

Kalamazoo County Fair
Fair Council Meeting

April 26, 2017

Members Present: Marion Hill, Rod DeVries, Ruth DeBoer, Valerie Dietrich, Jackie Stasevich, Paul Harrison, Robert Gibson
Members Absent: Rob Barnard
Staff Present: Joshua Gower, Dave Rachowicz
Citizens: Kevin Rose

1. Call to Order: The meeting was held at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center, room C, and was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Council President, Marion Hill.
2. Roll Call: Roll was taken and a quorum was established
3. Approval of Minutes – March 22, 2017 meeting: Members reviewed the minutes. Motion: DeBoer moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Seconded by DeVries. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. Citizens Time: None
5. Communications:
 - a. Leader’s Council Update: Donating \$2500 to premiums
 - b. Livestock Association Update: Lots of new superintendents
 - c. Horse Council Horse Arena Update: Horse council needs work dates for new arenas because summers get busy and we want good participation. Horse council has not yet determined premium donations but will do so soon.
6. Old Business
 - a. Joshua Gower has become the new Fair Coordinator
7. New Business
 - a. 2017 Fair Rule Book: Will publish to website as written and can amend if absolutely necessary. Discussion of need to do major review and revision. Motion: DeBoer moved to accept arrangement as presented. Seconded by Stasevich. Motion carried by voice vote with one opposition.
 - b. Building Relationships – Strategic Plan: Discussion of organizations with which to build relationships
 - c. Master Gardeners: Presentation on the partnership growing with master gardeners (see what I did there?)
Tomato Taste Off and Gardens Around the Barn. Horse Council is concerned about the installation of a hitching post. We do not want anyone to actually hitch their horses to it.
 - d. Education Station in each barn – Presented at meeting: 1. Each barn will be prepared to install an education station that will be reused each year and added to each year. Gower to provide direction on theme for this year.
2. Each barn will be prepared to present a demo to the public on some aspect of their species on one designated night.

e. Layout – Presented at meeting: Suggestions from Maple Leaf to be garnered by Gower. We prefer the kiddie rides and vendors be located closer to the barns and the larger rides be on the pavement near Lake Street. We will mark the path to the barn and were given permission to paint animal tracks marking the way.

f. Farm equipment displays – Presented at meeting: County would like to have display of new and antique farm equipment and requested suggestions of whom to contact. Names were given. Concerns were raised about vandalism and we discussed a curfew which we agreed to discuss at the next meeting.

g. Committees – Presented at meeting: County requested two committees, one for a community luncheon and the other for entertainment. Barnard was recommended for the committee on entertainment. Concerns were raised about the short time frame needed for a luncheon, and it was decided to delay this until next year's fair.

h. Name: Kalamazoo County Youth Fair was suggested by county. Council decided by show of hands with one opposition to call it Kalamazoo County Family Fair.

i. Goals and objectives: Discussion of Gower goals and objectives

j. Theme Days: Motion: Dietrich to accept as presented. Second: DeBoer. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

k. Nightly musical entertainment: Gower suggested using budget to hire local bands. Motion: Dietrich to use the budgeted monies as Gower intends. Second: DeBoer. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

l. Sponsorships: Motion: DeBoer to accept as presented. Second: DeVries. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

m. Silent Auction: KRVT will manage the auction. Motion: Stasevich to accept KRVT. Second: DeBoer. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

8. Member's Time: Open seat on council needs to be filled as soon as possible

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Valerie Dietrich, Fair Council Secretary