

St. Joseph County Grange Fair
Board Meeting Minutes January 25, 2025

1. Meeting called to order by Keith Bower at 0800
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call of Directors: Keith Bower, Angie Mingus , Deborah Davis , Mark Trowbridge , Blake Groves, Mindy Timm (virtual), Barb Weston , Kris Kirsch, John Tate, Bill Lindsley , Ron Weston, Stacey Bower , Steve Trattles , Bill Younts.
4. Excuse Absent Directors: Trish Ulsh . Motion: Kris Kirsch, Support: Steve Trattles. Motion Passes
5. Agenda for January 25, 2025: Motion: Kris Kirsch, Support: Mark Trowbridge . Motion passes
6. Approval December 2, 2025 Minutes: Motion: Mark Trowbridge . Support: Angie MIngus. Motion passes
7. 4-H update Kayla Mitchell: 466 4 H members, 201 Volunteers, 71 Clover Buds. Staffing Changes - Tonya moved full time to Parks. Charity left to pursue the medical field. Summer camps being planned to include Clover Buds. March 13 is Awards Night with Ice Cream Social, Officer training be planned, Fair Entry work sessions planned for February. Livestock by-laws being reviewed. Fill the Barn Campaign. The Horse Council requested that Gymkana move to Wednesday.
8. Visitors: Kayla Mitchell
9. Public Comment: None
10. Treasure Report - Financials for year 2024 were reviewed by Kris Kirsch. Question regarding Building 42 rebuild - Document explaining rebuild provided with no further questions. Bill Younts concerned over loss in revenue and increase in expenditures. Information provided that the 2024 budget started with a \$225K deficit but money was well spent on infrastructure that was long overdue. Motion to place the Financials for 2024 on file.: Motion: Mark Trowbridge . Support Angie Mingus. Motion passes.
11. Correspondence: Barb Weston read a letter from South Michigan Food Bank for our generous donation of \$1540.
12. Directors Reports:
 - Bill Younts - none
 - Debbie Davis - none
 - Keith Bower - Entertainment committee recommendation, attachment provided. See Motion grid for results.
 - Angie Mingus - Review of tents needed and pricing.
 - FundRaising Committee to meet soon
 - Midway Experience - meetings will be scheduled in the near future.
 - Machinery Row - meeting will be scheduled in the near future
 - Beer Tent - request to proceed with License for up to three. See Decision Grid for results.
 - Bill Linsley - Hall of Fame - no report
 - John Tate - Grange Building - Kris to give

Barb Weston - Personnel Committee - no report

Community Stage - working on schedule for Fair

Heritage Park - planning stages ongoing

Mindy Timm - Marketing - 2024 MDARD 120 day report filled on time

Theme for Fair - Growing a Future Since 1851

Design for Theme provided at February meeting

Kris Kirsch - First Aid Station - no report

Finance Committee - monthly meetings scheduled for the Tuesday prior to Board Meeting

Grants - will begin work on MDARD grant first of February.

Grange Building - many changes to still projects with 4 age groups of kids,

Increase times of intake of still projects

Quilts will be divided between Machine and Hand

Home Arts will remain in Grange Building

Judging of Still projects will be Saturday instead of Sunday.

Discussion regarding Draft/Pony show - will need Superintendent.

List of Classes sent to each Superintendent for review.

Goat Super - Dave Troyer. Chicken - Norma and Regina

Dairy and Beef - Steve Trattles and Kelsey Kulpinski

Ron Weston - Heritage Hall - Colon will be honored. Theme: 1960's. Discussion of Vendor Placement and Bikes.

Stacey Bower - Harness Racing - Discussion regarding day of event.

Motion for Harness Racing to take place on Saturday September 13 and Monday September 15 by Kris Kirsch. Support: Angie Mingue. Motion Passed.

May 18, 2025 Gate Training for Harness Racing will take place.

Courtesy Carts - planning stages, if a sponsor to increase

To 5 carts during peak hours.

Nomination Committee - no report

Mark Trowbridge - Policy and By-Laws - Conflict of Interest Form passed to Board

Members for Review, Signature and disclosing perceived Conflicts.

Motion to approve Conflict disclosure form by Angie Mingus. Support: Kris Kirsch. Motion passes.

Forms were provided for each Board Member to review and sign before the end of day. Forms to be given to Chris Yunker.

Technology Committee - Discussion regarding the use of Fair Board Members to utilize a "fair email" address to increase Compliance and security. Members to work with Mark to obtain Email address.

Discussion regarding Camping registration "online". Motion failed

This will be an ongoing project to move towards "online"

When ready.

Board Policy to Discipline was discussed. This was added to Board Policy when the Fair did not have a manager and only one Employee.

Motion was made to remove the policy and move to the Employee Handbook by Kris Kirsch.
Support: Angie Mingus. Motion Passes.

Blake Grove - Fair Week Maintenance - no report
Parking lot, Camping Lay out, Camping -
As a reminder to all Board members - All will
Be expected at work days as planned

Steve Trattles - Birthing Tent - no report at this time

Trish Ulsh - Absent

13. Items Grid for Fair Production - See attached Grid for Results

14. Managers Report - Refer to documentation provided at the January 25 meeting.

Highlights as follows:

No Trustees will be available to assist with any off site tasks.

The School Robotics display will use the West end of Building 44.

Barn 42 update - Electric Installation will begin in the Spring

Barn Spraying will take place August 27 and 28, 2025.

Contract with 4H completed

Discussions with the Sheriff regarding security started.

FEMA Grant completed for security cameras and fencing.

15. Old Business:

MAFE Convention - Happened and it had good sessions

White Board Issues were reviewed - All were either resolved

And approved in the Board meeting or sent to Committee.

Rest of White Board Issues will be reviewed at each meeting

Going forward.

16. New Business:

Request for National Day of Prayer notice on Marquee for no cost.

Discussion. No Motion was made or supported - Failed.

Discussion took place regarding off season events and many ideas
Discussed.

Meeting Adjourned at 3 PM. Minutes taken by Kris Kirsch