

VAN BUREN YOUTH FAIR ASSOCIATION
“THE FAIR WITH A FUTURE”
PO BOX 271
HARTFORD, MI 49057
269-621-2038

MEETING MINUTES – July 1, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President, Pat Burnell. The meeting was held at the Van Buren Youth Fairgrounds.

Directors present: Debbie Glover, Iris Swift, Stephanie Zabavski, Pat Burnell, Paul Garrod, Amy Mortimore, Matt Butler, Brian Rumsey, Travis Gumpert, Gary Consford and Ken Tomsa, Sr. Corey Conklin was excused. Associate Directors present: Steve Serdel and Melva Thayer.

Visitors: Janice Zerbe, Dan Hostetler, Carisa Hostetler, Julie Rumsey, Megan Vasquez, Robert Wheatley, Nancy Wheatley, Brantley Devine, Quentin Koshar, Robert Spenner, Jr., Donna Spenner, Cassie Devine, Emma Devine, Jason DeLille, Lesley DeLille, Mike Koshar and Dawn Koshar.

President, Pat Burnell, asked for approval of the agenda. Gary Consford moved to accept the agenda as amended. Ken Tomsa, Sr. seconded. Motion passed.

Secretary, Iris Swift, read the minutes from the June 3, 2024, meeting. Stephanie Zabavski moved to approve the minutes with corrections. Amy Mortimore seconded. Motion passed.

Correspondence and Bills: Iris Swift reported the VBYF has received letters from exhibitors requesting the Fair purchase their animal projects. They are available for everyone to read. Iris Swift read a letter from Doug Paran, Hartford Girls’ Varsity Cross Country coach requesting use of the fairgrounds on Thursday, September 5, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. to host the annual Bob Teske Memorial Cross Country Invitational. This event has been held at the fairgrounds for a number of years. The Invitational would donate \$500.00 to help defray the Fair’s out of pocket expense. Insurance would be provided. Iris Swift moved to approve this event. Ken Tomsa, Sr. seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report: Brian Rumsey, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer’s report as of July 1, 2024.

Checking and Savings	\$ 508,360.00
Prepaid FIT	\$ 4,016.78
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$1,216,435.18

President, Pat Burnell, placed the Treasurer’s Report on file for audit.

Old Business:

1. Exhibitor Signup Issues – Pat Burnell – Several families were present to present problems with sign-up.

- A. Donna Spenner spoke on behalf of Quentin Koshar and Brantley Devine.
 - 1) Both boys did everything required but did not send the YQCA certificate of completion to Janic Zerbe by the deadline.
 - 2) She stated the Fair should be about letting the youth participate.
 - 3) She said she did not think the rule about sending the certificate to Janice Zerbe was in the Fair Book.
 - 4) She felt we should encourage the kids to participate.
- B. Jason and Lesley DeLille stated their 6 yr. old daughter was not allowed to show because she had not completed the YQCA requirement. They felt that the YQCA was beyond their daughter's level of understanding.
- C. Bethany Bainbridge stated that she had sent an email with the YQCA certificate to Janice at the wrong email address. Bethany had emailed from her work email but is no longer at that job and cannot retrieve the email for proof.

Brian Rumsey, Director stated that the rules are in place for the 2024 Fair. The Fair Board does have the exhibitors in mind. The goal is to educate not to eliminate. Deadlines are part of the experience for Fair projects. 304 other exhibitors have successfully completed signup. Where do the exceptions stop – I feel for everyone's case but at this time we do not have an appeals board set for the 2024 Fair.

Megan Vasquez supported Quentin Koshar and Brantley Devine's case.

Travs Gumpert stated that if the rule is not in the Fair Book the exhibitors should be allowed to show.

Janice Zerbe stated the rule is in all Fair documents and posted on the website.

Matt Butler made a motion to approve everyone who has completed all requirements and can prove it with a dated Certificate to be allowed to attend the Fair. Paul Garrod seconded. Discussion ensued. The motion was defeated with a vote of 3-Yes and 7-No.

Stphanie Zabavski moved to refund all camping and registration fees to exhibitors not approved to attend Fair as decided by this vote. Ken Tomsa, Sr. seconded. Motion passed.

- 2. Kenneth Kemp Estate – Brian Rumsey – This is still in process. Some of the facts are being disputed.
- 3. Judges – Iris Swift, Pat Burnell, Amy Mortimore – We have all judges except for some sweepstakes.
- 4. Amish Rentals -Matt Butler – no news.
- 5. Radio and TV Advertising. Paul Garrod/Iris Swift – The Board voted by email not to have any Channel 3 Advertising for 2024.
- 6. Fair Beautification – Iris Swift – Proceeding.
- 7. Poultry – Contingency Plan – 2024 Fair – Megan Vasquez/Jenni Miller – MDARD Signage is required for the Poultry division. Janice Zerbe is preparing the signage as required – 35 signs.

8. Volunteers/Superintendents' Dinner – Amy Mortimore reported we had sixty-four people attend out of 89 RSVP. The menu was a Taco Bar. Next year we will be switching it up.
9. Special lite Picnic – Pat Burnell met with the Special Lite representatives and gave them the rental information and price information. The projected date is September 19 not September 12.
10. Brian Rumsey began a discussion on Gate Volunteers. Stephanie Zabavski has a list. She and Amy are waiting for the list from Corey Conklin. Stephanie and Amy are meeting tomorrow to make phone calls. They will be contacting Huntington Bank.

New Business:

1. Rodeo Dinner – Stephanie Zabavski/Iris Swift will be planning and preparing the food for the Rodeo crew. Possible menu is chicken pot pie, salad, and dessert.
2. Rodeo Hay – Pat Burnell – Matt Butler stated he left one round bale for the Rodeo animals.
3. LLC T-Shirt fundraiser – Pat Burnell presented information on the LLC t-shirt fundraiser. Stephanie Zabavski moved to approve the fundraiser. Ken Tomsa, Sr. seconded. Motion passed.
4. Pat Burnell announced that Matt Ashbrook was not responding to correspondence and recommended we replace him with another superintendent. Allison Mroczek is interested in the position and has the qualifications to perform. Stephanie Zabavski moved to appoint Allison Mroczek as Assistant Swine superintendent. Amy Mortimore seconded. Motion passed.
5. Brian Rumsey reported that PNC has a deposit only card that would help with deposits for the LLC. LLC has voted to approve getting a card. Gary Consford moved to allow the LLC to get a deposit card for PNC. Amy Mortimore seconded. Motion passed.
6. Carisa Hostetler, Chairperson of the LLC announced that barn setup is on July 6th.
7. Pat Burnell stated that we do not have the assistance of the Jail Crew to put in fence posts (approximately 300) and put up fence for the fair. Steve Serdel, Corey Conklin, Matt Butler and Pat Burnell will head up this project.
8. Pat Burnell announced that the Boy scouts are not available this year for the after fair cleanup project. Ken Tomsa, Sr. suggested we offer SMAC or LLC or Horses the \$500.00 for cleanup we have donated to Boy Scouts for this job. Or, to local schools' sports programs.
9. Matt Butler moved to hire someone to help Steve Serdel with mowing the fairgrounds. Iris Swift seconded. Motion passed.

Open Comments:

Janice Zerbe confirmed that we need 200 wristbands for the Kid's Day program. There will be seven stations and five of the seven must be completed to be eligible for a free ride wristband for the day.

Janice Zerbe asked for permission to provide breakfast and lunch for the Still Project judges as in past years. Yes!

Steve Serdel asked if we have permission to use the parking lots by the County Health Dept. Pat Burnell has received approval to use the back gate and lots. Brian Rumsey and Pat Burnell will manage this project.

Ken Tomsa, Sr. stated that Benny's crew leaves at 8 p.m. Should we close the campground gate from 8 pm to 11 pm to prevent unpaid guests from entering? Camping is full. We have 15 on the wait list. In 2025 exhibitors will be first in line.

Paul Garrod reported the Migrant Appreciation Day was well attended with over 600 adults. This event received attention from MDARD. Thank you to Steve Serdel for all his help.

Brian Rumsey reported that AC had been installed in the ticket booth last Saturday.

Brian Rumsey needs to get startup cash for the Fair. Iris Swift moved to authorize Brian Rumsey to get startup cash as in past years. Amy Mortimore seconded. Motion passed.

Pat Burnell thanked everyone for all the work.

Iris Swift moved to adjourn the meeting. Amy Mortimore seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

The next meeting is on August 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Van Buren Youth Fair.

Respectfully submitted,

Iris Swift
Secretary