

## **2018 ROCK COUNTY 4-H FAIR ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

The annual meeting of the Rock County 4-H Fair Association was held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018 in the Craig Center on the Rock County 4-H Fairgrounds in Janesville, Wisconsin. There were 68 members present.

The meeting was called to order by President Randy Thompson at 7pm.

Randy introduced the directors of the Rock County Fair Board and thanked them for their service over the past year.

Three director's positions will be up for election/re-election this year: Dave Johnson, Julie Johnson, and Deb Schuetz.

Fair Manager Mary Check was acknowledged for just starting her 18<sup>th</sup> year working for the Rock County Fair and thanked for the time and talent she puts into her position. Brian Paul, fairgrounds manager, the summer maintenance crew, Secretary's Office staff, and Treasurer's Office staff were also given appreciations.

### **Secretary's Report:**

The minutes from the 2017 meeting were available online and at the check-in table. There being no additions or corrections, Lynn Galbraith-Wilson moved to accept the secretary's report as read, Robin Heath moved to second. Motion carried.

Read and accepted six new members to the Rock County Fair Association.

1. Tom Lepinski
2. Erin Conway
3. Blake Collins
4. Jaimie Tracy
5. Scott Fleming
6. Emily Fleming

2019 Fair Dates were set for July 23 – 28.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Bonnie Martin, Treasurer, presented the 2017 audited financial report for approval. Lynn Galbraith-Wilson moved to accept the audited report. Robin Heath seconded. Motion carried.

Bonnie presented the 2018 financial report. Total receipts for 2018 were: \$47,684.44. Gate attendance was 71,800.

### **Old Business**

No old business

**Election:**

Craig O’Leary was introduced as the chairperson for the election.

**Vice President**

Ryan George was introduced as incumbent wishing to retain his seat. Joe Martin moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Vice President. Lynn Galbraith-Wilson second. Motion carried.

**Treasurer**

Bonnie Martin was introduced as incumbent wishing to retain her seat. Kristin Paul moved to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Treasurer. Mark Gunn second. Motion carried.

**First Director**

Deb Schuetz and Cathy Wentland were introduced as on the current slate. Karen Phalin nominated Ronna Ballmer. John Quinn nominated Chris Smith. Lynn Galbraith-Wilson nominated Robin Heath.

Joe Martin moved to close nominations for the first director. Mark Gunn second. Motion carried. Each candidate introduced himself or herself.

Results of the first ballot for First Director:

Deb Schuetz	36
Cathy Wentland	4
Ronna Ballmer	25
Robin Heath	2
Chris Smith	1

The first director is Deb Schuetz.

**Second Director**

All remaining names stayed on the ballot. Joe Martin moved to closed nominations for Second Director. Merlin Hegge second. Motion carried.

Results of the first ballot for Second Director:

Cathy Wentland	13
Ronna Ballmer	36
Robin Heath	15
Chris Smith	4

The second director is Ronna Ballmer

**Third Director**

All remaining names stayed on the ballot. Lynn Galbraith-Wilson moved to close nominations. Beth Burdick second. Motion carried.

Results of the first ballot for Third Director:

Cathy Wentland	26
Robin Heath	23
Chris Smith	17

Results for the second ballot for the Third Director

Cathy Wentland	27
Robin Heath	38

The third director is Robin Heath.

### **Committee Reports**

**Building & Grounds: Dave Johnson** reported that four crew members were hired to help Brian Paul prepare for the fair. Brian Paul and his crew were thanked for their efforts. It was noted from the floor that the fairgrounds looked “phenomenal” and all of the added touches were noticed and appreciated.

**Clean Up: Mark Gunn** thanked Brian Paul for all of his hard work; he and his crew did a great job getting everything ready. Thanks to all of the volunteers, 4-H and FFA members and their leaders for getting everything back in place. Each producer group (Beef, Dairy Promotion, and Pork) was thanked for helping with the lunch. The Pork Producers were given an extra acknowledgement for providing the grill and preparing the meet.

**Entertainment: Julie Johnson** thanked the board and its volunteers; she noted what a privilege it has been to serve as a board member. She noticed the number of volunteers the Rock County 4-H Fair has had since she moved to Rock County in 1987, and the board continues to be the recipients of this tradition of volunteerism. The Main Stage Committee is a group effort; all work together. Booking for 2019 has already started; prices are already up. Having our fair the last week of July puts us in competition with many festivals throughout the United States.

**Daytime Entertainment: Michael Phalin** thanked the maintenance crew for their help. The Pig & Duck Races, Lumberjack Show, and strolling acts continue to be a good draw. This committee has already started booking acts for 2019 as well.

**Coronation: Lynn Galbraith-Wilson** reported that Brooke Trustem represented Rock County well at the WI Association of Fairs in 2018. In late 2017, Brooke and Lynn held a Royalty Workshop and hope to hold it again this year. Lynn reviewed procedures the Royalty Team follows to become a part of the Royalty Court. She acknowledged the youth who become the face of the fair and market our fair.

**Museum: Michael Phalin** reported that the committee works hard to get everything set up and ready for its fair week run. The committee is always seeking volunteers.

**Concessions: Maureen Fox-Rusch** thanked Mary Check and the Secretary's Office staff, Treasurer's Office staff, Brian Paul and the maintenance crew for all of their help. There are many other people who consistently offer assistance when the busy time of set up is occurring. Food Stand concessions were up for 2018. County is discussing changes and updates to the grounds that will be well-received. There is great potential for any updates and changes that are made to the grounds.

**Advertising: Maureen Fox-Rusch** reported the use of social media, billboards in Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois, Madison television outlets, southern WI radio stations, area newspapers, summer vacation fliers and other opportunities the fair uses to promote the fair.

**Memorials & Appreciation: Karen O'Leary** reported that a brochure has been created by the committee that provides options and costs of memorials and remembrances.

**Insurance: Randy Thompson** reported on our insurance status. Insurance is one of our biggest expenses, but it is a necessary expense.

**Dairy Youth Auction: Bonnie Martin** reported that \$41,300 was raised at the 2018 auction. After exhibitors receive their portion, the remaining funds go to several areas: costs of Wisconsin State Fair exhibitors, five scholarships, and Rock County Dairy Judging Team just to name a few. Very notable: in 2018, our Rock County Dairy Judging Team went to the national competition.

**Premium: Maureen Fox-Rusch** reported that there were no major changes this year; there are always some changes, but this year the focus was continuing to make sure that all of the judging lined up well in the second year of bring back the majority of judging to fair week.

**First Aid: Bonnie Martin** gave appreciations to all of the local fire departments and EMTs who provide services during fair week. The Janesville Fire Department was on-site 9am – 5pm daily, and our other local departments (Orfordville, Clinton, Edgerton, Footville, and Milton) were on from 5pm – 11pm.

**Meat Animal Sale: Ryan George** reported a total of 502 animals were sold this year. \$432,000 dollars were spent at this year's sale. Special acknowledgements went to Ellen Hunter, Mark Gunn, and the Gunn Family for their work at the sale. This year, Ben Fuhrmann took over as clerk. We anticipate a software change for 2019. Top buyers (both individually and group) were: Woodmans, E&D Waterworks, First Community Bank, Chambers & Owen, Rock County Pork Producers, Rock County Beef Producers, and Clinton FFA Alumni.

**Fur & Feather Sale: Beth Burdick** reported that \$62,490 was raised, and \$3555 was raised for the scholarship fund.

**Security: Mark Gunn** reported that he was giving an uneventful report which is exactly our goal. He gave great appreciation to Sgt. Shawn Natter and the Rock County Sheriff's Department for their presence. All board members work with the Sheriff's Department at release time. There was also an active shooter training provided prior to the fair and about 100+ volunteers attended this session led by the Brent Reilly of the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Deputies also were much more visible throughout the grounds for the duration of the fair.

**Sponsorship: Deb Schuetz** reported that \$24,000 was raised in sponsorship this year. The t-shirt sponsorship opportunity is open for 2019; it was well received last year.

**Any other business:**

Our biggest obstacle continues to be the number of other venues in competition with us during July. Our challenge is to draw people to the fair. The days of our 100,000 patrons goal is almost becoming too big of a challenge. Costs continue to rise: utility, water, entertainment.

President Thompson asked for ideas from the floor. Tom Knauer requests a survey of patrons at our fair. How did they hear of the fair, why did they come, what features did they spend time at. Mr. Knauer also asked the board to discuss issue of superintendents being Fair Board members. He questioned whether a volunteer should be one or the other.

Ronna Ballmer offered the suggestion of having a fair board member or other adult volunteer be the designated person for each building during fair week.

It was pointed out that the Visual Arts Department did some hands-on activities (activity centers) during fair that was well received. They hope to do more of that, and they hope more departments will as well.

Motion was made by Merlin Hegge to adjourn. Second by Mark Gunn. Motion carried.