

Marion County Fair Board

To promote the diverse agricultural and cultural heritage of Marion County through active participation of its citizens.

Monthly Meeting

By Zoom

January 6, 2021 5:30 PM

In Attendance

Board Members: Mike Adams, Mark Banick, Joel Conder, Brandi Crandall, Shannon Gubbels, Pam Zielinski

Key Volunteers: Colleen Busch, Lesley Johnson, Rebecca Turner

Guests: Jill & Scott Ingalls, Ingalls & Associates; Melanie McCabe, 4H; Margie Tipton, 4H

Staff: Tamra Goettsch, Community Services Department Director

I. Call to Order/Introductions

II. Approval of December 2, 2020 Meeting Summary Notes- Shannon made a motion to approve the meeting summary notes; Mark seconded. Motion passed

III. 4H/FFA Reports

4H- Melanie McCabe

- Starting to contract with judges for the 2021 fair.
- Auction committee is making various contingency plans.
- Enrollment is down so far this year; this is probably due to no in-person programming since March.
- February 6 is the first beef weigh-in.
- Schools being open does not affect enrollment as 4H is “club-based;” however there are no opportunities for hands-on involvement at this time.

FFA- No representative present.

IV. Financial Report- Tamra Goettsch

Tamra is having staff look into the Administration Charges, checking that figure; these are fixed county costs.

No other changes to this month's report.

Mark made a motion to accept the Financial Report as presented; Shannon seconded. Motion passed.

V. Items of Special Interest

Fair Board/Board of Commissioners (BOC) Work Session- Mike Adams

Mike felt that Jill presented the various future plans well and that the BOC liked our plans for moving forward.

Jill said that there was "some nice brain storming" that occurred with the commissioners. She left with the feeling that the commissioners were pleased with what the fair board is planning for the future.

Tamra agreed; she felt the commissioners were pleased with how the fair board is planning on navigating during these COVID times.

Colleen felt the BOC was impressed on how we were able to "pivot" last year.

Fair Board Membership Status- Tamra Goettsch presented in Denise's absence

Michael Mendrin submitted a letter of resignation as he has too much going on at this time.

However, he hopes to be able to recommit to the fair board in the future. Mike said that he had spoken with Michael and that Michael felt really bad about having to resign. Mike believes he's a "stand-up guy" that has a lot to offer.

COVID Restriction Updates- Jill Ingalls

No real changes or updates at this time other than watching the results of the new vaccine and its impact on the future. She said that we are just waiting for the "goal post to move one direction or the other." Ingalls have communicated with fair suppliers about the change to a 3-day fair.

Scott said that he is talking to sponsors. His sponsor packages will have a caveat regarding language should the fair be cancelled. He is selling sponsors on all of the four levels of the fair (A,B,C&D.)

Tamra said that the Ingalls had provided her a list of supplies that could be purchased ahead of time to accommodate COVID restrictions should we have a fair. Her office conference room has turned into a storage room for everything that has arrived from sign stands to sanitizer. The money for the purchases comes from CARES Act money, not out of the fair budget. Jill noted that it was

“all hands on deck” with county staff in the huge rush of a shopping trip that had to occur before the end of the year.

VI. Strategic Plan Items

5.2.3 Review of Bylaws and Communication/Conflict Resolution Documents

Bylaws-Tamra said this is an annual review to ensure no changes are needed to the Bylaws.

Conflict Resolution Procedures- Tamra noted that the fair board needs to be in agreement on how to resolve conflicts and what is expected of all parties. She noted to new members that this is a communication tool developed to ensure all fair board members, and key volunteers, are successful in their communication with one another.

If after reviewing and someone sees changes are needed it can be brought back to next month’s meeting. Changes to the Bylaws requires a formal process that includes Legal Council and the BOC to approve suggested changes. The conflict resolution procedures is a more internal document that can be changed by this body alone.

VII. Other

Ingalls Report

- Ingalls are calling suppliers and discussing the different contract levels; some might not be able to service our fair this year.
- Jill and Melanie have been discussing the 4H/FFA schedules. They are starting with the previous years’ schedule.
- Jill needs to know what slots are open in the schedule and will seek help from Joel on the entertainment side as we lean heavily on local performers.
- Thursday’s fair schedule is being removed.
- She is looking at setting up the on-line ticketing system.
- There is a domino effect; anything that gets changed has a ripple effect on everything else.
- Denise has done an initial outreach to key volunteers and fair board members to see who wants to be involved with Public Competitions (PC) planning. Jill and Mike are looking for more members that want to be involved with PC.
- Jill has reached out to Melinda, the fair volunteer coordinator, regarding the new fair volunteer slots that need filling. Jill is currently updating the fair volunteer page.
- Denise will be updating the vendor applications to reflect COVID restrictions/changes.

Scott says that he has talked to suppliers. When someone tells him they won’t be participating in our fair, he goes to plan B, back-up providers. Walk-around acts don’t know how they will be able to do their shows. COVID has massively affected the industry.

Tamra said that she knows Melinda is working on the volunteer pieces. Jill said that she will strongly communicate with Melinda, keeping her in the loop on all volunteer components. She has asked Melinda to create a schedule and confirmation list of everyone's (fair board and interested parties) volunteer areas. Jill wants to ensure we know what volunteers have been confirmed and where they will be assigned. This will be incorporated in part of the recruitment process.

Tamra reminded folks of the OFA Virtual Convention occurring January 15. It is free to attend. Denise has sent out a link for registering. Jill encouraged everyone to participate. She said that there are fair board members everywhere participating and that they are "grappling" with the same issues as our fair board. It is a great networking resource. Participants will be able to see suppliers and entertainers via the virtual trade show. Many of these suppliers get "booked" at the convention. Mike noted that every time he goes to the convention, he comes away with new and helpful information.

The next fair board meeting is February 3; a virtual meeting utilizing this same Zoom link.

VIII. Meeting Adjourned: 6:15 PM