**Hancock County Ag Association Minutes**

**March 20, 2023**

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

Advisory: Amber Barks, Rob Barnhart

Meeting called to order.

Guests:

1. Kent Fisk from the County Council & Bob Mattsey, Treasurer of Tourism – They came to tell us that there is money that we can ask for that can be used for many different projects and they understand there has been some misunderstandings of what the tourism money can and cannot be used for, but they would like to clarify that up. Mr. Mattsey would like to set up a meeting in the next few weeks to go over the list of items we would like to see if Tourism is able to help us get those projects accomplished. Holly Plank, committee chair of the Fundraising Committee will get in touch with Mr. Mattsey in the next few days to get that meeting set up with the tourism and the Fundraising Committee Members.

Meeting Minutes from February – Jesse Melton motioned to accept the meeting minutes and Holly Plank seconded – Motion Carries.

Financials – There is 328,629.50 in our accounts and we had $5,002.89 in income and $5,722.00 in expenses for the month of February. YTD $16,334.55 in income and $43,054.43 in expenses. Jesse Melton motions to accept the financials and Chrissy Paxton seconded – Motion Carries.

Superintendents and Leaders were asked to attend this meeting to let us know if they had any requests or concerns about the upcoming fair. Vickie Ramsey – Country Kritters Leader and Careers Take Charge Superintendent – no issues; David Wildman, Amanda Stiffler and Sarah Kelley – Rabbit Club – no issues; Cathie Kirtley – Country Kritters Leader and Crafts Superintendent – would love to see projects displayed better and perhaps bring the gazebo back; Jeff Jones – Swine Superintendent – no issues; Steve Wilson and Josh Sparks – the cattleman’s will be addressing the water pressure issues at the wash racks and painting in the spring, no other issues; Christie Proper – Junior Leaders leader, Horsemanship without a Horse and Do Your Own Thing Superintendent – No issues; Steven Elsbury – Sheep Superintendent – would like to see the schedule next year be better for the sheep kids and helpers, but other than that – No issues; Jim Lewis – Livestock Auction – No issues; Brian Jefferies – Pioneer Barn – Would like to get the concrete pad for the barn, Mike E will get a hold of Kevin Quick to see if he got bids or where we stand on that, and the ramp going to the cabin needs to be replaced; Rachelle Kihlstrum – Junior Master Gardner’s Co-Leader and Floriculture, Forestry, Sportfishing, Vet Science and Wildlife Superintendent – No issues; Savanah Hudson – Goats Superintendent – No issues; Chrissy Paxton and Holly Plank – Foods Superintendent – No issues; Wyneta Duncan and Barb Pescitelli – Horse and Pony – No issues; Jesse Melton and Breeana Fish – Llama & Alpaca Club – No issues; Linda Petty – Leader Clip Clop Clovers – No issues; Debbi Hill – Leader Brandywine’s Best – No issues.

Rob Barnhart – Grounds Superintendent:

Quote for the Sheriff’s tent and the sides for the food court - $1,230.00 – Rachelle Kihlstrum motions to accept and Holly Plank seconded – Motion Carries.

Quote for the ice – Home City Ice for $2,140.00 – Chrissy Paxton motions to accept and Lauren Conway seconded – Motion Carries.

For trash removal it looks like Republic is our only choice, Rob is going to try and get an actual break down of the quote. He would like us to start getting bids for the 2024 fair now as it looks like it is too late to get any other quotes for this year’s fair – Lauren Conway motions to accept and Jesse Melton seconded – Motion Caries.

Amber Barks – Extension Educator:

They have had several events for the kids for Spring Break with a Chef’s Club, Poster Workshop and Mini 4H workshops. There are 90 kids trained on the Quality Livestock Care Assurance Training, with another workshop scheduled in April. She expects most to take it online.

Junior Leaders is having a fundraiser at Panera on 3/25 from 4 to 8 pm.

707 kids are signed up for 4H this year with another 60 just needing to pay.

Update on the Lift Station – Mike Elsbury got the plans from the cities lawyers and Lauren Conway has been in touch with an engineering firm that may be able to look at the plans for us. She is still following up on that. Sarah Kelley mentioned that her subdivision dealt with something like this and Mike Elsbury asked if she could reach out the HOA President and maybe help us out on what we can and can’t do. Sarah will contact him and get back with us with more information when she has it.

Insurance Update – Mike Elsbury has not heard anything from Kyle Browning, but Mike will follow up again.

Board Attorney Update – Mike Elsbury has had no luck finding anyone and is open to any suggestions.

Selection of VP – Holly Plank was nominated by Chrissy Paxton and seconded by Nicole Mann, motion to close by Jesse Melton and seconded by Chrissy Paxton. Holly Plank is the new VP.

Selection of New Board Member – Only one person said they were interested in running for the open Green, Center, and Brandywine spot and that was Debbie Vansickle, Wyneta Duncan motions to seat Debbie Vansickle for the duration until the November’s Annual Meeting and Jesse Melton seconded – Motion Carries.

Fundraising Committee – Holly Plank is working on a list of items that will need fundraising and will get with tourism in the next few days to set up the meeting with them.

Hall of Fame Committee – Holly Plank gave the committee report and it was decided to focus on naming the buildings only and not rush to get the wall of fame done this year. There was concern that naming the buildings would discourage businesses to donate money for the future naming rights. The 8 signs will be 2x4 at $158.78 each for a total of $1,270.02 – Chrissy Paxton motions to order the signs and Jesse Melton seconded – Motion Carries.

Building and Grounds – Spent time getting Rob up to speed on all the projects that are ongoing. Got a quote for Rhino Shield for the buildings and for the Cattle Barn it would be $117,000.00, Hog Barn it would be $104,000.oo and for the Community Pavilion it is $45,000.00. Still waiting to get a quote for insulating the inside of the Cattle and Hog barn.

Commercial Building – Nicole Mann tried to get new vendors, but most said the cost, insurance and time were a factor that kept them from coming. So, she has sent out contracts to the old vendors and is getting responses back.

Food Vendors – Rachelle Kihlstrum says all is going well with no problems and looks like we will have 2 new vendors this year.

Presenting and Day Sponsors – Holly Plank is still working on those.

Chrissy Paxton is working on updating the committees list. She will be sending out a building set up page to all events soon. Advertising is the same pricing except the geo tracking has raised $100.00, but she is not ready to get a motion for those to be paid yet.

New Member Requests: Adam Mann – Jackson Township, James Mumaw – Sugar Creek Township, Diana Mumaw - Sugar Creek Township, Rob Barnhart – Blue River Township, Charlie Joyce – Jackson Township, David Cyborski – Brandywine Township, Dave Garmene – Blue River Township, Kaylyn Joyce – Buck Creek Township, Megan Woods – Blue River Township. Rachelle Kihlstrum motions to accept all new member requests and Mike Manship seconded – Motion Carries.

No New Business

No Old Business

Mike Manship motions to adjourn and Jesse Melton seconded – Adjourned

Next working meeting is April 3rd at 7:30 pm and the next regular meeting is April 17th at 6:30 pm in the exhibit hall.