**Stephenson County Fair Association Board Meeting Minutes**

**February 22, 2024**

**Stephenson County Farm Bureau Building**

The Stephenson County Fair Association meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Gary Mielke.

**Board Members Present:** Scott Brenner, Brittani DeVries, Wendell DeVries, Susie Dvorak, Kyle Fleischer, Denise Hayunga, Carla Meyer, Abby Mielke, Gary Mielke, Kris Shore, Becky Thomas, and Ethan Trampel.

**Board Members Absent:** Bill Clow, Victoria Hansen, and Lexi Hilliker.

**Executive Manager/Staff:** **Present**: Kate Boyer and Dale Sandell.

**Public Present**: Cindi Mielke, Stacey Evert, Karlene Beckmeier, Dawn Elliott, and Whitney Runkle.

**Items added to the agenda:** None.

**Public Comment:** None

**Secretary’s Minutes:** The January regular meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Kris Shore and seconded by Susie Dvorak. Motion carried. Minutes of the Closed Session held January 25, 2024, were approved on a motion by Kris Shore and seconded by Susie Dvorak. Motion carried. Minutes of the Special Meeting held February 12, 2024, were approved on a motion by Scott Brenner and seconded by Denise Hayunga. Motion carried.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Kyle Fleischer presented the January financial reports. They were approved on a motion by Scott Brenner and seconded by Denise Hayunga. Motion carried.

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance:** Kyle Fleischer presented information from the Finance committee. Funds from the general fund were used to purchase 2 CDs at Citizens State Bank. One CD is for 6 months and the other for 8 months.

Kyle reported that the upgrade to the septic system near the office to provide for long term camping will cost $6500.00 and is projected to begin late March.

A $4000 grant from Compeer will be applied for to be used for capital improvements. These may include upgrades to the beef barn and the new handrails for the grandstand. Kyle reminded members to review the information for the 501c3 foundation and the board will vote on this at the March meeting.

**Building and Grounds:**  Dale Sandell reported on the projects the grounds crew have been working on. The last ticket booth is under construction. As the weather permits, they will work on the beef wash rack.

**Commercial:** Wendell DeVries reported contracts are being received from vendors.

**Entertainment:**  Wendell DeVries reported contracts are being signed. Cindy Mielke reported she is getting Queen pageant judges. She has 3 new sponsors, and the 1st pageant information meeting will be April 6.

**Youth Night:** Brittani DeVries reported on the activities for youth night to include the chicken and hog scrambles. Followed by Tough Trucks.

**Livestock**: Brittani DeVries reported on needed improvements including lighting in hog barns. A motion was made by the committee to have a pen decorating contest. Motion seconded by Kris shore. Motion carried.

**Non-Livestock:** Susie Dvorak reported on dropping some classes and adding some new ones. She is also acquiring some new cabinets and shelving from the former Visitor Center.

**Anniversary Committee:** Susie Dvorak reported that the committee is discussing possible items to give away during our 170th fair celebration. These items may include pens and paper fans along with other items.

**Policy and Procedures:** Gary Mielke had board members review the report from this committee.

**Executive Manager Updates:** Kate Boyer reviewed her printed report. She has posted an online signup form for anyone wishing to help with workdays.

**Old Business:** The current issues with the Monster Truck Racing League are on hold currently, waiting for information from them. This is not the monster truck show planned for the 2024 fair.

**New Business:**  Susie Dvorak reported she will be doing a Fair History presentation for the Stephenson County Association for Home and Community Education on April 20 at 1:00 pm at the Farm Bureau and anyone interested may attend.

**Any Other Business**: None.

The next meeting will be March 28, 2024, at the Farm Bureau at 7:00 pm.

President Gary Mielke adjourned the meeting at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Meyer

Secretary