

Kalamazoo County Fair Council Meeting – Sept 27, 2017

Members Present: Jackie Stasevich, Valerie Dietrich, Paul Harrison, Rod DeVries, Ruth DeBoer
Members Absent: Robert Barnard, Robert Gibson, Marion Hill
Staff Present: Anthony Frontiera, Joshua Gower
Citizens: Toni Thompson standing in for Marion Hill

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was held at the Kalamazoo County Expo Center, room C, and was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Council Vice President, Ruth DeBoer.

2. Roll Call:

Roll was taken and a quorum was established.

3. Approval of Minutes – Aug 23, 2017 meeting:

Minutes were not presented for vote.

4. Citizens Time:

5. Communications:

- a. Leader's Council Update - DeVries: Consensus that bigger, faster rides are needed. Willing to pay for grandstand events. Rides need to be open an hour later. And there is a call to move the fair signup deadline to June 15 from July 1.
- b. Livestock Association Update - Stasevich: Premiums need to be addressed. They don't seem consistent.
- c. Horse Council Horse Arena Update - Dietrich: We want better rides. Valerie Dietrich has stepped down as superintendent and this will be last fair council meeting for her.

6. Old Business

- a. None.

7. New Business

- a. 2018 Fees – Discussion: Change in camping rate to accommodate extra vehicle passes. Motion to approve as presented by DeVries. Second: Stasevich. Motion carried by voice vote.
- b. 2018 Sponsorship Packet – Discussion: Change in range of Community Partner and Friend of 4-H. Motion to approve as presented by Stasevich. Second: Dietrich. Motion carried by voice vote.
- c. Strategic Plan Review 2017 – Discussion: The fair Coordinator did an excellent job with his top priorities. The increases desired from the 4-H program will need to be achieved through urban program development.
- d. Strategic Plan 2018 – Discussion: The Fair Council needs to continue to build relationships, and needs to present one day vendor/demonstration slots in the event center for community clubs. 4-H needs to develop the urban program and needs to push the still projects going to state shows (in addition to the animal projects which already go). The Fair Coordinator needs to continue to develop the Made in Kalamazoo display, continue to develop sponsorships/partnerships. We want to hold a food truck rally as a fund raiser in order to bring in at least one grand stand event. It was suggested that a partnership with KVCC's chef program might facilitate a chef cook-off, and we need better rides.
3. Joint meeting with Leaders Council, LSA, Horse Council – Discussion: The proposed meeting is the 3rd Wednesday of October, in addition to the regular fair council meeting on the 4th Wednesday, at 7:00 PM in Room B at the fairgrounds. The topics to be discussed are the premiums, the strategic plan, and the proposed moving of the fair signup date.

8. Member's Time:

Harrison: We need a biosecurity plan, an official spokesperson to represent decisions regarding the biosecurity plan, and the designation of who may release animals early.

Gower in response: Biosecurity plan is in the works and should be discussed in the January or February fair council meeting.

9. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.