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A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to growing community through events like yours, and the Super Fair.

Lancaster County Agricultural Society, Inc.

*A Nebraska non-profit corporation, designated as 501(c)(3) by the IRS
and separate county-level political subdivision
created under Nebraska law in 1870 to promote agriculture & youth.*

MINUTES

Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
Lancaster Room—Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds
4100 N. 84th Street, Lincoln NE 68507
7:30pm - Thursday, August 18, 2022

Zoom link for non-voting attendees: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82427586369>

or Call in: 1-253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 824 2758 6369, Passcode: 4100

If technical problems, call/text 402.429.1950

1. Call the meeting to order and proof of due notice of meeting and open meeting notice posted
 - **President Ronnau** called the monthly meeting of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society board to order at 7:42pm.
 - **Proof of due notice** was given in the Lincoln Journal Star and the Nebraska Open Meeting Law was displayed in the room.
2. Roll Call
 - **Board members present** in person were Ron Dowding, Kendra Ronnau, Ron Suing, Karen Rutt, and Jennifer Cusick-Rawlinson. Bryce Doeschot attended via zoom but did not vote. John Cooper and Lynn Hagan were absent.
 - Also present in person were LEC staff Greg Rook, Jason Rief, Kim Bowen, and Amy Dickerson. LEC staff joining via Zoom were Nate Dowding and Lois Harrison. Extension staff joining by Zoom were Karen Wobig and Tracy Anderson. Member of public: Lancaster County Commissioner Roma Amundson, attended via Zoom.
3. Approval of minutes from July meeting
 - **Approval of Minutes** – Suing stated the July minutes did not reflect that he attended the last meeting via zoom and did not vote. Dowding moved to make the correction reflecting Ron Suing's attendance status to the July minutes. Rutt seconded the motion. The corrected July minutes were approved without objections.
 - Board Member, Lynn Hagen arrived in person at 7:49pm
4. Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable and approval of checks for July (P&L/Balance Sheet to be presented next meeting) (Harrison)
 - **Financial Reports** for July 2022 – Harrison shared information with the board on the financials. Harrison reported that the checks paid for July totaled \$261,009.12. Dickerson pointed out that some of the printed checks did not have names listed in the payee line. Harrison stated that she would bring the check list updated for approval at the next board

meeting. The July financials will be submitted for approval at the next meeting due to shortness of time between end of fair and August board meeting.

5. Officer and Committee reports –

- President (Ronnau), Vice President (Dowding), Secretary (Cooper), Treasurer (Rutt)
- Committee Reports as relevant:
 - Personnel (Ronnau), Strategic Planning (Rawlinson), Premium Auction (Open), NHSFR Rodeo (Cooper), Grievance (Cooper), Fund Development (Rawlinson)
- **Officer and committee reports** – None reported.

7. Extension Update -- Karen Wobig/Tracy Anderson, Lancaster County Extension

- **Extension Update** – Wobig reported that the 2022 Lancaster County Fair was a success and voiced appreciation for all the time and hard work put in by the 4H staff. Wobig asked about the 2023 fair dates and had questions regarding the schedule of future dates. Dickerson said they are all scheduled so she will send the dates to Wobig and Anderson. Wobig stated there is liquid hand sanitizer left from the fair if LEC would like to have it. Dickerson said that LEC would appreciate any leftover sanitizer and dispensers. Anderson stated that the LEC property looked wonderful for the fair and wanted to give a special thank you to Nate for all his help as Fair Manager.

8. Communication from the public (5-minute limit per person)

- **Communication from the public** – County Commissioner, Roma Amundson was recognized as in attendance via zoom. The board thanked Amundson for coming to the fair to educate the public on bees and their role in agriculture. Amundson stated that she was pleased with the interest in her presentations and thanked the board for their continued work toward public awareness of agricultural issues.
- Ronnau noted that a member of the public, who had a child showing steer at the fair, had come prior to the board meeting to share that she appreciated the fair, the board, and the facility.

9. 2022 Fair Initial Impressions Discussion (Nate Dowding/all)

- Fair attendance unofficial results (Harrison)
 - **Fair attendance unofficial results** – Harrison stated the car count was 36,000 compared to 30,000 in 2019 which was the last pre-covid year. The board pointed out that this was an increase even with the earlier closing time.
- Fair budget early results (Harrison)

- **Fair budget early results** – Harrison reports the 2022 revenues are estimated to be down 10% from 2021 with many contributing factors, including competition from other area events and the extreme heat in the second week of the fair.
- First pass discussion—what went well, what could be improved, scheduling of Better Fair with Extension
 - **2022 Fair Update** – Dowding said that the new arena in P1, as well as the additional seating, worked well; the only challenge was that it could be difficult getting through to the pigs. Cusick-Rawlinson stated that the attendees really liked the monster trucks. Hagen stated that the fewer number of bands seemed to help increase the interest in the bands that were performing and that closing the bar 30 minutes prior to close was fairly well received by the public. The board discussed the success of the mutton busting with 70 kids participating. Board members stated they liked the new mutton busting promoter and would like to see them return next year. Rutt shared that the added lights for the style review on the runway was appreciated. The board discussed the good attendance at the BMX and dog shows. The board also discussed the success of the Hispanic festival stating that there were huge numbers in attendance with many additional cultures represented as well. The new, open setup in the MPA was also discussed as a successful safety feature. The board members agreed that the Bingo was a big hit and was always busy. Rutt reported that the quilts broke a new record this year with even more expected next year. The time change and hard close were discussed. Hagan said that parents were understanding of the change and most agreed with it. The board discussed possible charges that should be incurred by the carnival for 2023. Discussion was had on how to increase the number of 4-H animals attending. Ronnau told the extension members that the board is always available to help support 4-H. Anderson stated that covid recovery continues to play a part in 4-H attendance. Anderson also noted that county extension does offer “better fair” meetings with 4-H families to discuss ideas on how to increase 4H numbers.
- Fair marketing highlights (see Schafersman report in email)

10. Operations Director Report—FMCA (Rook)

- **Operations Director Report** – Rook stated that preparations were in process for the Family Motor Coach Association (FMCA) event with the focus this week being on landscape cleanup. Dickerson stated that approximately 700 RVs are expected to attend, down from the estimated 1500 due to high fuel prices. Rook said that volunteers are still

needed to help with restroom and café clean up. Board members discussed a list of key times that they can come and assist in cleaning and café support.

11. Managing Director Report—ARPA / ongoing funding update (Dickerson)

- **Managing Director Report**—Dickerson reported that \$650,000 of city/county ARPA funds was awarded and should be received soon as the local funds move a lot faster than state. The board will be involved with the staff on how this money will be used. Discussion was had about bringing back the casino bill and possible outcomes. Ronnau said that State Senator Robert Clements has visited multiple events at the LEC to get a better understanding of what the facility brings to the community and the impact it makes on educating the public about agricultural issues. Melissa continues to work ahead with building community relationships.

12. Confirm September meeting moved to WEDNESDAY Sept 28th

- **September meeting moved to WEDNESDAY** – The board discussed the move of the next meeting to September 28, 2022, at 7pm with JPA on the same evening, beginning at 6:30pm. It was confirmed that all board members were aware of this change.

13. Other business

- **Other business** – None.

14. Adjournment

- **Adjournment** – It was moved by Hagen and seconded by Suing to adjourn the meeting. The board approved the motion without objection and meeting adjourned at 9:37pm.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 28th day of Sept, 2022 Submitted by the LANCASTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

President Kendra Ronnau

Kendra Ronnau

Secretary John Cooper

John Cooper

Treasurer Karen Rutt

Karen Rutt