

Calhoun County Agricultural & Industrial Society

Minutes of Board Meeting

June 15th, 2015 – Marshall Middle School - 7:00 PM

Call to Order

The June 15th , 2015 Board meeting was called to order by CCAIS Board First Vice President, Jim Olds at 7:00 pm at Marshall Middle School.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vic Parker.

Attendance with Roll Call was conducted by Susan Baldwin.

Present: Jim Olds, Tom Carr, Susan Baldwin, Amanda Shreve, Steven Benham, Nick Collier, Hope Horton, Vic Parker, Vic Potter, Shirland Redfield. Excused: Doug Wildt

Secretary's report of the May 18, 2015 minutes was given. Motion was made by Susan Baldwin, seconded by Vic Potter to file the minutes as presented. Vote was all in favor.

Treasurer's Report – Amanda Shreve provided the Treasurer's report. Shreve shared an amended budget which reflected the decision to not purchase golf carts to raffle for the Fair this year. The amended budget also reflected adjustments to cover the electric service upgrades. Motion was made by Shreve, seconded by Vic Potter to approve the amended budget. Vote was all in favor. Vic Potter moved to accept and put on record the treasurer's report as presented. Hope Horton seconded. Motion was approved.

Public Comment - requested for any agenda items.

None.

Old Business Items:

- 1. Entry Fee Finance Committee Recommendations** – Amanda Shreve discussed the positions of the Entry Fee Committee and the Finance Committee regarding the proposed Entry Fee Policy changes. The proposed Entry Fee Policy would include the following fees: \$10 entry fee per open class entrant (Little People entrants are exempt); \$10 entry fee per youth entrant exhibiting livestock and horses (includes free wristband); \$5 entry fee for youth exhibiting non-livestock classes (includes all craft and

educational classes, dogs, cavy and gerbil classes and includes a free wristband.) It is proposed that there be a \$40 household cap for youth entry fees (not including manure fees.) These fees would not be implemented for the 2015 Fair but would take effect for the 2016 Fair.

Manure fees would be implemented this year (2015) as substantial costs are incurred to remove and manage manure during the fair. Manure fees are proposed to be \$1/pen for rabbits, cavies, gerbils, and poultry (youth and open classes) and \$3/head for all other animals housed on the grounds (youth and open classes.) Manure fees would only be incurred once per animal regardless if the animal is shown in both youth and open classes.

The Finance Committee proposes that the Youth Entry fees be deposited into a new fund that will be designated for the maintenance and restoration of the Fairgrounds. This new fund would be managed by a committee. Each year the committee will review proposals submitted from members, clubs and superintendents, and prioritize and schedule projects based on need and available funds.

(Attached to the minutes is a copy of the proposed entry Fee Policy from the Finance Committee.)

The Board discussed the proposed fee policy. Shirland Redfield expressed concerns about additional fees. Hope Horton noted that in her experience, other fairs and exhibitions have routinely charged manure and youth entry fees. Tom Carr noted that by holding the change in fees until next year, clubs will have the opportunity to fundraise to cover the costs of any additional entry fees. After brief discussion, the proposed policy changes were put to a roll call vote. In favor of approving the changes: Jim Olds, Tom Carr, Susan Baldwin, Amanda Shreve, Steve Benham, Nick Collier, Hope Horton, Vic Parker, Vic Potter. Opposed to the changes: Shirland Redfield

- 2. Master-Five Year Plan**– Vic Potter shared an update on the Master Plan/5 year Plan Committee. The Committee met with Dick Sweet to discuss process and goal setting and priorities. Potter announced that the next committee meeting would be June 3. The group would take a tour of the grounds at 6 pm, and then continue the master plan and fairgrounds mission discussions.

New Business:

- 1. Rabbit Fair Book Rule change** – Megan Harvey discussed a proposal to adjust the rules regarding Department 14, entry of rabbits in the 2015 Fairbook to address the issue that no poultry can be shown in this year’s fair due to avian flu. An adjustment to rules J and K would allow more people to enter and show animals. Vic Parker noted that rule J as currently written requires that rabbits be home bred animals. This could be suspended for this year. Likewise, the second sentence of rule K could be suspended. Shawn Green, rabbit superintendent, noted that additional championship cages will be required and is concerned about the costs. Tom Carr noted that we could suspend the rules for this year due to the situation and then looking into revising these rules permanently going forward. Vic Potter moved to suspend Department 14, Rabbits Rule J and the second sentence of Rule K for 2015 only. Nick Collier seconded. Motion carried.
- 2. Chain Link Fencing** – Vic Parker discussed the status of chain-link fencing and gates to be erected for the fair. He pointed out options and tight timing required to put up the fence with only fair staff. Parker contacted D-K Fencing regarding a bid to assist with the fencing. D-K Fencing is willing to donate part of the materials. Some of the rows of fencing will be permanent and allow more parking. The proposal will also fence off the grandstand permanently. D-K fencing can start after July 4 and expects to get the work done in 2 to 3 weeks. Exact numbers are still to be finalized depending on measurements. Amanda Shreve noted that the budget includes \$10,000 for equipment which could be applied to the fencing costs. Vic Potter raised the idea of having an email vote once costs are set. The Board discussed needs for pits and pedestrian walkways. The Board also discussed the need to get this work all completed in plenty of time for the fair. Vic Potter moved to use the fencing materials that the fairgrounds already has in storage and approve up to \$10,000 toward costs to complete the additional fencing proposed. Amanda Shreve seconded. Motion passed.
- 3. Small/Large Animal Auction Guidelines** – Tom Carr provided an update on the small and large animal auction committee work. They are working to develop guidelines that can be used by both organizations and replace the “bylaws” that have been in place. The Committees are hoping to bring a proposal to the July meeting.

Events and Committee Reports:

- a. 4H Council – Marilyn Letts stated that the Committee is discussing the poultry issue and looking at options to replace showing animals at the fair. She also provided an update on the Relay and the adventure at Cornwells on July 23-25. Kathy Fischer explained options that have been considered at other fairs to replace the poultry events.
- b. FFA Report – Megan Harvey reported on behalf of Lora Finch for Homer FFA. Members are working on the FFA vegetable garden, as well as landscaping and greenhouse projects. Members with fair animals are working hard to prep them for MLE show at MSU. Ten members are competing at Livestock Judging. FFA members are also working a booth at the Homer Farmers Market every Saturday.
- c. Floral Hall Building – John Taylor – no report
- d. Houston School – Bonnie Rocco – no report.
- e. Maple Grove Church – Vic Potter reported that committees are looking at potentially siding the church and school. Both need painting and/or updating. The Church will not need new windows. A meeting will be scheduled soon.
- f. Grounds – Phil Smith reported that the grounds have been busy for a couple of weekends with events. They went well. The truck pull event staff is already on site setting up for their special event.
- g. Marketing Committee – Hope Horton reported that there was a nice article in the Marshall Advisor on the Cruise event. The Trifold brochure will be delivered any day and the office will need help distributing the flyers. There will be a Demo Derby event in October. Megan Harvey reported that Win 98 still has a few tickets for the acoustic session of Love and Theft. And Dreamers Furniture is donating a love seat for the concert for a special event called “the best seats in the house.”
- h. Sponsorships – Megan Harvey reported that sponsorships are going well. She received three more commitments the day of the Board meeting. Still looking for new sponsors – they are always welcome. Several sponsors have come onboard for the concert. Harvey also reported that

people can now order fair tickets, wristbands and camping reservations online.

Megan shared that she is looking into creative options for the duck pond, now that poultry is prohibited from the fair by MDARD. She has reached out to a local business about the possibility of a fish pond.

Any Fairbook amendments will be posted online.

- i. Operation Committee – Vic Parker - no additional report.
- j. Cruise the Fountain – Phil Smith reported that over 150 cars are now registered.
- k. Fundraisers – Cindy Thomas provided an update on the golf outing. They are still in need of hole sponsors and golfers. More volunteers are needed for the event day, particularly early in the morning. Any members are welcome to volunteer.
- l. Fair Museum – JoAnne McKeever – no report.
- m. Five Year/Master Plan – Vic Potter stated that the committee met a couple of weeks ago. Gathering information on the current status of the fairgrounds property and buildings.
- n. Small/Large Animal Committee - Tom Carr reported that there will be a meeting on June 23 in the covered arena and a workshop to teach kids how to show their animals.

PUBLIC COMMENT – three minute time limit and one opportunity to speak.

Shirley Myers would like the monthly finance report should be public. She would like to see the numbers. The reports are on file at the fair office.

Tracy Sager discussed that her daughter recently got married at the Church. When she came to the fair office for the keys, she noted that the Good Sam campers were filling the grounds. She talked with the Good Sam representative about asking campers to avoid the area around the church since they would need parking for the wedding and space for photos. The wedding event went well and there was open space around the church but it was stressful not knowing and camping guests could have been interrupting the wedding events. Sager was frustrated that no one would guarantee

that there would be space around the Church. She also noted that the family had to do some sprucing up around the plantings.

Bonnie Rocco noted that the Fair missed an opportunity at a recent Marshall Community Foundation event. A table was provided for CCAIS but no one was there to man the table. Perhaps should look into finding volunteers for such events.

Bud Moe shared that he had invited Megan Harvey to the Lions Club. She gave a very good talk about the Fair and fairgrounds.

Maureen Marshall shared concerns about wanting more information about the animal auctions and the fees. She would like more clarity around the guidelines and any changes in procedure or policy. Tom Carr responded that the large and small animal auctions will be run much more the same in the future. There have been some clerical changes and the fees will be covered at the promotional meeting coming up.

Michelle VanSickle suggested for future consideration regarding rabbits that the fair could apply a county-bred versus home-bred requirement. The Fair might consider having a universal guideline across all species for determining home-grown vs county-bred. Hope Horton suggested discussing this idea with the Superintendents.

Rexine Cockcroft asked about the status beer tent project. Susan Baldwin explained that the application had been submitted to the State Liquor Control Commission. The plan submitted limited the service area to just one 70 by 80 foot area to be fenced off to the west of the stage. Beer would not be allowed to be taken out of the area. Security personnel would be stationed at all gates and within the area to ensure that no minors or intoxicated persons would be served. Serving hours will only be on July 19 -22 between the hours of 5 pm and 10 pm. The beer tent area would be closed by 11 pm. The Marshall Public Safety Department Chief Jim Schwartz met with the Board to go over proper procedures and offer recommendations. The Department signed off on the proposal before it was submitted to the state. Megan Harvey stated that there will be paid bartenders and paid security at all times during the operation hours. Atlas Sales is working with the Fair on set up and running the operation.

BOARD COMMENTS –

Hope Horton noted that kids will be paying their manure fees when they pick up their fair wristbands.

Megan Harvey noted that the Code of Conduct is online.

Adjournment – Motion was made by Vic Potter, seconded by Amanda Shreve, to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm. Motion passed.

Submitted by Susan Baldwin, Board Secretary