



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

Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 7 pm

Lancaster Room (enter Business Center in Pavilion 1)

Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds

4100 N. 84th Street, Lincoln NE 68507

Optional Zoom link was provided as convenience for non-voting attendees

President Ronnau called the monthly meeting of the Lancaster Country Agricultural Society board to order at 7:09pm.

Proof of due notice was given in the Lincoln Journal Star, and the Nebraska Open Meeting Law was displayed in the room.

Board members present in person Kendra Ronnau, Ron Suing, Karen Rutt, John Cooper, Jennifer Cusick-Rawlinson, and Bryce Doeschot.

Ron Dowding joined in person at 7:14pm.

Board member Tom Messick joined via zoom. Board member Lynn Hagan was not present. Also joining the meeting were Community Mural Committee Members Liz Shea-McCoy, Roger Lempke, Mike McCullough; County Commissioner Roma Amundson, 4-H/Extension staff Karen Wobig (zoom) and NE Strategies lobbyist Mary Jacobs (zoom). LEC Fairgrounds staff present were Hoyt Kraeger, Amy Dickerson, Greg Rook, Nate Dowding all in person and by Zoom Megan Schafersman, Loretta Yerger, Lois Hartzell and Bruce Gubser.

Pershing Mural Proposal – Liz Shea-McCoy, Roger Lempke, Mike McCullough shared a proposal on relocation of the Pershing Mural to LEC Fairgrounds. Proposal included Phase 1) Removal, Phase 2) Restoration and Phase 3) Relocation as well as funding plans to cover costs of

all phases and endowment for future maintenance/upkeep of mural. The proposed location at LEC Fairgrounds is between grass lots on left side of Gate 3 entrance, with options to include a viewing area. Final plans will be designed by a structural engineer to ensure longevity of the mural and its new location. Shea-McCoy, Lempke and McCullough's next steps are to acquire a more real visual depiction of the mural location in relation to proposed spot at LEC Fairgrounds. Dickerson to arrange a walk through for the Ag Soceity board and LEC's architect to see how proposed location fits into LEC Fairgrounds master plan. Ronnau shared the mural is an incredible piece of Lincoln history and has the potential to connect LEC Fairgrounds with more of the community. Shea-McCoy mentioned a \$3M fundraising campaign including \$200K endowment to cover operating/maintenance costs of the mural on LEC grounds needed to be completed by May to save the Pershing mural from demolition this early summer.

It was moved by Suing and seconded by Rutt to move agenda item 7) LEC Lobbyist Update up next. Motion passed without objection, 7-0.

LEC Lobbyist Update—2022 Legislative Session bills related to LEC –

Mary Jacobson with NE Strategies gave an update on the legislative bills related to LEC to secure more ongoing funding including LB 73 and LB 1277, noting it's looking optimistic to receive some dollars this way. It was noted there are 2 other bills that include sports arenas they are watching to make sure LEC remains included. Jacobson and team keeping track of other bills related to convention centers and sports arenas facilities to take advantage of.

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Cusick–Rawlinson to move agenda item 11) Communication from the Public up next. Motion passed without objection, 7–0.

Communication from the public – County Commissioner Roma Amundson praised the results just released in the 2021 NHSFR Lincoln economic impact report. Amundson thanked the board and team for seeing the opportunity for the community and making it a success. Amundson stated to take into high consideration the relocation of the Pershing Mural to LEC Fairgrounds as it's a fantastic piece of history and would be in a great addition and visible spot at LEC Fairgrounds. Ronnau shared the rodeo could not have been done without the county board and was pleased that Amundson has LEC Fairgrounds back in her district after re-districting as her support over the years has been vital to LEC's growth and success.

It was moved by Doeschot and seconded by Cusick-Rawlinson to move agenda item 10) Extension Update up next. Motion passed without objection, 7-0.

Extension Update – Wobig shared the Extension team was busy tonight at the Lincoln Ice Hockey Arena with STEM-based science activities for kids place around the arena. Extension's embryology program has started and all are encouraged to watch chicks hatching online, which now has international participation.

It was moved by Suing and seconded by Dowding to move agenda item 5) Financial Report and Approval of Checks up next. Motion passed without objection, 7-0.

Financial report and approval of checks—Nov/Dec –Lois Harrison, Interim Controller

The board looked through November financials and realized November financials and checks were approved in previous meeting as presented by Harrison

It was moved by Suing and seconded by Cusick-Rawlinson to approve the December 2021 financials. Motion passed without objection, 7-0.

It was moved by Cusick-Rawlinson and seconded by Dowding to approve the paying of December 2021 checks in the amount \$374,409.92. Motion passed without objection, 7-0.

It was moved by Suing and seconded by Cusick-Rawlinson to approve the January 2021 financials. Motion passed without objection, 7-0.

It was moved by Cusick-Rawlinson and seconded by Dowding to approve the paying of January 2021 checks in the amount \$284,257.35. Motion passed without objection, 7-0.

Doeschot noted would like to have clarification of what is being voting on each month when approving financials to know what board is held accountable for even though the auditor is asked to do the same thing. Dickerson to find out the answer and share with board.

Messick noted would like to at some point see a budget to see how LEC is doing financially throughout the year.

It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Dowding to move agenda item 6) Audit Adjusting Entries Update up next. Motion passed without objection, 7-0.

Audit adjusting entries update – Gubser talked extensively with auditor to decide best course of action to accurately re-account the errors caused by adjusting entries that previous Controller Martin mentioned were occurring in January's meeting. It was decided the best course of action after Gubser consulted with LEC's auditor was to reverse all the entries and re-enter the required entries correctly. Gubser reversed a total of 69 entries and re-entered 59. The difference of 16 entries the auditor told Gubser were entries that did not need to be entered as they were only part of the audit process to take the financials between governmental and cash basis to balance/check. Gubser shared 2020 entries were nearly done and is aiming for 2021 to be completed by end of April.

Approval of minutes from January 11 & 25 board meetings – Doeschot moved to approve the minutes from January 11, 2021 Emergency Board Meeting. Dowding seconded. Motion passed 6-0, with Rutt abstaining due to absence at that meeting.

Doeschot moved to approve the minutes from January 25 2021 Regular Monthly Board Meeting. Dowding seconded. Motion passed without objection, 7-0.

Officer and Committee reports – President Ronnau stated all are working hard to get ongoing funding via many different avenues. Plans are still in the works to have a potluck to honor the staff.

2022 Fair Update

Schafersman shared fair book final deadline is Feb 28 for board and LEC staff to note any updates. Vicki with Extension sends the book to print on Mar 3.

Dowding shared an update on major changes and pending decisions. Dowding asked board's opinion on open class livestock show dates and it was decided to have all on Saturday Aug 6. Dowding shared Jenna Bulling has offered to be Open Class Static Manager and her suggested pay based on hours she did last year would be \$2500. It was decided to move forward with Jenna as the open class static manager at that pay level, but would like to see a detailed list of what hours she expects to be available and to spend on different aspects of the position. Dickerson noted to ask if she would like an assistant or not to ease the load of work.

Other outstanding questions the board decided on was taking a break from doing the Exhibitor Lunch n Learn this year, replacing Hay Hauling with Backseat Driver game, booking Horn T Zoo to handle Mutton Busting and having Cornhusker Kiwanis do the Exhibitor Breakfast at the same day and time as previous years but trying a new location in the shaded tent in Attraction Zone.

Schafersman shared plans to move forward with Nebraska Ribfest the 2nd weekend, focusing on more local vendors and Nebraska Pork Producers will be supporting again with extra marketing.

Schafersman shared Susan Bulling's update on Family Fun Zone which included a detailed schedule of entertainment has been prepared with highlights like expanded Fun at the Farm, Ag Facts Game Show, Lincoln Children's Zoo, and more.

Dowding shared shavings prices are being raised from \$9 to \$10, with 4-H/FFA price remaining at the discounted price of \$7.

No discussion on premium auction.

Operations Director Report – Rook gave an update that operationally shows are going great due to great weather and mask mandate being lifted, noting it seems business is back to normal. Rook and Dickerson have been looking at other pricing paying attention to cost of living adjustments to keep up to date with consideration if want to move from annual updates to mid-year updates.

COVID-wise the mask mandate has been lifted by the City of Lincoln, but LEC staff is still required to wear them at all times. Rook noted due to still being very short staffed LEC can't risk any staff members getting sick. Dickerson noted there has still been no spread amongst staff.

Rook shared the team is starting to get some great people on staff that really fit with LEC, with the biggest issue being running into people's availability.

Business Development Report – Kraeger gave an update on sponsorship progress noting fair sponsorships are moving right along about halfway to the goals. It was noted for the first time a few years all gate ticket sponsors are contracted before the fair book goes out. On the LEC side of things it appears hotel sponsorships are going down a bit due to shows having their own links to hotel discounted rates. Kraeger would like to work with promoters to encourage them to link through to LEC's hotels links to encourage more sponsorships and requested Ronnau's assistance in discussing with horse show promoters.

Next steps are to figure out alcohol sponsorships. Dickerson noted it seems like businesses are waking up from the pandemic after most came to a halt.

NHSFR Economic Impact Report Preview – Kraeger shared the economic impact report prepared by Dr. Eric Thompson was released to the public today that showed the first NHSFR in Lincoln brought \$18M in outside-of-county/state visitors spending to Lancaster County and State of Nebraska. The board looked at a story just published on it by the Lincoln Journal Star and discussed the report.

Managing Director Report – None.

Other Business – Doeschot moved to formally create a standing committee to study feasibility of murals at LEC and to appoint Cooper, Suing, Ronnau and Cusick-Rawlinson as committee member to report back to entire board. Dowding seconded. Motion passed without objection, 7-0.

Executive Session –

It was moved by Doeschot at 10:20pm to enter into an executive session to discuss customer negotiations and personnel. Suing seconded. Motion passed without objection, 7-0.

Doeschot moved and Dowding seconded to move out of Executive Session at 10:53pm. The motion passed, 7-0.

Adjournment –

At 10:54, Doeschot moved to adjourn, seconded by Cusick-Rawlinson, and the board approved the motion without objection.

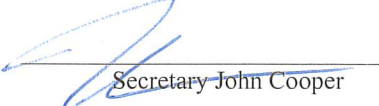
Next meeting: March 17, 2022 at 7pm

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 17th day of March, 2022

Submitted by the
LANCASTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY
IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA



President Kendra Ronnau



Secretary John Cooper