

RICHLAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

September 23, 2025

President Christy Keith called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance to our flag was said by all present.

Roll call of members was taken.

Staff present: Shirley Swihart and Lisa Roberts

Guests present: Pam Young, Bailey Dewitt, Stephanie Willis, Kenneth C. Niese, Bailey Dewitt, Billi Bickers, Deb Boyce and Philip Metzger

Secretary's report: Remington Blevins made the motion to accept the secretary's report as submitted. Zac Tuttle seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Shirley answered questions that were asked. Dale Hult made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report for future audit. Carol Toms seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Guest: Bailey Dewitt from JPB Professional Marketing was introduced by David Dick. David asked them to come in and discuss how they can help market our rental spaces and activities. We are currently not coming close to having rentals 51 weeks per year in our buildings. They would help by keeping our website current, putting on pictures of activities that are going on and our website would be on google and visible in a 4-5 county area. The monthly investment would be \$800.00 with a monthly discount of \$100.00 for our providing them signage, therefore \$700.00 per month would be the fee. They would require a three month advance of \$2100.00 with 12 payments then of \$525.00 per month. We would have to sign a 12 month contract. Discussion was held. David Dick will follow up with Bailey.

Event Coordinator's Report:

- Lisa Roberts shared that the Diesel Truck Show went fairly well. She is meeting with Dakota later this week to get final monies. Paving of the area where they did the "burn-outs" was discussed. It was determined that it does not need paved at this time. **Bill McFarland made the motion not to charge to pave the area where the burn-out pit was. Dave Grauer seconded the motion. Motion carried with 1 negative vote.**
- The Richland County Public Health Department would like to use the fairgrounds the weekend of July 30th thru August 1st, 2027. It is for a "Guard Care" event. They would probably move things in on the July 29th and may not be able to move everything out until Monday, August 2, 2027. Discussion was held and overall consensus was that it would not be possible since we will have things moving in that weekend getting ready for the fair to start on Sunday, August 8, 2027. **David Dick made the motion not to have this event. Jim Schaub seconded the motion. Motion carried with 1 abstention.**

Committee Reports:

T-Shirts: Nothing at this time.

Budget: David Dick stated that we will have to schedule a meeting. David later sent a message out via group message that there will be a budget meeting on Monday, October 13, 2025 at noon at the Fair Office. All are welcome.

Livestock: Nothing at this time.

Nature Park: Nothing at this time

Campground: Remington stated there need to be some changes in the rules in the contracts. Remington will have the proposed changes for our next meeting.

Racetrack: Nothing at this time.

Fair book: Pam Young reminded the board members of the deadline for things to be in the fair book, especially specific times.

Golf Carts: Scott Smith said that we will need to do a new contract with the golf cart company.

JFB: They are in the process of conducting interviews at the present time.

By-Laws: Nothing at this time.

Sponsorships: Bill McFarland would like to have a meeting in October so things can get started prior to the time when businesses will be doing their "sponsorship" budgets for 2026.

Admissions: We will need someone to take chair of that committee for next year. Please let Christy Keith know if anyone is interested. We really need to consider going digital next year.

Elections: We currently have one open space for the term year ending 2026. We need to decide if we should let that position set idle until elections in 2026.

Grandstands: Tom Craft shared that he would like to close it up on Saturday, October 25, 2025. The same day as the first winter storage move-in.

Parking: Nothing at this time.

Antiques: Someone will need to take this over next year as the gentleman who has been doing it is stepping down.

Concessions: Kathi Cutlip-Mills asked if it were possible to move some things out of Fairhaven Hall annex for the next fair. She has some of the new vendors who would like to have two spaces. She would like to expand into that area with 4-5, 10x10 spaces. She is concerned that if we put merchant vendors in the Youth Hall no one will go in there as there isn't much else going on in there.

Equine: There will be a Fuzzy Show on Sunday, October 5, 2025.

Raffles: Christy Keith reminded everyone that our Sportsman's Den Raffle will be on Saturday, March 7, 2026.

Social Media: Nothing at this time **Safety:** Nothing at this time

Infield: Bill McFarland would like to have a meeting. Don't book anything for the infield until spring.

Grandstand/Grounds: Nothing at this time. **Entertainment:** Nothing at this time.

Winter Storage: Bill McFarland reminded everyone that move-in dates and times for unit move-in is Saturdays, October 25, 2025, and November 8, 2025. Units can be brought in between 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. either date. Board members cannot move their units in prior to those times unless they pay for them.

Show Arena: Nothing at this time. **LS Judges Selection:** Nothing at this time.

Kitchen Auxiliary: Nothing at this time.

Grounds:

- Dave Grauer reported that the ceiling in between the doors in Fairhaven Hall has been replaced.
- Dave said that we need to figure out a time when the layout for the bleachers can be done.
- Shirley asked if there were any additional bills to come in for the doors and/or landscaping.
- There is a bee's nest by the back door of the Youth Hall that needs to be taken care of. We may need to have someone come in to take care of it.
- Dave is to get in touch with someone for pricing of additional cement barriers

Old Business:

There has been a discussion about requiring proof of insurance for individuals storing campers, cars, boats, etc. at the fairgrounds. **Chris Campbell made the motion to not require proof of insurance. Tom Craft seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

New Business:

JPB for publicity: DRM is our current host for our website. Shirley would need to let them know to give Bailey access. **David Dick made a motion to have JPB do our website for 1 year. Bill McFarland seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Other:

- Christy Keith shared the dates for the 2026 OFMA. It will be held January 15, 16, 17 & 18, 2026. Please let Christy know if you want to go so she can get you signed up. The Board pays for the board members' registration. **Kathi Cutlip-Mills made a motion to have Gene Esbshade as the Board's Delegate. Dale Hulit seconded the motion. Gene agreed to do so. Motion passed.** Christy reminded everyone that we need a second. Dale Hulit agreed to be the back-up if Gene cannot do it.
- Dale Hulit stated that he thinks the Mansfield track will be a big competition for us in the future.
- Phil Metzger shared that Cody Crouse still has his truck at the fairgrounds. Cody will probably be done in 3 or 4 days. Also, we need to contact Ohio Edison for the pole cross arms. Phil will come in and meet with Shirley and Lisa for this as Ohio Edison will need our account number.

Remington Blevins moved that the meeting adjourn at 8:34 p.m. Dale Bemiller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Kathi Cutlip-Mills, Secretary