

Franklin County Agricultural Society Minutes for August 7, 2018 Meeting

President David Fleshman called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. The following members were present: Denise Buerger, David Fleshman, Kevin Wiley, Shirley Russell, Abby Bates, Chuck Buck, Emily Gabriel, Heath Fleshman, Andy Rice, Rachel Bausch, Rita Bausch, Gary Fellure, Kathy McNutt, Debbie Johnson, Derek Vincent, and David Hickman. Rod Garnett, Fair Manager, and Beth Boomershine, 4-H Educator, were also present.

Kevin Wiley led the saying of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes from the July 10th and July 20th meetings were reviewed. Heath Fleshman made the motion to accept the July 10th meeting minutes, and Emily Gabriel seconded. Motion passed. Kevin motioned to accept the July 20th minutes, and Heath seconded. Motion passed.

There was no Treasurer's Report.

Fair Wrap Up

Gates – Emily provided a comparison of attendance and admissions for the last five years. There was lower attendance this year. On Friday, KOI Drag Racing cancelled because of weather so the gates were pulled at 5:00 PM. The merchant fees from credit card use are not known yet, so the amount for admissions will go down. Emily recommended a point of sale system to continue using credit cards which would connect to the cash registers and could be tracked on computers. We will have to think about whether to increase admission cost or charge a flat rate at the gate for credit card use.

Junior Fair – There will be some schedule changes in the Activities Tent for next year. A small animal/companion animal show will be added. Pet rabbits will be part of the small animal show and will only stay one day. Only market or breed rabbits will stay all week. We ran out of Superior Ribbons for exhibitors. There were no issues in the Burke. Evaluations will be discussed and possibly changed. Porta Cools would be nice for Activities Tent.

Fine Arts – Lighting on quilts was an improvement.

Entertainment – The committee has already met to discuss events to continue and new events. The pig races, magician, monster trucks, and bouncy horse race were popular and will probably be back. Sponsorships were up because of Andy Rice's hard work. Events need to be promoted more to the public, but especially to groups and businesses.

Fair Manager – Improved signage and more traffic around the historical village and sheriff's tent were beneficial. The politicians' tent did not have much interest, but Rod has some ideas. The ATM machine was in a good spot. Callie and Teresa worked hard and did great job. Rod has new aerial photo of grounds with places labeled. There was a lot of positive feedback for military appreciation day and having Air Force recruits inducted at luncheon. There were less than one complaint per day and they were addressed. Bates could use more variety with food vendors. There were four elephant ear vendors. Steve, Teresa, Zach and Ross did a great job during and after the fair.

Website – Having the website down because Blue Host flagged a security concern was problematic. We didn't have the support needed from N Design to get it back up in a timely manner. A meeting will be set up with Nick of Net Steady, the website developer. Blue Host needs to be contacted prior to next year's fair.

Horse – Drains around horse arena need to be checked because water is not getting to catch basin. Sheriff Deputies escorted a man off the grounds who was hanging around arena and barns.

Harness Racing – The pari-mutuel funding needs to be checked in order to have a discussion about one or two days of racing.

PR – Fair has to be promoted more to businesses and corporations. The entertainment tent could be used as a hospitality tent for groups. We will reconsider programs since they are easier to put out than posters.

Radios/Sound – We need 4-5 more radios to communicate with Sheriff. Old radios were used during harness racing. Other groups or committees can use them. We should get other sound quotes. Announcements couldn't be heard in some places, but were too loud in others, especially in the Burke during shows. We do need speakers in the Annex and near trailers for open shows.

Livestock – More bleachers and fans are needed in hog barn. The shorthorn show should be discontinued unless they pay to use facility. Pen dismantling and storage is still being figured out. Committee may need to work more closely with staff to sanitize, dismantle and store pens. A cattle scale will need to be bought. Banners instead of rosettes might be better for livestock shows. A new open goat show will be on the first Saturday.

Senior Day – Need to discuss continuing to have two days. Will have to have sponsors to pay for it.

Sponsorships – Standardized pricing and contracts for various sponsorships needs to be established. Atlas Butler sponsored truck pull for \$5,000 and was happy with the hospitality trailer. Andy will get a quote to put roof over grandstand.

Sale Committee – A different slaughterhouse will be used instead of Delaware Meats since there was some miscommunication. Overall, the premiums at the Livestock Sale were up.

Land – Chuck Buck left the meeting at 9:36 PM. Jim Harris, attorney, forwarded a corrected agreement to Norwich Township lawyers, but there has been no notice from the. Cameron will call Chief Warren to extend deadline since it expired in July. We will approve agreement at August 21st meeting. Chuck returned to the meeting at 9:43 PM.

A fuel bill was submitted to Rod for hauling equipment, but it was already taken care of.

Rachel Bausch motioned to adjourn, and Heath seconded. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Denise Buerger, Secretary