



Saginaw County Agricultural Society

PO Box 449 • Chesaning MI 48616 • 11350 Peet Rd • 989.845.2143 • Fax 989.845.2682

www.SaginawCountyFair.org • SaginawFair@Yahoo.com

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Saginaw County Agricultural Society

Regular Monthly Meeting

August 15, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Copes. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll was called.

Present: Jim Askins, Letitia Birchmeier, Dick Borm, Patti Copes, Howard Ebenhoeh, Sara Engelhardt, Eric Frahm, Rosie Garcia, Beverly Newton, Valerie Newton, Lana Robinette, Pennie Tomac, Keith Valentine

Absent: Donna Felton

Guests: Tish Byrne, Dan Copes, Bob Corrin, Jim Miller, Jr., Tim Rosencrans, Gretchen Schulte, Francis Sloan, Sandy Sloan, LaVerne Spolarich

Public Comment:

LaVerne Spolarich offered to write personal invitations to the opening day ceremonies to state and federal government guests in the future.

Francis Sloan stated that he agrees with Jim Askins's ideas about moving the driveway.

Dan Copes thanked those who helped with trash collection during Fair week. Placing bags outside of barns for pick up worked well. He recommended that next year we place a dumpster in the campground. He also inquired about used cooking oil as some was left by vendors. Francis stated that in previous years we took it to Card's and they had someone dispose of it.

Additions to the Agenda: Frahm asked to discuss membership renewal under the annual meeting agenda item. Garcia asked to add the Volunteer Picnic under unfinished business. During correspondence we will call Jennifer Carman for a report from the state vet.

Secretary's Report:

Minutes of the July 11 regular meeting and August 13 executive meeting were presented. A correction needs to be made under the report from the Safety Committee: the ambulance contract price was up \$2,000, not the \$1,000 that was printed.

Motion by Borm and supported by Birchmeier to accept the reports with corrections. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Robinette presented a Balance Sheet as of 7/31/19, Profit & Loss by Class for 7/19, and Profit & Loss for 10/18 – 7/19 prepared by Hoerner's Accounting.

Motion by Birchmeier and supported by V. Newton to receive and file the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Robinette also reported that one of the i-pads used in the ticket booth on Friday and Saturday during Fair was disconnected from the internet. Because of this, fees of \$2,458 on Friday and \$3,029 on Saturday were not collected. We are currently corresponding with Square to see if we can charge those fees. Normally there is a 72-hour limit on processing charges. Sovis Insurance is also investigating whether we can file a claim to recover the money. In addition, not all cash transactions were recorded on the i-pads during the week during busy times. Some mistakes were made in the use of \$10 and \$15 buttons on the wrong day. We will need additional procedures in place next year to increase accuracy and efficiency. Frahm inquired about how this will affect our payment to Big Rock. That will be decided when we hear from Square and Sovis.

Garcia suggested a different set-up at the gate with a break between the center windows. We may even need 6 windows, especially on Thurs-Sat. We will need to increase security at other entry gates. She also requested that different tickets look different, with more of a variety in color or design to make them easier to identify and differentiate.

Robinette asked about our procedure for washing borrowed tractors. Tractors borrowed from Card's were not brought to the barn and washed on Sunday. Copes authorized detailing at a cost of \$40 each on 2 tractors so that they could be returned and repaired (bent forks). Tomac reported that the tractor had a soft tire during the week. It was decided that in the future, one volunteer should oversee borrowed equipment.

Committee Reports:

Buildings and Grounds – This committee still needs a chair. Exhibit hall furniture will be moved on August 23 at 10 am.

Horse Department – Copes reported that we are hosting a barrel show this weekend and another on October 5-6. She is working with Ryan Hoerner to balance the horse department account.

Livestock Department – V. Newton reported that shows at Fair went well. One hog was put down. The K of C has asked that tables and chairs be put back up after the auction lunch, rather than leaving the picnic tables. We may need to consider renting or purchasing more plastic tables in the future.

Camping – Birchmeier reported that we had about 100 campers, but it went well. Bob Symons has asked about our future plans.

Exhibit Hall – It was reported that Bob Symons is working on a plan and quote to improve the lighting in the exhibit hall. Tomac has someone providing an additional quote.

Technology – A written report was provided. Discussion was held regarding the ability of our current computers and network to handle the traffic during Fair. We may need to have a professional look at our system and make recommendations.

Vendors – Birchmeier reported that Fair went well for vendors. One food vendor expressed interest in moving. There were no complaints on the marijuana vendor. The Pure Romance vendor did not come. The helicopter rides brought us \$1,882, but did require some extra work on our part to manage their area. He is interested in coming back.

Advertising – Copes reported that the committee working hard to get ads out on multiple platforms. There were also many Facebook posts during the week.



Saginaw County Agricultural Society

PO Box 449 • Chesaning MI 48616 • 11350 Peet Rd • 989.845.2143 • Fax 989.845.2682

www.SaginawCountyFair.org • SaginawFair@Yahoo.com

“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

Safety – Copes reported that lost children were an issue. Safety protocols as printed in the booklet need to be followed. Superintendents and board members need to attend safety meetings. Sheriff’s posse and Chesaning PD had a heavy presence all week. Some incidents were reported: portajohns tipped over, wires ripped out on display vehicles, exhibits stolen from in the hall, and some guests sneaking in. In the future she suggested: contracting with Chesaning PD because the Posse only covers the parking lot, roping off display equipment in the vendor area, watching gates more closely, and maybe hiring security guards. Discussion was held regarding the addition of a gate on the west fence for McDonough.

Office Manager – Rosencrans provided a written report.

SVAA Report: Ebenhoeh reported that the booth during Fair went well. Approximately \$19,000 in sponsorship was transferred to the Ag Society. Harvest Banquet tickets are available.

Partnership – Discussion was held on whether to continue using sponsorship funds for grandstand/entertainment or put in the general fund and whether SVAA should continue to handle the sponsorship funds. It was agreed by consensus to keep sponsorship funds earmarked for entertainment.

President’s Report:

- Copes congratulated and thanked board members for working together during Fair week. Gate receipts show 26,173 paid admissions for the week, 307 mega passes, and 200 free veterans. Many guests shared positive comments about the affordability and cleanliness of our fair. It draws many people from outside Saginaw County.
- During the Unique Motorsports show on Friday, there was an accident during the bump and run derby. A driver was hit twice in the door and injured, but the race was not stopped as required by rules. Some members of their crew tried to use Fair equipment without permission. The organizer was not professional in his handling of the incidents.
- During the rodeo on Saturday, some of our horse exhibitors were able to ride in the show. One spectator was concerned about the effect of fireworks on the livestock. This has not been a problem in the past as the organizer and riders know there will be fireworks after the show.
- Copes stated that she would like to pick up the mail in the future.
- We will be eligible for the MDARD grant this year. Possible projects include: electric upgrades in campground, extending water into vendor area, bleachers in the grandstand, ticket booth, lighting in exhibit hall. Budget committee will need to meet to help determine available funds.

Unfinished Business:

- One application from Dean Boivin has been received for the board vacancy. Motion by Garcia and supported by Birchmeier to appoint Dean Boivin to fill the vacant seat. His term will expire in 2020. Motion passed.

- The executive committee met with Ryan Hoerner on Tuesday regarding the financial audit. They signed papers to begin the audit. Projected cost is \$5,000. They are planning to meet again next Tuesday.
- Set-up for the Volunteer picnic will take place the night before. Board members are asked to bring a dish to pass and a dessert. We expect 100 people to attend.

New Business:

- Applications for membership to the Ag Society have been received from Shelia Hornak and Emma Strouse. Motion by Frahm and supported by B. Newton to accept them as new members. Motion passed.
- The annual meeting of the Saginaw County Agricultural Society will take place on November 3 at 2:00. Frahm asked that we do a better job of notifying members about paying dues. Motion by Garcia and supported by Borm to send postcards requesting renewal of membership dues. Discussion was held regarding updating addresses at the annual meeting and the number of mailings in the fall. It was agreed to consolidate the September newsletter with the October letter containing board candidates and send postcards in September. Motion passed.
- Motion by Tomac and supported by B. Newton to hold the 2020 Saginaw County Fair on August 4-8. Motion passed.
- There is a request for wedding rental for August 15, 2020. That is the weekend after the close of Fair. A decision was tabled and will be discussed next month.
- Birchmeier brought up the idea of tent for nursing mothers during the Fair. She talked to some people during this year's Fair. Midland County has one. Approval by consensus.

Correspondence:

- Jennifer Carman called in to give a report on our visit from the inspector from the state vet's office. The inspector was on site Wednesday afternoon. She asked questions regarding how we communicate with each other and did speak with several superintendents across the fairgrounds. In an oral report to Carman she reported that she was thrilled to see such a clean fair, thought our information was easily and readily available, noted that we were all on a first-name basis, and loved our teamwork. In particular she said the horse department was above her expectations. She thinks other fairs should follow our example. She had no criticisms.
- A variety of thank yous from livestock exhibitors were read.
- A letter from the Kiwanis of Thomas Township was read. They are requesting donations for a golf outing. It was suggested that Santa's Village passes be donated. The matter was referred to the Santa's Village committee.
- A letter from Keinath Livestock was read. Tomac suggested meeting with Bernie Keinath to ask about procedures that he sees at other fairs that may help us.



Saginaw County Agricultural Society

PO Box 449 • Chesaning MI 48616 • 11350 Peet Rd • 989.845.2143 • Fax 989.845.2682

www.SaginawCountyFair.org • SaginawFair@Yahoo.com

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Directors' Comments:

Robinette reported that she was grateful for help counting money during Fair.

Garcia sees positive growth in the ticket area.

V. Newton is holding an entertainment committee meeting on September 5 at 7:00.

Frahm thanked V. Newton for her work in the livestock area.

Birchmeier and Valentine thanked everyone for their hard work.

Copes thanked everyone for their work, especially Askins for his extra help and Jim and Alysha Miller for their work on the donation animals.

Motion by Askins and supported by Borm to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Engelhardt

Secretary