

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

Marion County Fair Board
Monthly Meeting- By Zoom
April 21, 2021 5:30 PM

Meeting Convened: 5:42 PM

I. Introductions/In Attendance

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

Key Volunteers: Colleen Busch, Amy Goulter-Allen, Lesley Johnson, Rebecca Turner

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

Staff: Denise Clark, Fair Program Coordinator; Tamra Goettsch, Community Services Department Director

II. Fair Plan Update- Ingalls and Associates

- Scott has met with 4H, FFA, and barns representatives to learn their facility needs.
- Wayne, from state fair, has sent him a map of the grounds.
- The vaccine clinic organizers have indicated that they might be willing to change the movement of the cars coming into the grounds, using just the north end of the livestock building. We might be able to use 75% of the Forster Pavilion. We would fence off the north end for a “privacy screen;” our access will be from the south end of the building.
- Will need to “pretty up” the area between the indoor and outdoor arenas.
- The total cost of the privacy fencing will be between \$3,000-\$3,500. (Perhaps the state fair will agree to assist in the cost of fencing since this is not in our use of the grounds rental agreement.)
- COVID restrictions impact may be:
 - A controlled walk through the east pavilion where the Public Competitions (PC), 4H displays, and possibly demonstrations, will be located. Folks would have a limited time for viewing the displays. (If less restrictive measures are put in place, can allow folks to linger longer.)
 - One way walk-through foot traffic with exiting out the west entrance of the pavilion.
- Outside of the east pavilion will be a gathering area. The food court and Boys & Girls Club activities and the “maker space” type activities will be located there. (It is hard to control fairgoers’ movements in this area.)
- The public would “stroll” to view the animals from the east pavilion to the barns and the Forster pavilion; we’d have something to “lead them along.” Perhaps have sponsor booths in that area.
- A positive is that there are a lot of restrooms in the east pavilion.
- Many fairs are increasing their strolling acts. These artists are available as they are staying in the area and not traveling as much.
- Fairs are calculating the occupancy load of each activity area of their fair.
- The interactive activities are modifying how they do their activities due to COVID; this may reduce our costs accordingly.
- By the next board meeting Jill will have budget adjustment figures to present.

- There are some sponsors interested in supporting STEAM.
- State Fair is saying that they are seeing less and less cars coming through the vaccine clinic.
- We can follow retail practices with our “Made in Marion Marketplace” approach with our outside commercial and food vendors. This means we develop foot traffic flow patterns and allows us to figure 54 sq. feet per person capacity. This will be worked out with the state fire marshal.
- We will need to put fair volunteer COVID monitors in place.

III. Food Vending Committee Update- Denise

Denise indicated that the food vendor committee met to review the 2021 applicants. Pam, Mike, Colleen, Jill and Denise participated on this year’s committee. Nine food booths were chosen for the coming fair. There is a nice variety of foods represented. Jill will be contacting all of the applicants and also letting the selected vendors know about the changes for this year’s fair such as there will be more “shuffling of booths” than normal.

IV. Other:

Melanie suggested a sample fair schedule for handling the animals- Horses (Monday, Tuesday); Beef/meat goats (Wednesday); sheep/poultry (Thursday); Swine/rabbits (Friday); llama show (possibly) and auction on Saturday. Sunday would be gaming/ranch horse and dairy goats. Swine would stay overnight due to their sensitivity to being hauled around. Jill said this arrangement helps in reducing our fair footprint. The challenges to the plan include coordinating the movement of the animals in/out and also pen cleaning between animal usage.

Tamra indicated that she and Commissioner Cameron will be meeting with state fair personnel tomorrow (4/22) to discuss use of the fairgrounds. They want to see if there is an opportunity for moving the vaccination clinic to accommodate our fair.

Jill gave kudos to Denise and the PC superintendents for working hard on modifying the PC department divisions/classes offerings.

V. Meeting Adjourned: 6:08 PM