**2/20/2023 Hancock Ag Association Meeting Minutes**

Present: Mike Elsbury, Mike Manship, Wyneta Duncan, Lauren Conway, Holly Plank, David Wildman, Rachelle Kihlstrum, Nicole Mann, Barb Pescitelli, Chrissy Paxton, Jesse Melton, Lloyd Arthur

Meeting called to order.

Guests:

1. Tyler Deutsch – His Eagle Scout project is on course. His projected budget is $2,800. He is currently asking for donations from local businesses and waiting on replies. He asked if the board would be willing to donate. Mike Manship motioned to give up to $1,400 for the project; Rachelle seconded – Motion Carries.

End of Guests

Mike Elsbury introduced Rob Barnhart as the new Grounds Superintendent and his first official day will be March 1st, 2023.

Meeting Minutes from January – Wyneta Duncan motioned to accept the meeting minutes; Holly Plank seconded – Motion Carries.

Financials – There is 330,128.91 in our accounts and we had $4,727.66 in income and $30,516.65 in expenses for the month of January. YTD income is $11,331.66 and expenses are $26,000.47. Holly Plank motioned to accept the financials and Jesse Melton seconded – Motion Carries.

Hall of Fame Update – Holly Plank let us know the progress the committee has made. The deadline was February 16th for submission and they got a good response. They have decided that 23 names will be selected for 2023. The goals are to get pricing for signage, what type of signage would be best and reviewing the names. They will bring us another update at the March board meeting.

Proposed Naming the Buildings – Jim Gunn and Jim Shouffler Cattle Building, Walt Waite Swine Building, Max Gentry Show Pavilion, and Don and Phyllis Kingen Pioneer Building.

Buildings and Grounds –

1. There has been back and forth with Greg Morelock about the Lift Station the city wants to put on the north side property. We are still looking for an engineer who can go over the plans. We are also waiting on the city to give us the plans so we can have our engineer look over them. Lauren Conway was going to help get us in contact with an engineer she knows.
2. Insurance – Kyle Browning, our insurance agent, and Barb walked through all the buildings and it will need to be decided which buildings need coverage and which buildings we are willing to replace out of pocket. There is a concern that we are underinsured for contents covered in our buildings. They are working on a quote on how much it would cost for different content coverages, it was suggested at least a million-dollar policy for contents. The tractor and skid steer are under a separate policy. Questions were asked about the carnival and if we are over insured, with the carnival having their own insurance, that is being looked at as the agent said that is really up to us. More information will be gotten and another report will be given at the March board meeting.
3. Buildings and Grounds will be moved to Monday before the working meeting at 6 pm with the working meeting will be at 7:30 pm. This will be a trial basis to see if it is feasible before anything permanent is decided.

Extension Educator Update – Amber Barks – We currently have 648 youth enrolled for 2023 with 51 additional just needing to pay to be considered enrolled. 787 total were enrolled in 2022. YQCA is now called Indiana 4-H Livestock Care, there will be 3 in person clinics held on 3/1, 3/16 and 4/5, there is also an online link yqcaprogram.org, that can be done anytime. Handbooks should be in soon. Amber and her staff have visited all the county schools. Trophy letters have gone out, getting some money back already. Co-Alliance will be sponsoring all the swine shows in 4H this year at all the county fairs to coincide with their pork and animal division. They are giving $1000 and ask that a banner be put up and Mike E said that would be fine. The extension office had an event with the middle schoolers in grades 5 and 6to go to an Indy Fuel Game, it went well. Amber would like to send up to 18 youths total to Purdue Academy and Roundup. David Wildman motioned to pay up to $3500 towards 18 youth total to go to Purdue Academy and Roundup, Mike Manship seconded – Motion Carries.

Sponsorship – Holly let us know much is still the same, but because tourism pays for a lot that we have had sponsored in the past, that she would like to change it up and add bigger ticket items and would like to have approval to start sending all the sponsorship letters and communications out. We could even auction off a booth in the commercial building. Lloyd Arthur motioned to approve the paperwork to be sent out, Nicole Mann seconded – Motion Carries.

Commercial Vendors – Nicole updated us that the plan to get new vendors is not working as well as she had hoped but she is not giving up. She will be sending out to the old vendors in the near future.

Food Vendors – Rachelle let everyone know all the food vendor contracts went out at the first of the month and that we may have a couple new ones. However, we have an extra day at the fair this year because of the carnival and that she has a vendor that cannot come Friday or Saturday but can come Sunday – Saturday and if it is okay to modify the contract for those who want to stay the extra day. Holly motioned to allow the contract to be modified for the extra day, Lloyd Arthur seconded – Motion Carries.

Fair Items

1. Safety Plan – We need to approve the contract agreement for the Sheriff’s department to be security for the 2023 fair. The fee is $650 a day and then $200 for the extra day of the carnival. Wyneta Duncan motioned to approve the contract agreement, Holly Plank seconded – Motion Carries.
2. We will need a cleaning service for the fair. We are not sure Deena who has done it for many years is interested. Holly will post on social media asking for suggestions and Barb will see if Deena has any interest in cleaning again this year.
3. We will need to look at the trash service as the quote that came back to Barb is very expensive. There were suggestions made of services we could use and Barb was going to look into that and let us know what she found out.
4. Our tent vendor is retiring and we will need a new tent service, suggestions were made and Barb was going to follow up and let us know at the next board meeting.
5. Parade theme – The theme suggested was The Next 100 Years. Barb Pescitelli motioned that we use The Next 100 Years as the theme for the Parade and Holly Plank seconded – Motion Carries.
6. Went over the schedule for the weeks leading up to the fair and fair week, everything was addressed and Mike Elsbury asked Amber to please invite all the superintendents to the next board meeting so we can address any concerns they may have.
7. Vickie Ramsey asked if we still wanted to do a Heritage Homemakers event during the fair, Barb had mentioned last year that it would be nice to do. It was felt that the area best to hold this event would be the old Chicago’s Pizza area. We do have a new food vendor possibly coming into that spot and so it was decided to find out if the vendor is coming before scheduling anything. Rachelle will get with Vickie later in the week after she hears from the vendor with possible days and times for that event.

Mike has talked to Tim Burneu, President of the Huntington County Fair Board member about initially Purdue, but the subject moved to fundraising ideas and Tim told Mike about their fundraising events and how they made over $100,000 this year. Mike felt we should think about starting a fundraising committee. Mike also reminded every about our first annual golf outing at Arrowhead Golf course on July 15, 2023 at 8 am. Lloyd motioned to establish a fund-raising committee and Jesse seconded – Motion Carries.

The fund-raising committee will be chaired by Holly Plank and members will be Brooke Green, Delaney Melton, Mike Elsbury, Lloyd Arthur and Rachelle Kihlstrum with new members added if needed, an exact number of members was not set for this committee.

Questions from the audience –

It was asked if we have a plan for the flaking paint from the ceiling in the cattle barn, Mike Elsbury said it is on the list of projects.

It was asked if we could get a new 4H flag for the exhibit hall. David Wildman motioned that all American and 4H flags in every building be looked at and determined if replacement is needed and Rachelle Kihlstrum seconded – Motion Carries.

Next working meeting – March 6th at 7:30 pm.

Next month’s board meeting will be March 2oth at 6:30 pm in the Exhibit Hall.

Rachelle Kihlstrum motioned to adjourn and Mike Manship seconded – Meeting Adjourned.