

Cass County Fair Association
Regular Meeting
Gregarek Building
April 8, 2025
Minutes

President Dave Bratton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: President Dave Bratton, Vice President Daryl Keesler, Secretary Sara Johnson, Treasurer Diane Skibbe, Fair Manager Brenda Smego (Phone), Directors Jim Teter, Rodney Waldschmidt, Rob Eubank, Neil Bowman, Stephanie Bender-Bresemann, Zelda Cloud, Gail Peterson, Shane Harris, Ben Waldschmidt, Rob Carpenter, Mike Frushour, Recorder Stephanie Knepple, Guests Deb Ridenhour, Vicki Schoetzow, Karen Wright, Tim Miller, Pauline Harris, Jeremiah Hartsell, Sara Heuer, Hilary Hunt, Melissa Town, Preston BArtow, Nick Dussel, and Nikita Mehaney..

Absent: Director David Gleason and Rental Mike Smego.

Minutes: Rob Carpenter moved to approve March 2025 Board Meeting Minutes, supported by Zelda Cloud. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Zelda Cloud moved to approve the Financial Report, supported by Rob Carpenter. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

- Karen Wright requested the status of requests for Goat Barn.
 - Purchase of a scale.
 - Mike Frushour will order it from Amazon.
 - Wash Rack
 - Daryl Keesler will contact Justin McDonald on the completion timeline.
 - Electrical Outlets outside of the barn.
 - Daryl Keesler and Mike Smego will look into it.
- Tim Miller reported the three horse meetings were completed and successful. Miller believed the upcoming Fedore Clinic will receive a good response.

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- Sara Heurer requested board approval for Monday Night draft horse pull. Club pays half of the purse and the fair pays the other half. Pulls begin at 6pm. Pay out a total of \$2,350.00.
 - Shane Harris moved to approve Monday Night Draft Horse Pulls and for the fair to pay half of the purse, supported by Rob Carpenter. Motion carried.
- Preston Bartow reported that MEC returned his call and no longer sell stalls anymore. But offer rental of stalls for \$40 per stall for a week.
- Fair Manager Brenda Smego provided sponsor packets for each board member.

Committee Reports:

- Zelda Cloud shared website development update. Website is scheduled to go live on May 1st. She will share the link for board members to view prior to launch date.
- Daryl Keesler shared three quotes for concrete by the show arena: \$15,862, \$17,200, \$10,400.
 - Rob Carpenter suggested adding a quote for Goat Barn.
- Daryl Keesler shared an update on Raffle. \$100 per ticket and 300 tickets available. Drawing will be Thursday night after the Bob Seger Tribute Concert. \$15,000 cash prizes and \$15,000 will be used for fair improvements.
- Dave Bratton reported storm damage to Lowe Building roof and recommends a metal roof for the barn.
- Rodney Waldschmidt reported that the Bob Seger Tribute concert will be free/ \$7,500 invested. Suggested to add a car show charge and entry fee for participants set up in the grass of the pit area.
- Ben Waldschmidt shared his concern of the Lowe Building and the need to complete the project.
- Stephanie Bender-Bresemann emphasized campers taking up too much power is causing an issue. Each campsite is only allowed to use one 30 amp plug.

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- Hilary Hunt shared Extension Office updates: 49cu training and only 11 youth attended there is a free online webinar, and sold auction kits and partnered with Berrien.

Old Business:

- Judge Contracts: Working progress.

New Business:

- Adoption of Mission Statement
 - The Mission of the Cass County Fair is to promote community connection by providing a dynamic platform for agriculture education, family entertainment and fair visitors. We are dedicated to provide opportunities for youth development in a friendly atmosphere while maintaining their safety, welfare and health.
 - Zelda Cloud moved to approve the mission statement, supported by Stephanie Bender-Bresemann. Motion carried.
- Any Updates on Website Design: Zelda Cloud shared updates during Committee Reports.
- Report on Light Horse ID: A small number have been turned in. Fair Manager Brenda Smego will set up training when she returns.
- Updates on Fair Entry Program: Sara Johnson will meet with committee once Fair Manager Brenda Smego returns
- Updates on Fairbook: Changes are to be done with fairbook.

Adjournment:

8:10 p.m.

Mike Frushour, moved.

Rob Carpenter, supported.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephanie Knepple