

**St. Joseph County Grange
Fair Board Meeting Minutes
February 5, 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 8:16 a.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.

Pledge of Allegiance: The St. Joseph County Grange Fair Association Members stated the Pledge of Allegiance at 8:17 a.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, Deborah Davis, Tony Hochstetler, Bill Lindsley, Tom Miller, Betty Persons, Tricia Ulsh, and Barb Weston.

Absent Directors: Dan Mourey and Eric VanHeukelum

Excuse any absent Directors:

MOTION by: Tom Miller, Second by: Deborah Davis

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

Review and Approval of the Agenda:

Tricia Ulsh asked to have added to the agenda under the Old Business Section regarding our last financial report we received at our December 6, 2021. She has questions on the Financial Report and would like more discussion on it.

Mindy Timm asked to have added to the agenda regarding Winter Storage Money that we as a board tabled from our December 6, 2021 Meeting. Winter Storage Money- in the past anything over \$75,000 taken in for winter storage goes to the principle of building 53. Does the board want to apply the \$12,640.00 to the principle?

MOTION by: Tom Miller, Second by: Gary Clark

Motion to approve the meeting agenda was made by Tom Miller and second was made by Gary Clark. **Motion passed 12-0**

Adopting of the Minutes:

MOTION by: Charlie Carpenter, Second by: Angie Mingus

Motion to adopt the meeting minutes from the December 6, 2021 Fair Board Meeting was made by Charlie Carpenter and second was made by Angie Mingus. **Motion passed 12-0**

Recognition of Visitors:

Visitors at the meeting were Ron Weston. Ron is on the agenda under the new business section for the digital marquee.

**During the recognition of visitor's section, it was brought up by Deborah Davis that we need to have a public comment section in our agendas. Deborah mention that we must give each member of the public that comes to our meeting 3 minutes per person to speak. It is part of the Robert's Rules of Order, which we follow for all our meetings. No motion was made it was just agreed that we need to follow that and have a public comment section in our meetings per Robert's Rules of Order.

Treasurers Report:

a. Budget vs. Actual Report

MOTION by: Deborah Davis, Second by: Angie Mingus

Motion to approve the budget vs. actual report was made by Deborah Davis and second was made by Angie Mingus. **Motion passed 12-0**

***During discussion of the budget vs. actual report Bill Younts asked Tricia if he could answer her questions and concerns now since we were discussing the budget and financials. Tricia Ulsh asked how come on three nights of Fair Week in 2021 we lost money and didn't even have the events? Melissa Tefft explained that we were still charged by Kelly Excavating to prepare the area for the event as well as the ticket takers. This brought up the discussion started by Deborah Davis if we give cash back refunds on grandstand events during Fair Week if they are rained out or are unable to have the event due to weather. Melissa Tefft explained that we give the person the first option of another grandstand show during Fair Week. If they are unable to attend another night for a Grandstand Event, then we do give a cash refund back. They must receive their refund the night of the event.

*** **MOTION** by: Deborah Davis, Second by: Angie Mingus

Motion was made to discontinue cash/credit refunds for nightly grandstand shows (this does not include the concert) if we cancel due to weather and unsafe conditions. Options are to let the person pick another grandstand night event to attend or give out a voucher if Melissa Tefft sees fit. Motion was made by Deborah Davis and second was made by Angie Mingus. **Motion passed 11-1**

Correspondence:

- a. Melissa Tefft has received a request from the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce to donate something to their Ice Breaker Event coming up at the end of the month. Melissa stated in years past the Three Rivers and Sturgis Chambers were given 4 vouchers each for 2 flex passes per voucher.

***Discussion was brought up by Deborah Davis and she asked if we were members of the Three Rivers and Sturgis Chambers. Melissa Tefft said she believes we currently are and she received letters and applications to renew memberships.

*** **MOTION** by: Deborah Davis, Second by: Angie Mingus

Motion was made that we need to join both the Three Rivers and Sturgis Chambers of Commerce if we are not members and for Melissa Tefft to go to all, meetings and Chamber events for both Chambers. Motion was made by Deborah Davis and second was made by Angie Mingus. **Motion passed 12-0**

*** **MOTION** by: Deborah Davis, Second by: Angie Mingus

Motion was made that we give certificates for 2 flex passes to each the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce and to the Sturgis Chamber of Commerce. Motion was made by Deborah Davis and second was made by Angie Mingus. **Motion passed 12-0**

Fair Office Report:

Fair Manager Melissa (Missi) Tefft introduced our new maintenance guy Gary Gage as he walked in to the office to join the meeting in the back of the board room.

- a. The new 2022 John Deere Gator has been delivered at of 02/01/2022.
- b. The Off-Season Event calendar is filling up very quickly.
- c. I am adding a few newer events to this year's calendar of events.
 - i. Rodeo- Christian Centered- June or July
 - a. Melissa stated she found this group at MAFE Convention and talked with them regarding scheduling an event on our grounds this Summer.
 - ii. Crazy Babies- Ozzy Osbourne Tribute Band- July
 - a. Melissa stated she saw this group perform at MAFE during one of the evening showcases. They are around \$3,000 and she would like to do a summer concert to get our feet wet.
 - iii. Great Lakes Diesel Shootout 2K22- Legendary Diesel- June 17th and 18th
 - a. This event has not been confirmed with Chad at Legendary Diesel, but he did start advertising it on Facebook.
 - iv. Talking with a gentleman who does Antique Shows, Horse Shows, and Hippie Fest. (This arrangement would also generate revenue from the campground)
 - **Discussion was brought up regarding ground rental and camping contracts. For the camping contracts we need to make sure it has a statement regarding our camping license and if they violate it, they are responsible for fines. It was also brought up that for Auctions on the grounds we should have a base rated and then a percentage. It was agreed on by the board that Melissa works with the Executive Committee on off season event contracts and pricing.

Director Reports and Updates:

Keith Bower- Executive Board President

Entertainment/Grandstand Committee – On agenda to propose 2022 Fair Week Grandstand Event recommendations from the committee.

Ice Committee- No update not making ice right now.

Angie Mingus- Executive Board Vice President

Machinery Dealer/Antique Tractors Committee- Angie has had discussion with Matt Avery the Old Engine Tractor Club President regarding the 2022 Fair. Matt will be attending the meeting around 2 p.m. today and when he arrives, we will finish what we are discussion and go to his spot in the agenda.

Beer Tent Superintendent- Angie asked the board how they felt about adding another location of the beer tent down on the other end of the fairgrounds. Deborah Davis suggested that they put it down by the draft horse barn in the trailer parking area.

Discussion was had but not decision or motion was made.

Bill Younts- Executive Board Treasurer

Finance, Wages, and Budget Committee- Gave his report during the Treasurers report

Grants/Legacy Committee-The MDARD grant is now available, and the Board needs to give him direction on where they would like him to focus the grant on. Discussion was made on roads, Wi-Fi, or electric. Board needs to decide at the next board meeting.

Birthing Tent Committee- Working on the schedule of the animals so they will give birth during Fair Week.

Mindy Timm- Executive Board Secretary

Marketing/Public Relations Superintendent- Brochure received 3rd place and T-shirt received 5th place at MAFE Convention. Fair Association emails and asking people to sign up for Committees. Mindy will be compiling the list of all committee members. Deborah Davis asked if we have a limit of our Committee in the Policy and By-laws. We do not have anything in our by-laws. Question was asked about if By-laws are on the website and

Mindy

did confirm that they are on the website. Tricia asked why we are not in the Farmers Exchange ad. Mindy stated it was \$5,000 to run an ad in Farmers Exchange. Hall of Fame Applications and Hay Bale Contest are on the website. We are going to be doing lots of Contest on website leading up to fair and fair week to give away tickets, passes, and ride vouchers. Discussion was made regarding advertising all the great things we have on Sunday and not focus on the bad things we don't have.

Deborah Davis

Policy and By-Law Committee: Her committee is Tricia, Melissa (Missi), and Angie. They will be meeting to write a lot of new policies and changing some of our current policies. It was brought up the discussion was brought up about changing the dates of the fair and build a plan. Bill Younts suggested regarding making a list of the pros and cons. Board decided Deborah will head up this committee to explore this option and everything go into it.

Tom Miller

4-H Extension and Liaison Committee- Attending meetings at MAFE Convention to help him with being the 4-H liaison.

Hall of Fame/Awards Committee- Committee Members are him, Keith, and Penny Waltke. Mindy let Tom know that the application for this year's Hall of Fame is up on the website with a deadline date.

Charlie Carpenter

Fair Week Maintenance Committee: Needs to get with his committee members and form a plan for Fair Week Maintenance.

Gary Clark

Courtesy Carts- Going to start working on sponsorships and he is in need of drivers for this

year. Suggestion is to get flags on the golf carts to see the golf carts better.

Bill Lindsley

Building and Grounds Committee: Needs to get his committee together and put together processes and plans for Gary to help him with timelines and maintenance on equipment. Tony Hochstetler brought up regarding the snow removal. He asked how come we are not plowing around every building and the end of east 53. Missi asked Gary Gage where he plows the snow. Gary said he plows the roads and buildings. Tony said we need to plow for the fire trucks. Angie asked Tony if something needs to be done different, we need to give it to Missi and have her make the decision.

Dan Mourey

Grange Building Superintendent- Absent at Meeting

Tony Hochstetler- Working with Bill Lindsley on Maintenance of equipment schedule and lists.

Tricia Ulsh- MAFE Convention was a learning experience but a great time. She is on the Policy and By-Laws Committee with Deborah Davis.

Betty Persons

Home Arts Building Superintendent- Betty has a few repairs she would like to be made in building 44. There are deep cracks in the buildings cement floor she would like repaired before Fair Week.

Barb Weston

Community Tent/Free Stage Committee- Working on a Veterans Antique Motorcycle ride for Veterans Day and park down by the Free Stage. She is going to reach out to Jim Hart regarding the Free Stage and help with that and the pedal pulls. Melissa Tefft stated that she has a pedal pull company to call for more information. Barb also presented to have a list each day to handout to everyone at the gate of today's Free Events for each day.

T-Shirt Superintendent- Mindy and Barb presented the Board with the 2022 Fair Theme "Horsing Around at the 2022 St. Joseph County Grange Fair." They showed three different images and it was decided on that they go with the first image layout but ask for a different horse and brighter colors for lettering and t-shirt.

Eric VanHeukelum

Draft Horse and Ponies Superintendent- Absent at Meeting

All Directors

Fund Raising Committee
Special Projects

Old Business:

- a. **Financial Report from December 6, 2021 Meeting**
 - a. Tricia Ulsh asked about our last financial report we received at our December

6, 2021. She has questions on the Financial Report and would like more discussion on it. **This was discussed and resolved during the Treasures Report

New Business:

- a. ***Would the Fair Board like to reallocate some money from the approved 2022 budget to give to the FFA program to maintain the garden? The Association donated \$1,000 a year to the master Gardner's for the garden upkeep. The FFA program at Centreville is taking over the task of maintaining the garden.***

-It was brought up by Bill Younts and confirmed by Tom Miller that the Association always gave a \$2,000 donation to the Master Gardner's every year for the garden. The board decided but no motion was made for Bill to ask the Association for the \$2,000 for the FFA program for the upkeep of the garden. Melissa Tefft also stated with confirmation from Gary Gage that the lock had been changed and now our lock is on the garden.

- b. ***Jerry Waltke, Kris Kirsch, and Paul Leeth had more than 4 years of service as a director are entitled to a Golden Pass. Because of the untimely passing of Jerry Waltke would the Board of Directors like to give Penny Waltke a Golden Pass in honor of her and Jerry's long-time service to the Fair and the Fair Board?***

- Deborah Davis asked that if we offer this to the spouse then we have to do it to everyone else who passes and gets a gold pass. Bill Younts stated that the Gold Pass is for the person and one other person to get into the fairgrounds for free Fair Week. Melissa Tefft looked this up and it does say that in our by-laws.

***** MOTION** by: Tom Miller, Second by: Charlie Carpenter

Motion was made that we give a golden pass to Kris Kirsch, Paul Leeth, and Penny Waltke in Jerry's honor. Motion was made by Tom Miller and second was made by Charlie Carpenter. **Motion passed 12-0**

-Tricia Ulsh asked if we could give Ruth Cornwell a golden pass for her years of service to the Fair. Mindy Timm asked if we have given golden passes to past employees with so many years of service. It was stated that we have.

***** MOTION** by: Tricia Ulsh, Second by: Angie Mingus

Motion was made that we give a golden pass to Ruth Cornwell for all of her years of service. Motion was made by Tricia Ulsh and second was made by Angie Mingus.

Motion passed 7-5

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

-Deborah Davis stated that she loved Jerry and wants to do something in his honor but thinks it is too fresh for all of us to make a decision on this. If we name a road or building after him then we have to think that we would have to do that for others.

****The board has decided to table this discussion for another meeting****

- d. ***The issue/White Board created Fair Week- Go through each item on the White Board. **Tabled for the next meeting*****

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

e. *It has been proposed to finally place a plaque on building 53.*

-Keith Bower mentioned that it was also mentioned that they would have a plaque on Building 53 of the Directors who were on the Board for that building like they have on the Fair Office. The board decided that they would not put a plaque on Building #54. This was not voted on.

f. *Posted Winter Hours- Opinions on days to be open? I was thinking Tuesday's and Thursday's Office Closed. I am always available via phone as the office phone is forward to my cell phone. It was stated last April by the Personal Committee that the Fair Office building would be only open two maybe three days a week from Thanksgiving thru March. Also, when Gary was interviewed and hired it was with the understanding that he would only work maybe two days a week depending upon the snow accumulation.*

-Tony stated that he was not happy that the snow was not removed right away when it snowed and that we need to have snow cleared and away from barns in case of an emergency. Angie and Keith stated that since we were not even open those two days, they did not see the major issue and plus if an emergency did occur, the Fire Department could make their way to the buildings perfectly fine. Directors will receive a separate piece of paper with all meeting dates.

-Missi stated that Ann will be starting at the front desk on April 4, 2022.

***** MOTION** by: Tricia Ulsh, Second by: Angie Mingus

Motion was made that Missi and Gary work Monday, Wednesday, and Friday now through the end of March 2022. Motion was made by Tricia Ulsh and second was made by Angie Mingus. **Motion passed 10-0**

g. *Review updated Vendor Contracts*

- The Board was presented with updated Vendor Contracts for the 2022 Fair. Everyone agreed that the contracts looked good and to let Missi proceed with them.

h. *Updated Food Vendor Pricing*

-Missi stated that the new pricing was done by Zones. Different zones and areas would have different pricing.

***** MOTION** by: Tricia Ulsh, Second by: Angie Mingus

Motion was made that we accept the Food Vendor Pricing and continue moving forward with Missi and Angie implementing the contracts. Motion was made by Tricia Ulsh and second was made by Angie Mingus. **Motion passed 10-0**

i. *Review Updated Sponsorship Agreements*

-The Board agreed that they would take the agreements home to review. If there were any questions or issues the board would ask Missi or bring it back to the next Board Meeting.

j. *Increase the discounted gate admission ticket prices from \$4.00 to \$6.00. (This price was not adjusted when the gate prices increased from \$6.00 to \$8.00)*

-It was asked who gets the discounted gate admission. Missi stated that larger

sponsors do, local business that purchase a large number of tickets, and vendors if they need more after they receive the passes that come with their contracts.

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

Motion was made that we increase our discounted gate admission ticket prices from \$4.00 to \$6.00. Motion was made by Bill Younts and second was made by Charlie Carpenter. **Motion passed 10-0**

k. The Fair Theme is “Horsing Around”. Need to determine the Graphics and T-Shirt Color.

-Mindy Timm presented the board with three options for the 2022 graphic. Deborah Davis stated that she would like to see a different image for the horse but like the bold red letters. The Board would like to look into a black shirt color or a bright color to stand out. The decided to let Mindy Timm finalize the graphic with Joey at Superior and Barb will work with Joey on T-Shirt colors.

l. Grandstand Schedule

i. Sunday- Farm Truck Pulls and Semi Pulls

-Mindy stated that this year Sunday’s pulling event for the teching, rules, and operations of the pulls will be run by Doug Brazo and his group of guys. They are working out details of doing some hot farm stock tractor pulls in the morning on Sunday before the pulls in the afternoon.

ii. Monday- Rodeo *Need to pick a Rodeo Company**

-Keith that we need to vote and pick a new Rodeo Company for 2022. We did not receive a quote from the Rodeo Company from Fair last year and the Entertainment Committee was not pleased with them either and do not want them back.

-The two rodeo quotes we received were from Super Kicker Rodeo, who we have had in the past last Fair they were here was 2019. The second Rodeo Company is Broken Horn Rodeo Company. Keith stated that with Super Kicker Rodeo “Joey and Cathy” we have never had any issues with them and it is a hands-free event for us, we know what to expect. Broken Horn stated that they would run rain or shine. Angie stated that she did not feel comfortable with this since we have truck pulls later in the week and harness racing on Tuesday, we cannot afford to tear up the track or pulling pad at all.

***** MOTION** by: Mindy Timm, Second by: Tricia Ulsh

Motion was made that we sign with Super Kicker Rodeo Company for the 2022 Fair. Motion was made by Mindy Timm and second was made by Tricia Ulsh. **Motion passed 10-0**

iii. Tuesday- Figure 8

-The Figure 8 will be put on by TNT Demolition Derby Company.

iv. Wednesday- Bump N Run and Demolition Derby

-The Figure 8 will be put on by TNT Demolition Derby Company.

v. Thursday- Tribute Band

-Angie Mingus is working on securing the Tribute Band.

vi. Friday- NTPA Truck and Tractor Pulls

-The NTPA Pulls will be put on by Wolverine Pullers.

vii. Saturday- NTPA Truck and Tractor Pulls

-The NTPA Pulls will be put on by Wolverine Pullers.

***** MOTION** by: Gary Clark, Second by: Angie Mingus

Motion was made that we secure the proposed 2022 Grandstand Events.

Motion was made by Gary Clark and second was made by Angie Mingus.

Motion passed 10-0

m. Discuss if we want to give 4-H a discounted rental rate for events that are open and not just closed to 4-H members.

-Missi stated that she has ran into an issue when booking horse show for 4-H that she thought was for 4-H members and we do not charge for. She found out that one event it is open to the public as a fundraiser for 4-H. Discussion was made by Board Members and it was decided to keep it the way it is now. We charge if it is an event for 4-H members only. If it is an event put on by 4-H but open to anyone then we will charge.

-Discussion was brought up about the 4-H Milking parlor at no charge.

***** MOTION** by: Angie Mingus, Second by: Bill Younts

Motion was made that the Fair would not charge 4-H to use the Milking barn and to write a contract with no charge at all. Motion was made by Angie Mingus and second was made by Bill Younts. **Motion passed 10-0**

n. Missi would like to go to Digital Grandstand Tickets instead of Paper Grandstand Tickets. We would not have the leftover unused tickets to through away.

-Missi stated she would like to go move to digital grandstand tickets instead of the paper roll tickets. We have to throw out the roll every year because we cannot reuse the tickets. If we print them digitally, we wouldn't have to worry about waste and print then tickets right in the office the day of the event. The board agreed for Missi to get quotes and bring it back to the board.

o. Are we happy with our current pricing?

-Camping- \$220.00 for two weeks of camping

Limit of two gate admission tickets at \$25.00 each

-Grandstand Event Tickets

Adults \$10

Children (5-12 years of age) \$5

Pit Passes \$20

-Gate Admission Tickets

\$8 per person

Children 10 and under Free

No cost to park

-The Board agreed to keep the same pricing as the 2021 Fair.

-Barb Weston asked about the 4-H discounted tickets for buyers and donors for the auction on Thursday. Barb stated that it is nice to be able to have half off tickets for the 4-H to purchase for buyers and donors for the Thursday's auction.

***** MOTION** by: Angie Mingus, Second by: Barb Weston

Motion was made that 4-H will receive half off-gate admission tickets for buyers and donors for Thursday's auction. Motion was made by Angie Mingus and second was made by Barb Weston. **Motion passed 10-0**

p. Discuss how many brochures to order and where/how distribute this year. Directors need to let Mindy know what region they will be delivering the brochures.

-Mindy Timm presented to the board that she would like to have brochures distributed in the following counties Cass County, St Joseph County, Branch County and a little bit of Calhoun County and Kalamazoo Counties in Michigan. She would also like to see brochures distributed a little bit past the Indiana line in how Elkhart, LaGrange, Middlebury, and Bristol, Indiana. She is going to need the help of directors and volunteers to get all the brochures distributed. The brochures will be printed and available by August 1st of 2020. We will be using Joey at Superior for the printing of our brochures. The final draft of the brochure has to be submitted to Joey no later than July 4, 2022.

-The Board agreed to order 40,000 brochures for the 2022 Fair.

q. Developing an Open Class Antique Tractor Class and placing over by the Garden.

-Missi stated that the Centreville FFA is taking over the Garden and we are wanting to direct more people in that direction, and we are unsure of the state of the Antique Tractor Club coming in 2022 so why don't we open it up to everyone to come. A few directors have talked and discussed this. Mindy Timm stated a lot of other Fair's do this and they have a great showing. The board agreed to investigate this idea, we just need someone that will take this over to check in and judge tractors.

r. Do we want to invite the tractor club back and deal with their unhappiness and discord?

a. If we do, I suggest we also place them over by the garden, so we have all tractors together and can help draw more people to that end of the Fairgrounds.

b. Our insurance will not allow the tractor club to continue with their parade under our liability insurance- it is a liability that is not covered. The tractor club can purchase and provide the appropriate liability insurance, and then we could discuss if we still want to allow the parade, the route to be utilized and the time to conduct the parade.

-Mindy Timm called Board Director Eric VanHeukelum as he was absent at the meeting but still wanted to be a part of this discussion.

-Matt Avery, President of the Antique Tractor Club and Jim Susemihl- Director on their Board stood up at the meeting to address their concerns. The Antique Tractor Club wants to be a part of the Fair as they have for a very long time. Angie and Matt Avery have discussed driving tractors for Ag-Citing. Angie stated she does not want to move them, but Missi and the discussion is to move them to the

garden area with the proposed open class tractors. Matt Avery stated he does not like the idea of being around all the open class. Angie brought up that we need to decide if they are considered a vendor or a free entertainment exhibit. We give them between \$3,000 to \$4,000 in free passes to them.

Tom brought up the discussion regarding having permit area for them to have all year to have events. Deborah Davis suggested that with the FFA taking over the garden it will be more agricultural area and the tractors down there and making a new educational attraction. They will have their own

Bill Younts asked Matt Avery if they needed more room since their tractors are wheel to wheel. Bill stated that if we were to rent out their current space it would be a \$4,000 profit for us. Angie said she is not opposed to move them if we need their space.

Deborah Davis suggested if we move the tractor club put parking in that space for 4-H kids and families to park for the feeding of their animals.

Ron Weston spoke that the proposed area down by the garden that is a lot of a bigger space than they have had in their current area, it is shaded, campsites, and in grass and not as much dust.

Bill Younts stated he would love to see the Antique Tractor Club do something different and highlight a tractor brand a year.

Missi Tefft brought up that we all look at what is best for the fair and attractions for the people especially for free entertainment and the flow of the fairgrounds.

It was decided that Matt will take our proposal back to the tractor club to vote on for their new proposed location.

s. *I would like the Board to discuss and consider selling Sponsorship's opportunities for the following.*

i. *Buildings- To help off-set the cost of upkeep.*

ii. *Campgrounds- To help with the cost of permanently marking the campsites and upkeep (i.e., electricity, water, and lighting)*

iii. *Parking lot- To help with the cost of permanently marking the parking lanes and the cost of the Mounted Division to run the parking lot during Fair (i.e., upkeep on the mounted divisions horse barn)*

-Missi suggested Sponsorship opportunities and have signs on buildings and looking into it. The Board agreed to have Missi go ahead and move forward looking into it and making a plan.

t. *Discuss getting Director and Employee apparel*

-Mindy Timm brought up if the board is ok for her to pursue looking into apparel for Directors and Employees to stand out during fair and within the community. The board decided for Mindy to do research and come back to them with her ideas.

u. *4-H Livestock Auction issues that have been brought to our attention.*

-It was brought to Angie Mingus attention about the issue during the sale this year but also in years past with the animals. Once an animal is bought Sturgis Bank and Trust doesn't not give if an animal is picked to take not to the auction people can cherry pick animals that other people bought. Someone would buy an animal and then not get that same animal and certain people were allowed and given special treatments to pick the "good animals". The board decided this is good idea that

we are aware of it and to let 4-H know that there is an issue but since this is 4-H area they have to handle and deal with it.

v. Report/Complaint issues to MDART about a supposed violation of ACT-80 and our By-Laws.

-During the MAFE Convention Mindy Timm was approached by Jerold Goodrich from MDARD asking about how Fair went and the issue that we had at Fair. I told him I did not know we had an issue that would be given to him. I assumed it was animal related since he is the vet for MDARD. A few weeks after Convention Mindy decided to call Jerold Goodrich to ask more questions. Mindy called Jerold when she was in the Office so Missi could hear the conversation as well.

Jerold explained that in November he received a phone call regarding our Fair violated ACT-80 and our By-Laws. He said he also received another phone call follow up in December. Jerold stated that he gave the complaint to the person in charge of the by-laws and policy's for MDARD. Jerold said that if there is a big issue, we will be contact by MDARD. As of now we have not received anything from MDARD.

w. Proposal for new Digital Marque- Ron Weston

-Ron Weston would like to bring to bring to the Board his idea and vision for a new marquee sign. Ron has had to change the sign plenty of times during fair week and has got him thinking of different options. Digital is the new thing and would be more efficient for the fair as well as more eye catching, and we could sell more sponsorships for it as well.

-Ron's idea is to keep the structure but replace it with a digital screen. He has had a few conversations with sign companies, and we are looking at \$20,000 to \$30,000 for the sign.

-Missi stated that we do have permits on that marquee with the state of Michigan.

***** MOTION** by: Bill Younts, Second by: Tony Hochstetler

Motion was to let Ron Weston represent the Fair Board to receive quotes and get more information regarding the digital marquee/sign. Motion was made by Bill Younts and second was made by Tony Hochstetler. **Motion passed 9-0 with Barb Weston abstaining her vote.**

x. Re-opening the Nottawa Street gate on Sunday thru Friday and Saturday all day and Monday thru Thursday 3:00 p.m. to Close.

-Barb Weston asked why we just not keep the gate open all Fair Week. It would be confusing if we said it was only open certain days of the week and certain times.

***** MOTION** by: Barb Weston, Second by: Gary Clark

Motion was made to open the Nottawa Walk-in gate by the Garden during Fair Week for the 2022 Fair. Motion was made by Barb Weston and second was made by Gary Clark. **Motion passed 10-0.**

****Regular Board Meeting Monday, February 7, 2022, at 6 p.m.**

***** MOTION** by: Angie Mingus Second by: Bill Younts

Motion was made to adjourn our Fair Board Meeting. Motion was made by Angie

Mingus and second was made by Bill Younts. **Motion passed 10-0.**

Adjournment of Meeting:

Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.