

AGRICULTURE AND EXTENSION
EDUCATION/FAIR COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, April 27, 2020
9:00 a.m.

The April 27 meeting was held by Zoom and called to order by Committee Chairman Roger Guthrie. Present in person in addition to Guthrie were John Patcle, Mark Stead, Amy Olson and Lori Vesperman. Present by Zoom were Mike Lieurance, Gary Northouse, Bob Keeney, Paul Ohlrogge, James Schneider, Charisse Orth and Shane Drinkwater.

The meeting notice was posted at the Extension Office, Youth & Agriculture Center and mailed to media and Administration Building by Lori Vesperman and posted on the website by the Grant County Clerk's Office.

Motion by John Patcle, seconded by Mark Stead, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by John Patcle, seconded by Gary Northouse, to approve minutes of the meeting held March 16, 2020. Motion carried.

Grant County Extension and Youth & Agriculture Center business was presented.

Committee members received written reports from Educators.

Paul Ohlrogge gave the Area Director update. Large events hosted by Extension have postponed through June, July and August. At this time large is considered larger than 10 people. Summer 4-H Camps at Upham Woods have been cancelled. Some Educators have been doing events in the field outdoors with proper distancing. There is a hiring freeze for Extension and furloughs may be possible.

James Schneider suggested moving the \$2,000 Tourism Grant awarded to the Muscoda Morel Festival to the Grant County Tourism Council since the Festival has been cancelled.

Farm Progress Scholarship applications were reviewed.

Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by John Patcle, to award the Farm Progress Days Scholarship to Kendra Jentz. Motion carried.

Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by John Patcle, to pay 2020 WEXA Membership dues in the amount of \$50. Motion carried. In the past the membership was for WCA.

Motion by John Patcle, seconded by Roger Guthrie, to approve Extension vouchers. Motion carried.

Amy Olson gave the grounds and maintenance and Youth & Agriculture Center report.

Amy informed the committee on maintenance staff work schedules during COVID-19. People with vehicles in storage in the Crops Building were given the option to leave them there until the building opens. Loss of revenue due closure of buildings because of COVID-19 is being tracked. Railroad ties will be used to divert rain water runoff from the Fairgrounds. J & N is redoing landscaping and the road around the arena to divert water from going into the arena.

Amy Olson presented Fair and Fairgrounds business.

It is a very trying time in the fair industry in regards to making decisions on whether or not to hold fairs. Amy is participating frequently in Zoom meetings to help gain insight and monitor the ever changing situation due to COVID-19, and to be aware of steps and precautions that would need to be in place to hold a fair. Sponsorship is understandably down. Surveys will be sent to 2019 Livestock Auction buyers and fair judges to get input to help assess in making a decision to move forward. Discussion was held on pros and cons of different ideas. Plans to hold a fair will be reevaluated at the May meeting. Amy would like a final decision made by July 1.

Foods Revue and Clothing Revue were cancelled due to the Governor's "Safer at Home" Order in place regarding mass gatherings. Animal IDs are being done through mail, with no in person contact or spring weighins.

Amy contacted all businesses involved with entertainment contracts for the 2020 Fair. If the fair is not held all have agreed to move contracts to 2021 without penalties.

Metal braces for the lighting on the race track were delivered. As soon as the lights come in, Baus Electric will start working on them.

Amy continued with the Fairest of the Fair and Junior Fairest of the Fair program, with plans to hold interviews and judging virtually.

Discussion was held on the planned June event. Motion by Mark Stead, seconded by Mike Lieurance, to cancel the event. Motion carried.

The Fair received a Grant County Tourism Grant for the June event. Amy would like to use the Grant to hold a drive-in movie night at the Fairgrounds.

Motion by John Patcle, seconded by Mike Lieurance, to approve fairgrounds vouchers. Motion carried.

The summer maintenance LTE, Gary, will not be helping for the summer, but could probably help at fair time.

Motion by Gary Northouse, seconded by Mike Lieurance, to pay livestock claims in the amount of \$155 to the Grant County Humane Society. The County Board approved the claims at the April 21 meeting, contingent upon this committee's approval. Motion carried.

Motion by Gary Northouse, seconded by Mike Lieurance, to adjourn. The next regular scheduled meeting will be planned for May 18, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

Adjourned at 10:20 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Stead
Secretary

Lori Vesperman
Recording Secretary