

RICHLAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting
MARCH 25, 2025

Meeting was called to order by President Christy Keith at 7 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present.

Roll Call was taken.

Staff present: Shirley Swihart

Normal board agenda procedures were suspended so Tom Craft could administer the oath of office to newly elected board member Heath Hershner.

Guests present: Deb Boyce, Judy Villard-Overocker, Jim Tomlinson (Shriners), Drew Anderson and Jim Overocker

Secretary's Report: Bill McFarland made the motion to accept the minutes as submitted. Gene Esbenshade seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- **Bill McFarland made the motion to have the secretary's report emailed out to the board members in advance of the meeting. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. Motion carried**

Treasurer's Report: There was a question raised as to why there was such a high water bill (\$2,145.54). It was explained that we had a major water leak and it was probably due to that. **Zac Tuttle made the motion to approve the treasurer's report for later audit. Curt Fife seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Guest Jim Tomlinson from the Shriners was given the opportunity to talk with the board. Each year the Shriners use Fairhaven Hall and 8 stalls in the horse barn for an event that they hold for special needs youth. They have approximately 400 special needs youth from Richland County attend this event each year. It is always held the 3rd Thursday in September. One of their projects is to provide transportation to specialty hospitals in Dayton, Ohio and Erie, Pennsylvania for these special needs youth at no cost to their families. Each year O'Charley's provides food for this event at no cost. The Mansfield High School football players come out and walk beside the youth as they ride the horses. They do bring in a "petting" zoo which costs them \$1,000.00 for 3 hours. The current amount they are paying is \$400.00. Normally Fairhaven Hall is \$1300.00. They

come in on Wednesday and set everything up. Previously they did not pay anything. They are a 501C3 and they get their money from participating in parades. Jim asked the Board to consider rescinding the usage fee and allow them to use Fairhaven Hall and the horse barn for free. Christy Keith thanked him for coming in and presenting to the board and advised him that the Board of Directors would discuss his request at a later time.

Andrew Anderson painted a picture 2 years ago for the fairgrounds. It is currently in the administrative building's lobby. Pam had reached out to him about doing something for the fair. The idea is to do a mural on one of our buildings or the Grandstand. We would need to have a permit through the City of Mansfield to have this done. He had several suggestions. (See handouts). It would cost us \$10.00 per square foot plus material costs, probably between \$1,000.00 and \$1,250.00 for a 10x10 mural. He was asked if he could do something on the ground (tarmac). He never has, but would be open to doing that. The Board will discuss this at a later time.

Events Coordinator: Christy Keith reported that the Hog Sale is this weekend. She is filling in at this time and working with people for events. Showing buildings, having them sign contracts, giving them the keys, etc. Kathi Cutlip-Mills is helping when needed.

T-shirts – Need a new design for the 175th Anniversary. Need to have it for our next meeting.

Budget – Nothing to report

Livestock – David Dick reported that Sadie Hoyt was appointed to a 3 year term. He shared that they may need a new feeder calf superintendent.

Tagging is due by May 10, 2025. This year they are using Show Works. They are using square yellow tags and David has 840 of them. David is recommending that Rabbits do showmanship on Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. and Thursday, and on Wednesday breeding and market at 8:30 a.m. They will need 2 judges, 1 for Tuesday and 1 for Wednesday. **David Dick made the motion to have 2 days of Rabbit showing. Bill McFarland Seconded the motion.** Judy Villard-Overocker voiced her concern as the goat show starts at 8:30 on Tuesday as well. David said that this is being recommended as rabbits may be through the roof this year. The Junior Fair Board has to approve this first and then it has to come to the Senior

Fair Board for approval. **David Dick amended his motion to be subject to Junior Fair Board support and approval. Motion carried.**

He has made contacts for the electricity for the Arena Project. They moved \$35,500.00 out of the Phase II for door, roof and breeze-way. **Dave Grauer made a motion to allow Zimmerman to do this work. Bill McFarland seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

The manure pit has been extended and we will have to spend some money on cement blocks.

Employee update: We have 2 interviews on Wednesday this week. We will have to pay Spherion \$7500.00 if we hire through them. One of these candidates is through them the other saw the opening online.

The INC contract went out this week. We will make it clear to them that we should NOT have to pay for the clean-up day on the Monday after the event. Monday morning we will need to take pictures at 6 a.m. of the mess they leave behind. Dave stated if they don't clean up after the event like they are supposed to and we have to do it, he will send them a bill. Gene is to contact the same food vendors that have been here for them in the past.

Nature Park – Gene Esbenshade reported that he has groups booked except for Thursday night at the present time. He is working on afternoon programs so if anyone knows of a program that we could have, let him know.

Kitchen Auxiliary – we have several events coming up, like the Civil War, so if you and/or your spouse are available to help out, please let Carol know as we have to have both kitchens open for the Civil War.

Concert – Contracts for the artists have been signed and mailed out. We are currently working on sponsorships and plan to send out sponsorship requests to area businesses asking them for support.

Campgrounds – Remington Blevins reported that there are 8 people who have not paid for their campsite as of today. Remington will call them informing them they must be paid by May 1, 2025. If they have not paid by that date, they are out. The lottery will take place on July 8, 2025, at 6p.m. The Swap date is the week before that.

Racetrack - Nothing to report

Fair book – Pam Young is working on it

Golf Carts – They are \$275.00. If you want one, Scott Smith needs to know ASAP!

Junior Fair Board – Judy Villard-Overocker reported they will meet next Monday, March 31, 2025.

The windows in the Dairy Bar in the John Hartz building need replaced. They will run \$775.00 to \$975.00 each. It should be a 1 day job. Judy will need to notify Christy when they will work on the windows. There are also some other improvements that need to be done on the building.

The Mock Car Crash will be on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, and rehearsal will be on May 5th. Judy asked if they would have lunch provided and Christy Keith said no because last year we fixed a lunch and only 3 people ate.

By-laws – nothing to report

Sponsorships – Bill McFarland is working on some and encouraged all Board members to work on getting some.

Admissions – nothing to report **Elections** – nothing to report

Grandstands – nothing to report **Parking** – nothing to report

Antiques – no one seems to know where the records are as to what is owned by whom.

Concessions – Kathi Cutlip-Mills reported that all of the contracts have gone out and are starting to come in. We do have several vendors who would like to join us this year. If we don't hear from some of the vendors, she will call them and ask them their intent and if we don't hear at all, we will notify them because of their lack of communication we will move on to other vendors. She is going to start concentrating on merchants for Fairhaven Hall now.

Equine - Marla Reynolds shared that they have a "fuzzy" Show scheduled on April 19, 2025. She will ask Marcie to present at our next meeting.

Raffles – Christy Keith reported that we are getting a \$1700.00 donation from the Sportsman's Den. So our revenue will be higher. She did distribute a breakdown of income and expenses for this year's Gun Raffle, \$126,654.43, and after expenses we show a total income of \$67,421.25.

Social Media – nothing to report

Safety – Kathi Cutlip-Mills shared that Dustin Moysi is going to help to review and establish new safety procedures to present to the Board

Infield- There needs to be a meeting scheduled soon.

A letter from Bill Browning, President of Full Tilt Promotions shared his concerns regarding moving the Demolition Derby to another night. A brief discussion was

held. **David Dick made a motion to keep the Demolition Derby on Saturday night as it has been. Tom Craft seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

The cost for the Demolition Derby will be \$12,000.00. More people are needed to work that event. **David Dick made the motion to go with John Grey and Full Tilt Promotions for the Derby. Zac Tuttle seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Grandstand/Ground- Tom Craft that he needs to know as soon as possible when the first event will be held in the Grandstand so he can turn the water on, get the restrooms ready to go and make sure they are cleaned.

Entertainment-nothing to report

Winter Storage-Bill McFarland reminded everyone that move out date is Saturday, April 12, 2025 and he needs lots of eyes. He also shared that take-in and take-out dates have been scheduled up through 2028. This was done so other things will not be scheduled on the same dates.

Show Arena-already covered

LS Judges Selection-James Schaub II reported that all judges have been selected

Kitchen Auxiliary-already covered

Grounds-Dave Grauer shared that the Grounds Committee will meet next week Thursday night at his place, time is 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend. They need to see what needs to be done with the leak. He will meet with the goat and sheep committee. Young people from Pioneer will be coming in April to do some clean up around the grounds. We need to meet to determine what needs done first as there are a number of things that need attention. If you have something that needs done let Dave know. We will order pizza for the youth that come out that day.

There is an online auction going on now in the Lucas Area. They have 35 cement barriers. The auction ends Friday night. Currently the auction is at \$5.00 each. We do need a timeline as to when they need to get moved from their current location. It was agreed that we need to proceed on getting them. **Dale Hulit made the motion that we authorize Dave Grauer to spend up to \$2500.00 on concrete barriers. Curt Fife seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Dave shared that Cody is to work on the electric this week.

Dave made the manure pit bigger and we need more cement blocks for it.

A couple of the hydrants are leaking and need replaced. The biggest leak issue is by the sheep barn. We may have to dig the area up.

The glass doors in the front of Fairhaven Hall will not lock. He is going to call All Glass tomorrow for a quote from them. J&B recommended that we go with 4 doors, not 8 and install tempered glass where the other doors are currently. Their estimate is \$18,720.00 and that is with us doing some of the work. Adeana's quote is \$44,000.00 and that would be turn-key with them doing all of the work. We need to discuss this at our next meeting.

Old Business: Kathi Cutlip-Mills apologized but has not been able to get any dates firmed up yet.

New Business:

- Christy Keith asked the question: should we have fireworks at the fair? We do not have a sponsor for them at this time. Jim Schaub II said that he feels that we need the 500 parking spaces more than we need fireworks, as we lose that many parking spaces when we have to close the parking lot across from the fairgrounds. **David Dick made the motion that we do not do fireworks this year. Tom Craft seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Other:

- Kathi Cutlip-Mills reminded everyone that the Craft, Antique and Shabby Chic show are on Saturday April 26, 2025. She will need help measuring off spaces the Thursday before. She also asked members to take the yard signs and put them in their yards or places of employment to help spread the word.
- Dale Hulit shared that we need more carts for tables. It was determined that we need to find someone to build carts for tables and chairs. Dale Hulit was asked to chair that committee and Matt Janisch will co-chair it.
- Christy Keith, Mark Cook and Dave Grauer will get 50 more tables @ \$20.00 each from the Madison Bingo group. They are white ones like we have.
- The Board of Directors then addressed the Shriners request. It was brought up that the Board voted in either 2022 or 2023 to keep it at \$400.00 to help cover our expenses. No one felt it should be changed. Tom Craft will reach out to see if they have contacted any service group to help them cover the rental fee. He thought maybe the Kiwanis would assist them.

- Drew was asked who would do the mural. He said that he would do it himself. He will submit a couple of renderings for us to pick from. He could do a 3'x40' on the ticket booth. **Carol Toms made a motion to move forward with the mural. Chris Campbell seconded the motion. Motion carried.**
- Kathi Cutlip-Mills asked if the sign on the back of the Youth Hall could either be changed or taken down as it lists that building as Fairhaven Cafeteria. It is confusing to people since we refer to that as the Youth Hall Cafeteria and the cafeteria in Fairhaven Hall as its cafeteria.

Bill McFarland made the motion to adjourn. Dale Bemiller seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn G. Cutlip-Mills
Secretary