

Northwestern Michigan Fair

Board of Directors Meeting

August 15, 2024

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Joe Hubbell at 7:01 pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by Karen Zenner.
3. **Roll Call:** By Tom Looks
 - a. **Board Members Present:** Al Henning, Carolyne Woodhams, Clarissa Johnston (7:04pm), Cody Foster, Erika Sprenger, Jill Duell, Joe Hubbell, Karen Zenner, Laurie Ashley, Milt Lewis, Molly Caminata, Sonya Youker, Tammara Sanchez, Tom Looks
 - b. **Board Members Absent:** Frank Guerin
 - c. **Visitors Present:** Keri Bancroft, Amanda Wilkins, Sherri Forton, Nicki Brown, Todd Brown, Dean Domnoske, Dale & Dorothy Fritz, Jack Hubbell, Patrick McCarry, Dan Sheffer
4. **Review Agenda**
 - a. **Motion 8.15.24.1:** A. Henning/E. Sprenger made a motion to approve August 15, 2024 Agenda as amended. **Motion passed unanimously.**
5. **Correspondence:** Tom and Laurie shared letter regarding the BATA buses not dropping off at the front gate. (Note: We do not have any policy limiting anyone from being dropped off at the front gate, we ask that BATA follows the flow of traffic. BATA chose not to follow the flow of traffic and did not come in.)
6. **President's Report:** 352 days until fair. This table of people with all different personalities brought it all together and we had a great week. Thank you everyone, you did a great job.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Tammara shared the treasurer's report and check register. Joe passed around the Arnold's Amusement Report for the week.
8. **Presentation & Approval of Meeting Minutes:**
 - a. **Motion 8.15.24.2:** E. Sprenger/A. Henning made a motion to approve minutes from July 25, 2024 meeting as written. **Motion passed unanimously.**
9. **Public Comment:** No Public Comment.
10. **New Business:**
 - a. Al Henning
 - i. Strong odor of marijuana coming out of the housing area for the amusement workers. Also, there were plants observed outside of their housing. Joe will call and talk with the Arnold's about it. Al also was made aware that multiple 4H club campers had the odor of Marijuana near them also.
 - ii. The sick pig news spread very quickly over social media. In the future, we should be careful to guard and discuss what communication is published over social media and what conversations are held. The pig was tested and came back negative for all sicknesses. Moving forward we will not be discussing the sickness.
 - b. Cody Foster – Jonathan LaChance was in a car accident the day before fair this year. His deposit was rolled over from Covid. He did call yesterday and wondered if we wanted to roll his deposit over to 2025. Do we want to ask for a refund or apply his deposit to 2025? If we do bring him in for the 2025 fair, we would approximately owe \$3500 to him. The board agreed that we ask for our deposit to be returned.
11. **4H Livestock Council:**
 - a. Keri Bancroft – Overall had a great week. Will be sitting down with Species chairs and superintendents about changing some of the shows. When processing trucks were coming in on Sunday morning, there were issues with campers pulling out, blocking and causing

processing trucks to back out onto the road. Would like to have campers return to not moving out until after 9:00 am. The swine loadout was the smoothest and quickest they have ever seen, with no kids in the barn. They may be looking at that moving forward. With MDARD guidance, they would like to try to decrease the number of days that the swine are here on grounds. The saw dust and stalls will be removed from the swine barn on the 21st during a work bee. The auction number broke the previous record at \$1,182,000 with less kids. There are 4 animals that did not make it to the resale table and are on Facebook. The money for the 4 animals are going to the bleacher fund. The Johnson Foundation did donate some of the animals back to go towards a lean-to/Haberlein Expansion and bleacher fund.

12. Unfinished Business:

- a. Al Henning – Years ago we talked about an alteration of the auction where there would be no open sale of animals on the grounds. We have had one of our frequent visitors sell two rabbits in front of the Rabbit Superintendent. The No Open Animal Sale policy was reviewed. **A vote took place and a 1 year ban on the individual from bringing animals to the fairgrounds. Passing with 13 votes and 1 abstaining.** The policy and by-laws committee will review the No Open Animal Sale policy.

13. Committee Reports:

- a. Molly – Ideas for keeping bingo open all week next year and may have a new group interested in next year.
- b. Jill – Golf carts went really well. Want to prepay again next year. Kid's day went better than previous years. Mary Free Bed wants to come back again next year. Will be having Tickets and Gates committee for next year.
- c. Karen – Fair Camping went smooth overall, but we will be having a meeting to discuss improvements. One issue will be solved by giving ½ off camping next year.
- d. Laurie – Heim building went smooth, have a few improvements that can be made. Karen suggested that exhibitors to the Heim building have a map of the grounds included so they know how to get to the building. Have a request for an additional light the corner with the new quilt rack.
- e. Erika – Merchandise went great this year. We did not meet our goal but got close. Friday was our biggest night of sales. Still have some t shirts and quarter zips left. Looking into the online store again starting in October and ending in December. Still selling pig raffle tickets with proceeds going to the Draft Horse Barn.
- f. Al – We worked well through all of our issues. It would be good for the policy committee to go through the animal health policy. Superintendents did well, need to remind people to get the correct signs on the buildings. Dual sound system for the Veteran's Memorial worked great. For next year, looking at improving the garden.
- g. Sonya – Parking went fantastic. The group would like to come back again next year. Ribbons worked out alright.
- h. Tammara – Budget meeting is October 3 at 6:30 pm. Hadley's last day is tomorrow.
- i. Clarissa – Information Tent, BASA did a great job this year. Several groups want to return again next year. The most difficult topic was about what passes people needed. We have Ashley Folkersma as the 2024 queen, we also have a Homemaker and a Jr. Homemaker. They are lining up for events already. Would like to thank McCarry's Clydesdales for the annual queen parade around the fairgrounds.
- j. Milt – Museum was a hit again. We have a book for everyone to sign and had close to 1000 people sign it, they were from 16 states and 10 countries. We received a lot of good comments about the museum and the grounds in general.

- k. Carolyne – Olivia Rice was the only person that had pictures with all of us and won free camping for next year. Advertising went well would like to do more next year. By-Laws and Policy committee. By-law amendments needed to be approved tonight to go to the membership. By-Law amendments were reviewed. **All By-Law amendment proposals were approved unanimously by the board to move forward to the annual meeting.** Pancake breakfast went well. Working on Sponsors for next year. The pizza vendor wants to partner with us for the lowest attended event for next year.

i. By-Law Amendment Proposals

Article II

Sec. (2)

MEMBER ELIGIBILITY: To become an Annual Member of the Northwestern Michigan Fair Association, a prospective member must be a resident of the United States and have attained the age of eighteen (18) years. Membership dues are ~~\$15~~ **(\$25)** and include voting rights and entry to the fair each year they are paid. Membership is for one year from January 1st to December 31st. Lifetime Memberships issued prior to amended date are grandfathered in. (11/2015)

Article IV

Sec. (4)

ELECTION: Directors of the Association shall be elected by a majority vote of the Membership, voting in person at the Annual Meeting of the Membership or any Special Meeting called to fill Directorship vacancies. To be eligible to become a Director, the candidate must be a Lifetime Member or an Annual Member of the Northwestern Michigan Fair Association at the time prior to the meeting that the Secretary closes the Membership Roll. Those wishing to be considered for election as Director, shall make such a request in writing to the Secretary not less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting at which vacancies are to be filled. The Secretary shall submit the list of candidates to the Membership prior to voting at the meeting. Each Member may cast one (1) vote for each vacancy to be filled. Voting on Directorship vacancies shall be by written ballot only on forms provided by the Secretary. The ~~Secretary~~ **(Annual Meeting Committee)** shall collect and tally all votes, and announce the results of the elections prior to the time that the Membership meeting is adjourned. All newly elected and qualified Directors shall immediately assume their seat on the Board of Directors. ~~If the Secretary is standing for re-election to the Board, the President or Chairman of the meeting shall appoint one person from the Board of Directors who is not standing for re-election to fulfill the election duties of the Secretary.~~

Sec. (8)

PLACE OF MEETING: The Directors may hold their meetings in such places within our Five County Service Area as a majority of the Board of Directors may determine. Note: The Board of Directors must notify and post 30 days in advance if a meeting place has been changed per the vote of the Board at the last Board of Directors Meeting. Special Note: For the Month of January when convention is held, the Board of Directors meeting would be held at the place of convention for all Board of Directors in attendance in order to vote on signing vendors and/or entertainment for the upcoming fair. (11/2014) (with the monthly meeting moved to the following Thursday for public and membership.)

Article V

Sec. (3)

ACCOUNTING COMMITTEE: The Executive Committee shall annually appoint an accounting committee composed of three (3) Association Members (who are not at the time of appointment serving as Directors). The Accounting Committee shall review the Association's records and financial reports (**guided by audit policy in NWMF Policies and Procedure**), make recommendations to the Board of Directors as to the necessity of an outside audit or proposed changes in the keeping of Association records and books of account. The report of the Accounting Committee shall be presented at the ~~December~~ **(February)** meeting of the Board of Directors.

Article VIII

Sec. (3)

PROCEDURE: At any meeting at which a proposed By-Law amendment is submitted to the Membership, the written proposal may be altered by the Membership upon any request of two (2) Members to do so. The proposed amendment may then be altered if the alteration is approved by a majority of active members present. The Secretary shall keep written record of all alterations to the proposed by-law amendment approved by the Membership. Voting on alterations to proposed By-Law amendments may be by any method chosen by the Presiding Officer of the meeting. At such point as no further alterations to the proposed By-Law amendment are forthcoming, the Membership shall vote on the proposed amendment with any alterations previously approved by the Membership. Final voting on the amendment shall be by written ballot only, with each Member marking "yes" or "no" as to each proposed amendment on forms provided by the Secretary. The ~~Secretary~~ **(Annual Meeting Committee)** shall collect and tally all votes, and announce whether or not the amendment was approved before the Membership meeting is adjourned. All amendments adopted by the Membership shall be placed in the Association records and shall take effect at such time as is noted in the approved amendment. If no such time is included in the amendment, the amended By-Law shall have immediate effect.

- l. Cody – Did everybody get a chance to watch two rodeos? Kathy with Super Kicker Rodeo is asking if we were bringing back two rodeos again next year or do we want to only have one. We did have a lot of complaints about the Tough Trucks not being on Thursday. Overall the comments on Twisted P Rodeo were very favorable. The board suggested to see with Twisted P Rodeo can do for Saturday next year. We do need to do some work on implements that we use in the pit area. Dale Fritz may know a location on a trailer disk and chisel plow for us to purchase. Chainsaw carvings that remain, please text the bid to Cody. We talked about taking one to convention again this year.
- m. Tom – Ticketing equipment was shipped back, have a list of equipment we are not getting next year. Annual Memberships have been changed to be a ticket with a QR Code so they can be more easily looked up and scanned. Still working on the totals for the Ice Sales but we did get an Ice maker donated by Ron Lemcool from the Cherry Country Café & Gift Shop. It will make 330lbs of ice every 24 hours. Have been in communication with the Annual Meeting Committee for the Annual Meeting in November. The Fair Board Director Application is ready to be published.
- n. Frank – Tom shared Frank’s email of committee reports for concessions and Rentals & Contracts.
- o. Joe – The grandstands project went well. There are a few things to tweak with the sound system still. Did have a few suggestions and will be getting pricing to eliminate the grass between the concrete and the fence and replace it with concrete. Marty Cotanche offered \$25,000 to have a sign on the front of the Grandstand Announcer’s booth. Great Lakes Well Repair has given us \$1,000 to sponsor the TV. Gibby’s sponsored a sign and Culver Meadows will be sponsoring a sign also. We do have a lot of extra braces for the grandstands, but the bleachers are built correctly to the blueprints. Cody had a fencing contractor competing during an event and the privacy slots might be installed improperly. There are also different privacy slat sizes, and we may have gotten ones that are too small. The sliding gate at the grandstand entrance was made a little too short and doesn’t close properly. For Buildings and Grounds we did identify a few power issues near where Smoking Steve’s sets up and behind where Gibby’s sets up. Both need to be fixed, Joe will get pricing on parts. We do have a few issues in the bathrooms to fix. Milt suggested replacing all wooden poles on the grounds, they have been in the ground for 49 years and are worn. Clarissa is wondering if the fair would be interested in purchasing the water tank that she used to take care of the flowers during fair week. **Cody/Jill proposed to purchase Clarissa’s water tank for \$250 for watering the grounds. This fits in the budget and is less than \$500 so no vote is needed.** Safety & Security – we may need to look at hiring someone to do nighttime patrols or have volunteer groups do it, this will be revisited in the future.

14. **Adjournment:**

- a. **Motion 8.15.24.3:** S. Youker/C. Woodhams made motion to adjourn at 9:07 pm. **Motion passed unanimously.**