

**KALAMAZOO COUNTY FAIR  
FAIR COUNCIL MEETING**

**January 25, 2017**

**Members Present:** Molly Buckham, Marion Hill, Bob Barnard, Ruth DeBoer, Pam V, Rod DeVries, Paul Harrison, Bob Gibson, Pam VanDongen (attending as Horse Council Alternate in absence of Valerie Dietrich)

**Members Absent:**

**Staff Present:** David Rachowicz, Veronica Bolhuis

**Citizens:** Terrence Alexander

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was held at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center and was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson, Marion Hill.
2. **Roll Call** – Roll was taken and a quorum was established.
3. **Approval of Minutes – November 30, 2016 Meeting** – Members reviewed the minutes. **Motion:** Barnard moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Seconded by Buckham. Motion carried by voice vote.
4. **Citizen’s Time** – None
5. **Communications** – None
  - a. **4H Leaders Council Update** – Rod DeVries reported that the 4H fundraiser Auction was held on January 28 and approximately \$6,000 was raised. He also reported that the Urban Coordinator Position is vacant again.
  - b. **4H Livestock Association Update** - Paul Harrison attended the LSA Meeting and reported that Scott Myers is the vice-president, Alecia Gibson is the Secretary and they still have not appointed a Fair Council representative. He also reported that Jill Carlson has resigned as the swine superintendent.
  - c. **4H Horse Council Update** – Pam VanDongen reported that horse council is working with the county on the new arenas and the kids are excited and willing to help. She also reported that the 4H State Horse Show will conflict with the fair on the last Saturday in 2017.
6. **Old Business**
  - a. **4H Fair Superintendent Update & Discussion** – Rachowicz provided a brief overview of the history, information included in the packet and a summary of discussions between 4H and County staff on this issue. The proposed concept is to appoint Fair Superintendents for the livestock program from current Livestock Superintendents. This can be further discussed at upcoming fair strategic planning meeting.
  - b. **Strategic Planning and goals for 2017** – Rachowicz summarized the information included in the packet and reminded members that the meeting is scheduled for February a8 at 6:30PM and Julie Pioch from Michigan State Extension will be the facilitator to help the council formalize plans for the 2017 Kalamazoo County Fair.
7. **New Business**
  - a. **MDARD Grant Request** – The Fair Council reviewed the proposed MDARD Grant Request. Rachowicz gave an overview of the grant request that will assist with construction of the new horse arenas. **Motion:** Buckham moved to approve the MDARD Grant Request for the new horse arenas. Seconded by VanDongen. Motion carried by voice vote. Approved events:
  - b. **2016 Fair Budget Review**- Members reviewed & discussed the reports.
8. **Members Time**- Harrison stated that we need to get the rules correct in the fair book and make sure it is accurate. He also discussed history of swine sale and discussion on making this sale non-terminal. Processing is also part of this discussion. Staff will work to have the fair book done for the next meeting. Harrison also

inquired about auction lunch and champion banners. He also gave a history of the vets needed for the fair and suggested that it would be best for the fair if a vet was on call to address all issues related to fair.

**9. Adjournment-** The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.