



Lancaster County Agricultural Society, Inc.  
4100 N. 84th St, Lincoln, NE 68507  
MINUTES  
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting  
Board Room--Lancaster Event Center Office  
Thursday, August 30, 2018 at 7:30pm

President Dowding called the meeting of the Lancaster County Agriculture Society to order at 7:53pm, immediately following the budget hearing. Proof of due notice was given with the Nebraska Open Meeting Act posted.

Board members present were Cooper, Dowding, Messick, Rawlinson, Ronnau, Rutt, Swanson and Suing with Bauman being absent and not voting.

It was moved by Suing and seconded by Ronnau to approve the July minutes, as amended. Motion passed 8-0 with Bauman absent and not voting.

Moved by Rawlinson and seconded by Ronnau to approve the July Financials. The motion was approved 8-0 with Bauman absent and not voting. It was moved by Ronnau and seconded by Rawlinson to approve the paying of the checks in the amount of \$244,796.62. The motion was approved 8-0 with Bauman absent and not voting. The Aging Summary was presented for information.

**Officer and Committee reports**

- President (Dowding) – Nothing to report
  
- Vice President (Ronnau) – Ronnau stated she thought it was a really good fair this year with the new format. She acknowledged that there are some adjustments that were needed in order to make the fair a better experience for all fairgoers, exhibitors and vendors. She further stated the Fair Committee had already met, had some preliminary discussions about the 2019 Fair, and would be meeting again in September to work on some more details.
  
- Secretary (Bauman) – Absent.
  
- Treasurer (Rutt) – Nothing to report
  
- Committee Reports:
  - Personnel (Ronnau) – Ronnau reported the committee had met a couple of times. She also reported that she had met again with Mark Schorr.
  
  - Phase 3 (Rawlinson) – Rawlinson reported she had met with Amy Dickerson and received updates. During the discussion, Messick reminded all Board Members that it was premature, and not appropriate, to discuss any potential financial numbers regarding Phase 3 with the public.
  
  - Grievance (Cooper) – Nothing to report.

## **2018 Fair Update**

- On behalf of the Managing Director, Bruce Gubser informed the Board that a detailed report on attendance and financial data related to the 2018 Fair would be presented at the September board meeting.
- Discussion between members included observations that the carnival days were not as prominently advertised/displayed as was expected. As such, the members thought that could be one potential reason for less-than-expected attendance during the carnival days. Several members noted they were present at various times during the carnival days and witnessed the lack of carnival goers.
- Ronnau stated she was happy that she observed many good things happening throughout the Fair. She encouraged Board members to write down both good and bad observations, solicit comments from the public, and share them with other Board members over the coming weeks during discussions about the 2019 Fair.
- Dowding and Messick observed that missing from the 2018 Fair Book was the Lancaster County 4-H Members Code of Conduct, the Nebraska 4-H Volunteer Code of Ethics and the "Word about Sportsmanship" that have appeared in previous Fair Books. They asked that staff include those items during preparation of future Fair Books.
- Swanson reported that it would have been very helpful if wireless microphones were made available to the judges of livestock events. By way of example, he observed a sheep judge experiencing frustration with a corded microphone in that the cord was not long enough for the judge to adequately and publicly praise the winners and other exhibitors of his event.
- Regarding Open Class, the general feeling was that having the combined room was very nice. It was noted, however, that the open hours should be extended and that Open Class should be judged the same hours as 4-H. It was noted that fewer quilts were entered this year, due to other competing quilt shows in the local area happening at the same time. Regarding quilts, it was noted that additional signage would be helpful next year to help the public more easily find the quilt display area. Exhibitors and the public thought the use of the wire grids for display was a wonderful idea and would like to see that going forward. Regarding Open Class entries, it was reported that although the number of exhibitors was slightly down this year (395 vs 400), the number of entries was up significantly (3,307 vs 2,499). It was also noted that there was a significant decrease in the number of Youth Textile entries.
- Paula Peterson reported on Fun at the Farm activities. She stated she gave some 225 goodie bags to preschoolers. She reported an estimated 900-1,000 kids participated in activities there. She also reported she has a couple of new exhibits in the planning stages for next year, including a "pollinator exhibit."

## **Managing Director/Event Center report (Dickerson)**

Absent. No report.

Bruce gave an update on his observations since joining the staff about five weeks ago. He was pleased with the overall operation and was impressed with the manner in which all the staff pitched in to ensure a positive Fair experience and general operations of the Event Center. He noted some areas in the Business Office where efficiencies could be gained regarding the processing of the tremendous amount of paper (invoices, purchase requests, etc.) that is routed to various places and persons within the organization. He noted that some documentation is routed to the same person multiple times and was probably not the most efficient use of that person's resources. By way of example, he noted that Karen often sees check-related documentation up to three or four times. Additionally, Amy often sees various documentation up to four or five times. He acknowledged that the Board has a responsibility to oversee and provide direction and that he would continue discussions with Amy in an effort to ensure the Board's intent was met with regard to internal controls and separation of duties. Bruce also stated his, and Amy's, intent to provide the Board with an operational budget at the November meeting.

## **Appointment of Nominating Committee for annual Board election**

Dowding appointed the following Board members to the Nominating Committee: Dowding, Cooper, and Bauman

**Date for Joint meeting with County Commissioners and Annual Meeting**

Dowding stated Amy is working with Commission staff to schedule the joint meeting in mid-November. Dowding proposed the December meeting to be on December 13<sup>th</sup> (second Thursday). It was moved by Ronnau and seconded by Messick to approve moving the December meeting to December 13<sup>th</sup>. Motion passed 8-0 with Bauman absent and not voting.

**Communication from the public (5 minute limit per person):**

The Extension Office thanked the Board for providing a positive Fair experience for all.

Moved by Ronnau and seconded by Messick to adjourn at 9:19pm. The motion was approved 8-0 with Bauman absent and not voting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kendra Ronnau - LCAS Vice President (as Secretary not present)

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Vice President Ronnau

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President Dowding

Next meeting: September 20, 2018 at 7:30 PM