



Lancaster County Agricultural Society, Inc.
4100 N. 84th Street, Lincoln NE 68507

MINUTES

Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
Board Room – Lancaster Event Center Office
Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 7:00pm

After a brief joint ceremony with the Lancaster County Farm Bureau to dedicate the newly named Meeting Room B is now to be called the Lancaster County Farm Bureau Meeting Room in recognition of Farm Bureau's founding donations for the LEC and ongoing annual sponsorship of the Super Fair, Ag Society VP Kendra Ronnau called the meeting of the Lancaster County Agriculture Society to order at 7pm. Proof of due notice was given with the Nebraska Open Meeting Act posted.

Board members present were Rawlinson, Ronnau, Rutt, Swanson, Messick, Cooper and Suing, with President Dowding and Secretary Bauman being absent. Also in attendance: Hoyt Kraeger, LEC Business Development and Susan Bulling, LEC Sr. Event Coordinator & Super Fair Vendor Lead, Karen Wobig and Tracy Anderson with Lancaster County Extension, Trudy Pedley, Open Static Co-Manager.

Moved by Rawlinson and seconded by Suing to approve the February minutes. The motion was approved 7-0.

Moved by Messick and seconded by Rawlinson to approve the March financials. The motion was approved 7-0 with Dowding and Bauman absent and not voting. It was moved by Suing and seconded by Cooper to approve the paying of the checks in the amount of \$245,838.81. The motion was approved 7-0 with Dowding and Bauman absent and not voting. The Aging Summary was presented for information.

Officer and Committee reports

Vice President (Ronnau) gave the report that the District 1 NAFM spring meeting is coming up and ask that Messick talk a little about the meeting as he has been the representative for Lancaster Co. Ag Society the last few years.

Messick let the group know there were general discussion topics, updates from the district, updates from each county on new and exciting happenings in their fairs, and a State Fair update. Messick made note that he really enjoys hearing the updates from the other county fairs. All county fairs have their struggles, most similar to each other, but as a whole the stories and experiences shared are passionate and exiting. Ronnau added that lots of folks love their county fair.

No other Officer reports

2018 Fair Update

- Fair book – Tracy Anderson (Lancaster County Extension) shared that the Fair Book might not have ever seen so many changes in one year, from horse show schedule, dates and times, the whole process seemed more involved than usual. That said the Fair Book has gone to print and some copies should be dropped off at LEC next week. Ronnau thanked Anderson and Wobig for their leadership in the Fair Book process and to make sure Vicki in their office is thanked for all the work she does.
- Ronnau let the board know there is a process for load out in the fair book. Any and her staff worked and though long and hard about the process and how to make it efficient and safe. Parents may be find the process new and everyone needs to help them understand that this will work. It will be more controlled this year after issues last year with the Demo Derby rained out from Saturday to Sunday afternoon so the parking lots were short on space for trailers to move around. If we were to have had a medical emergency last year as well during move out it would been a difficult situation and that is the reason for the changes. Horse folks can park in the campground this year which is new. To that point the whole thing will be new and will have a learning curve. We have all sorts of people and we need to keep everyone safe. Dickerson and her staff handle big events all the time, and we should rely on their leadership. Ronnau asked that board members and 4-H staff make note if there are any adjustments that need to be made in the future but to leave it to LEC staff to manage this year
- Ronnau also gave an update on Hay Hauling. There is still a need for ~100 straw bales, if anyone has a lead on where to get them please let Ronnau know. Hay Hauling made a successful comeback this last year (2017) but future revisions need to be made. This year (2018) we are going to give out caps as prizes, LEC will be ordering those with some direction from the board, if you have any suggestions or preferences please direct them to Dickerson and Mike Wulf who does purchasing. Ronnau asked for any suggestions on how to split the groups up into divisions as the divisions used this last year had very

loose rules. Cooper suggested the teams be split into Amateur, Semipro, and Pro categories. Let the teams mark down where they believe they belong and adjustments can be made afterward. As a board it was verbally decided that was the direction Hay Hauling would move forward with.

- Static open show update
 - Combination of the 4-H and Open this year has required us to look at new displays. Grid wall has been purchased to look at, test and consider for purchase.
 - Suing added there is the potential to also purchase very versatile shelves
 - Anderson explain the process to get to the number of displays needed as they took the last number of year's entries and closest approximate space needed for those entries.
 - Consensus on 8 ft long displays is the way to go, and to try to find some wider than 2ft. Rawlinson offered to look into the hangers the Girl Scouts used for their pictures when they put them on display.
 - Pedley commented that Showworks is loaded on her personal computer and she is watching the training videos. Wants to get to where we can hide the areas that we do not use.
 - Pedley commented that she wasn't comfortable charging for open class static, do not know a county fair that does. To meet in the middle proposing to charge a \$1 late entry fee for entries after July 25th (one week before the fair), because there is more work so this will encourage online entries or can still enter by sending a form to LEC office. There is no penalty for pre-entries where exhibitor ends up changing mind and not entering. With all the changes, not sure where number of entries will end up, food and photography may go up others may stay the same. Web site is up June 1st, entries open July 1st. Superintendents coming together, not sure where will end up on fine arts superintendents.
 - It is discussed a decided a vote is need to enact \$1 late entry fee.
 - Cooper moves open classes static pre-entries are free any entries after July 25 is a \$1 charge per entries. Suing seconded
 - Motion carries 6-1 with Messick being the single no vote.

MOU

Ronnau updated on City of Lincoln and Lancaster County Agricultural Society MOU. The MOU is being updated needs approval for president to sign the MOU when approved, there are very important pieces that are time critical because pieces of the MOU are critical to NHSFR construction. Dickerson, LEC legal Attorney Tom Huston, and myself have spent lots of time making sure it is correct and in the interests of the Ag Society and LEC, while maintaining a balanced working relationship with the City. A copy of the MOU has been sent to the board members and if there are any questions please direct them to Ronnau or Dickerson.

Rawlinson moved to give president approval to sign MOU when both sides come to an agreement. Messick seconded. Motion carried 7-0.

Other Business: none

Communication from the public none

Ronnau asked Wobig (Lancaster County Extension) to give an update on University Budget Cuts, Extension being a part of the University.

Wobig, let the board know April 18th is the end of session and no expected affects to Extension if things stay the same. Wobig added that Karen Evasco had a chance to switch positions in the county and is now working with the County Clerk's office, while the team was happy for her as the new position would be an advancement, they are sad to see her go. The new hire in this position is Heather, and everyone should look forward to meeting her.

With no other communications, it was moved by Messick and seconded by Suing to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0 with Dowding and Bauman absent and not voting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48PM
Respectfully submitted by:

Karen Rutt, Treasurer (Acting Secretary)

Kendra Ronnau, VP (Acting President)

Next Meeting: April 19, 2018 at 7:30pm