**Hancock County Ag Association Minutes**

**April 17, 2023**

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

Absent: Mike Manship

Advisory: Amber Barks, Rob Barnhart

Meeting called to order.

Guests: None

Meeting Minutes from March – David Wildman motioned to accept the meeting minutes and Jesse Melton seconded – Motion Carries.

Financials – There is $284,534.12 in our accounts and we had $17,852.40 in income and $30,399.45 in expenses for the month of February. YTD $30,399.45 in income and $73,453.88 in expenses. Holly Plank motions to accept the financials and Jesse Melton seconded – Motion Carries.

Building and Grounds

Circle M Construction – They have come with a bid of $60,000 to put in a concrete floor in the Pioneer Building. It will be for a flat surface, with fiber mesh and 2 x 12 band board all the way around. There will be fill that will need to be removed, but that can be piled up on the fairgrounds. They can get us on the schedule immediately, but there may be some permitting that needs to be done before anything can be started. They feel comfortable that they can get this done before fair. Chrissy Paxton motions to approve $60,000 to concrete the floor in the Pioneer Building and Rachelle Kihlstrum seconded – Motion Carries.

Commercial Kitchen in the Exhibit Hall – The health department came out and told us we would need to strip and wax the floors, peel off the caulk, and recalk around the stove and install a vent to be able to rent our kitchen as a commercial kitchen. Rob wants to start small with a few vendors before moving to a full-time schedule. The cost would be around $500 to get everything up to code. Chrissy Paxton motions to spend not more than $500 to get the items the health department wants done to make the exhibit hall kitchen up to commercial kitchen code and Holly Plank seconded – Motion Carries.

Block Bathrooms – It is on schedule to be done in May.

Ninestar Sound System – Ninestar came out and looked and they feel there is nothing major that needs to be done. No quote yet but hopefully will have that in the next week or two.

Cleaning for the Fair – Rob got a quote from Kristen Crabtree for $7,000 for the week, and that includes all three bathrooms from 10 am to 10 pm. Rob was asked to go back to Kristen and ask if there was any room to lower the price and get back with us at the next board meeting.

Grease Dumpsters – Got a quote for 3 grease dumpsters, 2 behind the Community Pavilion and 1 behind the fair office for $500 for the week. Holly Plank motions to approve the $500 for 3 grease dumpsters and Jesse Melton seconded – Motion Carries.

Jesse Melton motions to order 10 – 24 inch fans for the Pioneer Building and West Arena with a cap of $1,500 and Holly Plank seconded – Motion Carries.

Eagle Scout Project – Rob stated that Tyler and his crew were here this past Saturday working and it looks good. He said they are still on schedule to be done before fair.

Amber Barks – Extension Educator:

Currently there are 581 regular 4-H members and 158 mini-4-H members enrolled and paid, with an additional 68 pending. The office will be sending out invoices this week to the unpaid members. When all the pending are paid we will have 807 members signed up this year. That is a 2.9% increase.

Still looking for sponsors for some of the awards and finalizing judges’ contracts.

There will T-shirts for sale again this year and they will be available to order online very soon.

4 youth got YES grants.

28 steers/commercial heifers were tagged on April 2, 2023.

Sheep tagging is coming up May 7, 2023 from 2 to 3:45 pm and on May 10, 2023 from 6 to 7 pm.

Goat tagging will be on May 11, 2023 from 6 to 7 pm.

All 40 spots have been filled for camp and a waiting list has been started.

The Junior Leaders plan to collect baby items through the fair as a service project they are doing. The are also planning on having a 4-H game night on May 3, 2023 from 6 to 7 pm.

Lilly Endowment Grant – Debbie said we are eligible for up to $300,000 and she feels we should ask for the full amount. The problem is if we stay with the Community Pavilion, we will have to show a detailed budget of how we are going to get the rest of the money to build it. The board felt it would be better to go for the roofs and mobile stage and Debbie was confident she could make that work. Chrissy Paxton motions to apply for the grant for the roofs for the Community Pavilion, Cattle Barn and Hog Barn, and the Mobile Stage and Lauren Conway seconded – Motion Carries.

Carnival Update – Mike talked to Byron Bowman from the carnival company and they are confirmed for the fair. He would like to come out and measure to see what they can bring and where they can set up. We need to come up with a bracelet/ticket system for the 4H member passes to be sold before the fair starts. The pricing will be $45 for 3 days and $75 for 5 days. It will be $25 per day for bracelets for the general public. They do have other dates available if we are interested in just having them come back later in the year.

Lift Station – Mike has heard back from the city attorney and the alternative location we wanted on our property by the creek is not an option due to it sitting in the floodway. Mike will ask the attorney if as many board members as we can have sit down in person with the parties involved to see if there are other options for us and to ask questions. Mike will call and let us know when he hears back.

Insurance Update – Barb heard back from Kyle Browning and we have a few options, but the pricing is still high so it was decided that we should get a second opinion and that will be set up in the next couple of weeks.

Poss-ABILITIES Program update – It cannot be a 4-H event unless it follows the age requirements of Purdue’s guidelines. The committee decided to just forgo that and make it their own. They are in the process of getting a 5013C. They had a social event to kick off the program and had 26 participants sign up and around 100 in attendance. In order to keep it separate from 4H during the fair it was decided that we would rent the facility to them for the day for $1. Holly Plank motioned to rent the facility to them for $1 and Jesse Melton seconded – Motion Carries.

Fundraising Committee – Golf Tournament – Holly would like to print up flyers for the fair week to promote the golf tournament. It was decided to charge $300 per a team of 4 and $100 for sponsorship of the holes. Will need to work on getting sponsors and items for the silent auction.

Holly has not heard from Tourism after our initial meeting, she has reached out twice and will now reach out to Bridgette to see if we can get something set up.

Hall of Fame Committee – They are still working on getting signs made and getting a program put together for the naming ceremony during fair week.

Commercial Building – Nicole Mann – She has 12 signed contracts. She is thinking up ways to fill the building if we are not full and one idea was a cornhole area for the kids.

Food Vendors – Rachelle Kihlstrum – We are full for the 2023 Fair, and contracts are almost all in.

Presenting and Day Sponsors – Holly Plank - still working on getting a Presenting Sponsor and currently we have 1 day sponsor signed up. She will not be asking for any sponsorship for the events Tourism will be paying for.

Advertising – Chrissy Paxton – We will use the Daily Reporter for the Fair Preview, Corrugated Signs, and postcards for a total of $3,677. We will ask Tourism if we can use their geo tracking system before paying for the Daily Reporters.

Chrissy Paxton – We will be using the Junior Leaders shirt designs for shirts this year and the color chosen is Kelly Green. We will order hats also. Jesse Melton motions to order hats and shirts for the board and Holly Plank seconded – Motion Carries.

Stella Luna will be preforming on Friday Night June 23rd at the Bowl. It will cost $2,000. Debbie Vansickle motions to pay Stella Luna $2,000 to perform on Friday night and Chrissy Paxton seconded – Motion Carries.

New Business

None.

Old Business

Bylaws – Mike Elsbury said we will look at those after the fair is over.

Jesse Melton motions to adjourn and Lauren Conway seconded – Adjourned

Next working meeting is May 1st at 7:30 pm and the next regular meeting is May 15th at 6:30 pm in the exhibit hall.