

**Lancaster County Agriculture Society**  
**4100 N. 84<sup>th</sup> St**  
**Lincoln, NE 68507**  
**MINUTES**  
**Thursday, May 18, 2017 at 7:30PM**

Vice President Ronnau called the meeting of the Lancaster County Agriculture Society to order. Proof of due notice was given with the Nebraska Open Meeting Act posted.

Board members present were Bauman, Cooper, Messick, Ronnaue, Rutt, Suing and Wilkinson, with Dowding and Swanson being absent.

The minutes from the April meeting were approved as corrected.

Moved by Suing and seconded by Cooper to approve the March financials. The motion was approved 7-0 with Dowding and Swanson absent and not voting. Moved by Messick and seconded Cooper to approve the paying of the checks in the amount of \$209,583.11. The motion was approved 7-0 with Dowding and Swanson absent and not voting. The Aging Summary was presented for information.

**Officer Reports:** Vice President Ronnau gave a Future Fair committee report. The committee is hoping to gather information from previous fair books to find a good place to start in the planning. Secretary Bauman gave a band update. Currently \$5,000 in savings for the free stage with a good diversity of music. There are a couple of spaces to fill. Currently talking with several free bands and local community groups to fill in the blanks. There were no other reports.

**2017 Fair Update:** Managing Director Dickerson gave an update on the upcoming fair. As Jamie previously mentioned, most bands are booked with half of the vendor spots in the MPA sold. Rental equipment and LPD/medical needs have been booked as well. LEC staff is currently preparing to order tickets and will be sending out the 4-H family flyer. There has been discussion about canceling Bingo for 2017. Having a hard time finding a group to take it over and not sure it's a good use of LEC staff time to manage it. Staff have also considered doing a survey on the fair, given to the public to get feed back on how to improve the fair goers experience. There has also been some brainstorming on developing new learning activities. GMO awareness was at the top of the list. Discussion was had on finding a seed dealer to provide information or to be a sponsor of this activity. UNL might be a good resource as well. Vice President Ronnau would reach out to Colin Kubick and see if anything is available at the high school level. Hoyt Kraeger is working on a Rodeo 101 activity. Advertising is currently being scheduled and assigned along with filling in volunteer and sponsorship spots. It was announced that Runza was lost as ticket sponsor but Westgate Bank has taken its spot. Pizza Ranch will be on the back of the etix tickets. Amy mentioned some huge cost savings in Hamilton Equipment donating the use of equipment to use for drainage work and securing three horse back volunteers to help with parking. This will save 2 parking people / day on Friday and Saturdays. Gana will sponsor the Figure 8 race. Other cost savings in the works is an opportunity with Walmart possibly donating ticket gate volunteers (could be worth ~\$6,600). With AKSARBEN moving to Grand Island, the Super Fair will no longer be able to use their hog panels. Currently looking at buying the panels from AKSARBEN. The Showworks website is schedule to be done on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Info is due now. Open superintendents will work with Trudy. Trudy is working on the VIP luncheon. Applications were sent in for Aksarben awards and hall of fame was decided for 2017 fair. This year we will hold in the Nebraska room where it is air conditioned.

**Managing Director report:** Managing Director Report- Dickerson has had several meetings with event promoters that came through the Center to see what all the LEC has to offer. She has also spend a lot of time engaging with other local groups at various community events (LCZ ground breaking, Lincoln

CVB/Visitors promotion committee), LIBA, and Chamber Grand Opening. Also giving several presentations on LEC and NHSFR at downtown rotary, 4-H council, extension board. She was invited to join the downtown rotary and she has turned in that application. There has been opportunity to visit with several customers: The farm show very interested in helping with way-finding signage, Amy and staff also took a NHSFR trip to Iowa. Conversations with the city county departments about StarTran and finding ways to get fair goers over the bus stop at Walmart is in the works. Part of phase 3 would be adding a bus stop here. Being able to show that we would keep people using it better chance of keeping it. Phase 3 planning is in progress. Dickerson took a plan and had a master planning input session with city departments Vice president Ronnau felt the meeting went well. With the construction work on the intersection and projected close down schedule we need to be very careful with the major events we have planned during those close downs. We need to consider secondary access on the south side of the LEC and work with city planning on these possibilities. Contracts will be coming soon for rodeo construction. Dickerson also mentioned the change in financial planning firm for LEC staff that will come in more often to visit with

**Other Business:** Suing mentioned trying to find a way to involve the food bank in with the fair. Dickerson mentioned we will be getting a tornado siren out here. Talk by various board members about exploring what it would take to get an official rain gauge on LEC property. Messick submitted a summary to District 1 meeting and gave a summary of the notes from the District one meeting provided by Lisa Eggerling, Treasurer Rutt introduced VP extension board member Ron Fleecs. Karen mentioned Tyler Williams (cropping systems educator) has done research and might help with our GMO booth idea.

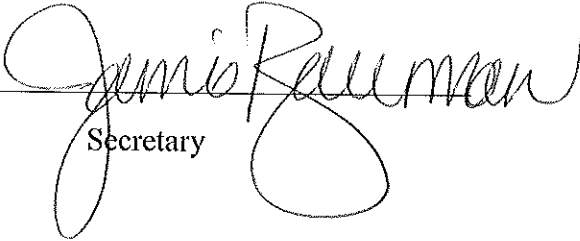
**Communication from the Public:** None

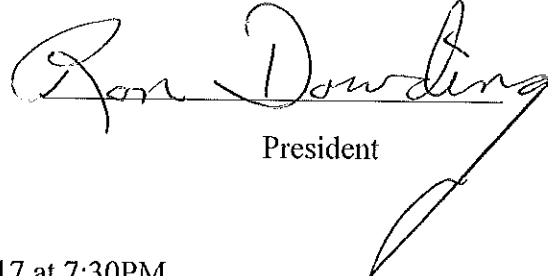
Fair board went into executive session at 8:50pm, session ended at 9:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30PM

Respectfully submitted by:

Jamie Bauman- LCAS Secretary

  
Secretary

  
President

Next meeting: July 20, 2017 at 7:30PM