

**St. Joseph County Grange Fair
Fair Association Annual**

Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2023

Building #52

St. Joseph County Grange Fair

316 East Charlotte Street

Centreville, MI 49032

President Keith Bower called the St. Joseph County Grange Fair Association Annual Meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. in 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 6:07 p.m.

Review and Approval of the Agenda:

MOTION by: Tricia Ulsh, Second by: Matt Davidson

Motion to move the proposed by-law changes up on the agenda to right after election of directors, was made by: Tricia Ulsh and second was made by: Matt Davidson.

Motion Passed

MOTION by: Angie Mingus, Second by: Stacey Bower

Motion to move roll call of members on the agenda under election of directors, was made by: Angie Mingus and second was made by: Stacey Bower.

Motion Passed

MOTION by: Kayla Mitchell, Second by: Lisa Soule

Motion to approve the 2023 Annual Fair Association Meeting agenda with the two proposed and approved changes, was made by: Kayla Mitchell and second was made by: Lisa Soule.

Motion Passed

Review and Approval of the Minutes:

MOTION by: Kristine Kirsch, Second by: Paul Leeth

Motion to approve the November 14, 2022, Fair Association Annual Meeting Minutes, with suggested corrections, was made by: Kristine Kirsch and second was made by: Paul Leeth.

Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report:

Penny Waltke, Fair Board Treasurer had to print off the financial documents and did not have them ready to hand out during the meeting. Penny Waltke did state the Fair Association has \$18,762.21 in their account as of October 31, 2023

Election of Directors-

President Keith Bower stated that it is now time to vote for the seven Fair Board Director Positions that are open for the Fair Board. There are 4 – 3-year terms, 1 – 2- year term, and 2 – 1-year terms up for election. The following individuals that are running for one of the seven positions are: Ronnie Bauman, Stacey Bower, Deb Cupp, Shirel Hart, Kristine Kirsch, Bill Lindsley, Mark Trowbridge, Penny Waltke, and Ron Weston. Keith Bower asked each person running for a Fair Board position to stand up and make a short speech before we begin the voting. Everyone stood up and spoke except Ronnie Bauman.

Roll Call of Membership and Election of Directors-

Keith Bower stated that we will begin the voting for the Fair Board of Directors. Mindy Timm, the Fair Board Secretary, stated that Jackie Brazo and Tabatha Wedge will call each member up by announcing their name. Once your name is announced please proceed to the table where the executive committee is sitting, and you will receive your voter number on a small piece of paper. This voter number you will use for the election of directors and for the voting of by-law changes. Once you receive your voter number you will proceed behind the screen and sit at one of the computers to cast your vote. Amber Johnson and members of the nominating committee will be back behind the wall to help anyone that needs assistance voting on the computers. Roll call and voting began.

Results of Election for New Fair Board Directors:

122 Fair Association Members voted. The following Fair Association Members were voted on the Fair Board.

- Kristine Kirsch – 94 votes received. (3-year term)
- Bill Lindsley - 82 votes received. (3- year term)
- Penny Waltke – 81 votes received. (3-year term)
- Stacey Bower – 81 votes received. (3-year term)
- Mark Trowbridge – 69 votes received. (2-year term)
- Ron Weston – 67 votes received. (1-year term)
- Deb Cupp – 61 votes received. (1-year term)
- Sheril Hart – 54 votes received.
- Ronnie Bauman – 51 votes received.

Proposed By-Law Changes – Policy and By-Law Committee

Jeff Brazo, member of the By-Law Committee stood up and addressed the Fair Association regarding the proposed by-law changes. Jeff Brazo stated that the By-Law Committee put together the working document everyone should have received via email or mail the proposed by-law changes 30 days before this Annual Meeting with the Annual Meeting notice from the Fair Board Secretary, Mindy Timm. Jeff Brazo stated that this document (attached to meeting minutes) is a working document and worksheet during discussion, this is not the ballot, you will vote via computer like you did for the election for Fair Board Directors. Angie Mingus mentioned that each section and item we are voting on has to have 2/3 votes of Fair Association Members present at the time of the start of the meeting to pass. Jeff Brazo started going through the proposed by-law changes. There was open discussion with the Fair Association Members.

MOTION by: Matt Davidson, Second by: Dean Cline

Motion to end the debate on the proposed by-law changes presented by By-Law Committee and vote, was made by: Matt Davidson and second was made by: Dean Cline.

Motion Passed with 88 yes votes

MOTION by: Matt Davidson, Second by: Dean Cline

Motion to vote on all proposed by-law changes as a whole as presented by the By-Law Committee, was made by: Matt Davidson and second was made by: Dean Cline.

Motion Failed with 58 yes votes

Jeff Brazo reviewing each proposed by-law changes by each article and section listed on the proposed by-law changes handout presented to the Fair Association Members. The Fair Association Members had discussion on each article and section that has proposed changes.

After the review of the proposed by-law changes, Mindy Timm, the Fair Board Secretary, stated that we will not be making roll call for this vote. Please step forward and bring your voter identification number with you and proceed behind the wall to vote as we did for the election. Voting for the proposed by-law changes began.

Results of Election for the Proposed By-Law Changes:

122 Fair Association Members were present and eligible to vote at the beginning of the Fair Association Meeting. Each Article needs to have 2/3 votes to pass. 81 votes are needed for something to pass. 103 Fair Association Members voted on the proposed by-law changes.

- Article III – Board of Directors & Management – FAILED 74 - 28
 - Yes – 74
 - No - 28
- Article IV – Meetings – FAILED 75 - 27
 - Yes – 75
 - No – 27
- Article V – Officers – PASSED 89 - 13
 - Yes – 89
 - No – 13
- Article VI – Committee – PASSED 88 -14
 - Yes - 88
 - No - 14
- Article VII – By-Laws – PASSED 86 -16
 - Yes – 86
 - No - 16
- Article VIII – Interests of the Association – PASSED 91 - 11
 - Yes - 91
 - No - 11

Public Comment:

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

- Tricia Ulsh – Would like to thank the policy and by-law committee for all of their hard work and hours put into working on the by-laws and proposed changes. Thank you to the maintenance guys for all of their hard work and for helping her in the milking parlor fix things that needed to be fixed. Building #51 the Grange Building had a great Fair. Tricia also brought up the meeting minutes being emailed out to the Fair Association meetings not having to send out meeting minutes to the Fair Association Members just post them on the website.

MOTION by: Tricia Ulsh, Second by: Jeff Brazo

Motion to put the Fair Board Meeting Minutes and the Fair Association Meeting Minutes on the website once they are approved was made by: Tricia Ulsh and second was made by: Jeff Brazo.

Motion Passed

- Debbie Davis – If anyone has any changes they would like to be added or changed in the by-laws please get ahold of the Policy and By-law Committee.
- Kayla Mitchell (4-H Program Coordinator) - Kayla is needing clarification regarding an email she sent to the Fair Office on February 6, 2023, to Tori Wycoff (who was working in the Fair Office at the time to schedule 4-H off season clinics on the Fairgrounds. Kayla states that she was told they were not able to be on the Fairgrounds on the dates as paying customers come first. The email came from Fair Manager Christina Yunker. Kayla received an email from Christina Yunker on May 22, 2023, regarding they will need to find a different place on the Fairgrounds to have their clinic.
- Tricia Ulsh – Made a comment regarding remembering Christina Yunker stating she pissed 4-H off during a Fair Board Meeting.
- Cindy Gordon – Commented on the 4-H discussion.
- Lisa DeLeo – Commented on the 4-H discussion regarding everyone needs to get along with each other and we all need to move on and move forward.
- Angie Mingus – Stated that this is a Grange Fair and 4-H is a big part of this Fair and the kids come first. We will make this work and have worked our butts off to make things work, with solutions to the problems.

- Christina Yunker (Fair Manager) – Christina stated that she started in May and had to recreate policies and procedures. She was given little documents when she started. She takes everything into consideration when making decisions. There were options given to 4-H to have their event on the Fairgrounds.
- Jeff Brazo – Read the Fair’s Mission Statement.
- Kevin Yeager – Kevin thanked the Board for letting him have the swine tagging in Barn# 53 this year. It was nice to have everyone drive in and drive out. Kevin asked the marketing director to pass along the date of June 12, 2024, the to the Fair Manager to reserve Barn# 53 for swine tagging.
- Tom Miller – Tom Miller thanked the Fair Association Members and Fair Board Directors for a great 12 years on the Fair Board and thanking them for letting him serve on the Fair Board.
- Matt Davidson – Thanked the Fair Manager for a great job she did this year.
- Marcus Finnerman – Christina Yunker the Fair Manager did a great job this year as Fair Manager, thank you Christina.
- Tricia Ulsh – Thanked Christina Yunker for a great year as Fair Manager.
- Katie Kitch – Read a letter from Wendy Guess, superintendent of the Grange Building.

Old Business:

a. Destroy 2021 Ballots

MOTION by: Sheril Hart, Second by: Jim Hart

Motion to destroy the 2021 ballots, was made by: Sheril Hart and the second was made by: Jim Hart

Motion Passed

b. Destroy 2022 Ballots

MOTION by: Lisa Soule, Second by: Kristine Kirsch

Motion to destroy the 2022 ballots, was made by: Lisa Soule and the second was made by: Kristine Kirsch

Motion Passed

New Business:

a. Set 2024 Fair Association Dates

Mindy Timm, the Fair Board Secretary listed off the following dates for the 2024 Fair Association Meetings.

- Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 6 p.m. in the Fair Office
- Thursday, May 21, 2024, at 6 p.m. in Building #52
- Thursday, August 20, 2024, at 6 p.m. in Building #52
- Thursday, November 11, 2024, at 6 p.m. Building #52
(Annual Meeting)

MOTION by: Paul Leeth, Second by: Stacey Bower

Motion to approve the proposed 2024 Fair Association Meeting dates set by the Fair Association Members was made by: Paul Leeth and the second was made by: Stacey Bower.

Motion Passed

Adjournment of Meeting:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

MOTION by: Paul Leeth, Second by: Jim Hart

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by: Paul Leeth and the second was made by: Jim Hart.

Motion Passed.

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