conference as proposed, was made by: Kristine Kirsch and the second was made by: Stacey Bower Motion passed 12-2. Yes – 12 No – 2

***Angie Mingus was back in person at the meeting. Went back in the agenda to items that had Angie Mingus's name next to.

Treasurer's Report:

e. Barn# 53 Money – Angie Mingus

The Fair Board of Directors had discussion on this.

MOTION by: Angie Mingus, Second by: Mark Trowbridge Motion to remove policies under financial motions stating funds be put on the principal amount for buildings, was made by: Angie Mingus and the second was made by: Mark Trowbridge.

Motion passed 13 - 1.

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Yes – 13 No – 1

- Angie Mingus
 - *Buildings and Grounds Committee* Will set up a committee meeting and take everything to the committee that was discussed today.
 - *Machinery Dealers/Tractors Committee* No report to give.
 - *Beer Tent* Angie Mingus asked the Board of Directors if they wanted two beer tents this year for the 2024 Fair.

MOTION by: Stacey Bower, Second by: Kristine Kirsch

Motion to have two beer tents for the 2024 Fair, unless cannot get workers for the second satellite location, was made by: Stacey Bower and the second was made by: Kristine Kirsch.

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Motion passed 12 - 1.
Yes – 12
No – 1
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- *Heritage Park/Hall Committee* We had a great committee meeting and have a great plan for 2024.
- *Marquee/New Digital Sign* Now that the sign is working, we will be advertising more to get more advertising on the sign. We do not have a plan in place, but we are working on it.
- *Fundraising and Sponsorship Committee* No report to give.

Old Business:

a. Barn#8 Rental

The Fair Board of Directors had discussion on this topic. The agreement was to table this to old business for our February Board Meeting.

b. 4-H Horse Council Watering System for Horse Arenas

This will go to the buildings and grounds committee to make a plan.

c. December Fair Board Meeting re-set date – Mindy Timm

Our December Fair Board Meeting needs to be on the first Monday of the month, which is stated in our by-laws. Our December board meeting will be Monday, December 2, 2024, at 6 p.m.

New Business:

a. Closing Gates After Hours – Angie Mingus

This will go to the buildings and grounds committee to do research and bring it back to the Board. Table this to old business for our February Board Meeting.

b. Pony Draft Pulls and Horse Pulls – Kristine Kirsch

Kristine Kirsch presented the Fair Board of Director with information regarding the Draft Horse Pulls and adding the pony pulls. The Board agrees to proceed and have Kristine get pricing.

c. Potential to re-organize barns to fit animal and exhibitor needs – Kristine Kirsch

Running short on meeting time, will add to the February 8, 2024, Fair Board Meeting agenda under new business.

d. 2024 Grandstand Events – Keith Bower and Mindy Timm

a. See handout for list of proposed events and 2024 Grandstand Schedule.

Mindy Timm and Keith Bower presented the Fair Board with the following 2024 Fair Grandstand Events Proposal

•Sunday, September 15th at 3 p.m. – Farm Truck Pulls

- Show put on by Doug Brazo and Crew
- Cost: Doug gets all his sponsorships to cover purse money and makes the money on the event.

•Monday, September 16th at 7 p.m. – TK Pro Rodeo **New Rodeo Company**

- Show put on by TK Pro Rodeo Production
- Events: Full Rodeo
- Cost: \$17,500
- Tuesday, September 17th at 7 p.m. Too Hot to Farm Tractors, Semi Pulls and NTPL (National Truck Pulling Legends)

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- Show put on by Doug Brazo and Crew
- Cost: Doug gets all his sponsorships to cover purse money and makes the money on the event.
- NTPL Put on by the NTPL Crew
- NTPL Cost: \$3,300. 10 tractors. We only pay for number of tractors that show up \$300.00 per tractor.
- Wednesday, September 18th at 7 p.m. TNT Bump N Run and Demo Derby Championship
 - Show put on by TNT Demolition Derby
 - Cost: \$6,000.00. Pit pass split money 50/50 with Fair and TNT, TNT gets all driver entry fees.
- Thursday, September 19th at 6 p.m. Dirt Drags
 - Show put on by Charlie Rifenburg and Crew (Boosted Adrenaline Racing)
 - Cost: In discussion
- Friday, September 20th at 8 a.m. Antique Tractor Pulls
 - Show put on by Doug Brazo and Crew
 - Cost: Doug gets all his sponsorships to cover purse money.
- Friday, September 20th at 7 p.m. NTPA Regional National Modified Truck & Tractor Pulls
 - Show put on by Wolverine Pullers & NTPA
 - Events: Mini Rods, Modifieds, 3.0 Diesel 4x4 Trucks, and 6,250 Limited Light Super Stock – All Regional Classes
 - Cost: \$1,048.50 Wolverine Pullers
 - Cost: \$16,000 NTPA Estimate
- Saturday, September 21st Mid Day Show DeWayne Spaw with Line Dancing
 - Free Event Music by DeWayne Spaw and Line Dancing on the Track with instructors from Cowboy Up
 - If one of the Grandstand Events gets rained out Sunday Friday, we will use this time to run that event, if possible.
- Saturday, September 21st at 7 p.m. NTPA Regional National Modified Truck & Tractor Pulls
 - Show put on by Wolverine Pullers & NTPA
 - Events: Super Stock Combo (State Class), Super Farm Tractors (Regional Class), Two Wheel Drive Trucks (Regional Class), and Mini Rods (Regional Class).
 - Cost: \$4,298.50 Wolverine Pullers -More because of payout for SS Combo State Class

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- Cost: \$16,000 NTPA Estimate
- Sunday, September 22nd Show before Fireworks DeWayne Spaw (Free Music Concert)
- Central Michigan Pulling (Pulling Seld)
 - Sunday, Tuesday, Friday AM, Friday PM, and Saturday
 - Big Sled, Mini Sled, Scales, and V-Blade.
 - Cost: \$7,400 for all 5 pulling events

Grandstand Ticket Pricing for 2024 – same as 2023.

- Shows Sunday Thursday
 - Adults: \$12.00
 - Children (5-12 years old): \$6.00
 - NTPA Shows Friday & Saturday
 - Adults: \$15.00
 - Children (5-12 years old) \$6.00

Pit Pass Pricing for 2024 – same as 2023.

- Shows Sunday Thursday
 - All Ages Pit Passes: \$20.00
- NTPA Shows Friday & Saturday
 - All Ages Pit Passes: \$25.00

MOTION by: Kristine Kirsch, Second by: Angie Mingus Motion to approve the 2024 Grandstand Event Proposal as presented was made by: Kristine Kirsh and the second was made by: Angie Mingus. **Motion passed 13-0.**

MOTION by: Stacey Bower, Second by: Angie Mingus Motion to approve DeWayne Spaw to play Sunday – Sunday for the 2024 Fair Week, was made by: Stacey Bower and the second was made by: Angie Mingus. **Motion passed 13-0.**

e. Grant discussions – Both are due by March, so decisions need to be made as soon as possible.

- a. The Andersons \$10,000 matching \$10,000 matching for infrastructure.
- b. MDARD \$100,000 matching with \$50,000 for infrastructure
- c. Which infrastructure project are priority?

The Fair Board of Directors had discussion on this topic.

MOTION by: Angie Mingus, Second by: Kristine Kirsch

Motion to approve \$60,000 for both proposed matching grants, was made by: Angie Mingus and the second was made by: Kristine Kirsch. **Motion passed 13-0.**

MOTION by: Angie Mingus, Second by: Kristine Kirsch Motion to approve the electrical upgrade for Peaceful Corners campground for the MDARD grant, was made by: Angie Mingus and the second was made by: Kristine Kirsch.

Motion passed 12 -0. Deb Cup was in the bathroom at the time of the vote.

f. White Board Topics

Running short on meeting time, will add to the February 8, 2024, Fair Board Meeting agenda under new business.

Adjournment of Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

MOTION by: Debbie Davis, Second by: Angie Mingus Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by: Debbie Davis and the second was made by: Angie Mingus. Motion passed 14-0.

Meeting Minutes taken and prepared by: Mindy Timm – Fair Board Secretary