



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

Our big spaces inside & out are open for socially-distanced events—contact us if we can help you with yours!



Aug 17-20, 2022

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.

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING AGENDA ^{MINUTES}

Thursday, January 21, 2021 – 7:00 pm

Virtual only by Zoom:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82530389906>

or dial 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 825 3038 9906, Passcode: 150

If technical problems, call/text 402-429-1950

under Governor's Pandemic Executive Order 20-36 for Public Bodies through April 30 2021

President Ronnau called the monthly meeting of the Lancaster Country Agricultural Society board to order at 7:04pm.

Proof of due notice was given in the Lincoln Journal Star, and the Nebraska Open Meeting was shared on screen with explanation of how to find online.

Board members present Ron Suing, Kendra Ronnau, Tom Messick, Karen Rutt, and Bryce Doeschot. Jennifer Cusick-Rawlinson joined at 7:08pm, John Cooper and Ron Dowding joined at 7:30pm. Board member Lynn Hagan was not present. Also joining the meeting were 4-H/Extension staff Karen Wobig, Tracy Anderson and Nate Woods. LEC Fairgrounds staff present were Amy Dickerson, Jason Rief and Susan Bulling. Lancaster County Commissioner Roma Amundson also joined as well as Amanda Roberts.

Approval of Minutes – Doeschot moved to approve the minutes from December Regular Board Meeting minutes. Messick seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Messick moved to approve

the minutes from December Annual Board Meeting minutes. Rutt seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Checks – It was moved by Cusick-Rawlinson and seconded Doeschot to approve the paying of December checks in the amount of \$525,423.69. Motion passed without objection.

Financial report–The board looked through the reports for November 2020 including balance sheet and new format for statement of cash flows while Dickerson explained. Dickerson proposed showing this new format for better understanding of the cashflow. Executive board will continue to view the profit and loss statements, and board members can request to view these from the executive committee in the future. Messick moved to approve the November 2020 balance sheet and financials. Suing seconded. Motion passed without objection.

The board looked through the reports for December 2020 financials. Cusick-Rawlinson moved to approve the December 2020 balance sheet and financials. Messick seconded. Motion passed without objection.

Approval to President to sign 100% forgiveness application for 1st PPP loan/grant-\$407K–President Ronnau explained there is a PPP loan/grant forgiveness coming out and LEC Fairgrounds staff member Gubser has all the paperwork turned in for it. Ronnau seeking approval to sign the application. Cusick-Rawlinson moved to approve President to sign the application. Suing seconded. Motion passed without objection.

Approval for Officers to Sign 2nd PPP Loan/Grant papers - \$507K– Dickerson explained there is a second loan coming out and the plan is to send in an application for this any day now. It was noted this loan can be used for payroll and the team has been very careful to keep all other loans very separate from payroll. Dickerson seeking approval to apply for and have the officers sign the papers. Suing motioned to have the officers and Dickerson apply and sign the papers. Messick **signed**. Motion passed without objection.

Officer and Committee Reports– President Ronnau mentioned the hiring effort to grow LEC Fairgrounds staff, and asked all present to use their networks to reach out to potential hires. Cusick-Rawlinson gave an update on the Fund Development Committee that she worked on with LEC Fairgrounds staff member Hoyt Kraeger. The plans priorities included: 1) Rodeo fundraising, 2) LEC Fairgrounds medium targets, 3) Super Fair and longtime sponsors, 4) Donor cultivation, 5) Naming rights, 6) Rodeo vendors and 6.2) Super Fair vendors. Doeschot gave an update on VIP Fall Recognition Dinner, which he noted there would be more information to come in the next meeting. Messick gave an update on NAFM stating there's a meeting this Saturday that he plans to attend virtually. The main item on the agenda for this meeting is they'll be placing a vote for representation from District 1, and Messick

plans to give an update on that at next month's meeting.

2021 Fair Update–Dickerson gave an update on plans for the 2021 Super Fair, which includes transferring all the plans from 2020 to 2021 calendar dates. The fair book deadline schedule was shared with the next date for final changes as Feb 3. Bulling gave an update on Open Class and Rief gave an update on Motorsports. The last contract for demolition derby and figure 8 races ended in 2019 so Rief is exploring finding a new promoter to draw in more cars. It was noted to have Messick involved in the planning meetings for motorsport events. Cusick-Rawlinson asked if there was a possibility of having a tractor pull with the new grandstand. Dickerson said for next year this may be a possibility, but not for 2021 as the plan is to just roll everything planned from 2020 into 2021 and create less work for the team with the rodeo happening this year as well.

Extension update– Wobig formally introduced Nate Woods as newest extension board member, and noted there will be additional new members present at these meetings in the future. Wobig and Andersen gave an update on what 4-H/Extension has been working on.

Communication from the public– None

Legislative Update LB73– Dickerson gave an update on her work with Senator Geist on this bill that would add a constitutional amendment to the latest gambling bill that went through last Fall. Essentially this would allow a portion of the brand new fund from the gambling tax that goes to the city county to go to fairgrounds across the state of Nebraska. President Ronnau noted she heard rumblings that were going around about this allowing gambling to happen on fairgrounds, but that that is incorrect. This would simply be another revenue stream for fairgrounds. Lancaster County Commissioner Amundson and Vest shared with Ronnau that the Commissioners voted 3-2 in support of it. Amundson pointed out its important for the public to know this is not just to open the funds to LEC Fairgrounds but to all fairgrounds in the state of Nebraska. Dickerson noted they've hired a lobbyist to help with this. Dickerson seeking an official vote from the board to support LB73. Cusick-Rawlinson moved to approve the board to support LB73, and Suing seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Operations Director Update–Dickerson shared LEC Fairgrounds Operations Director Greg Rook's report given by email. This included opening last week for NE Deer Game Expo and noted it went very well despite being in a pandemic and a having a blizzard on opening day. Timed-entry tickets were used to keep the crowd evened out, which was a success. The biggest challenge right now is hiring enough staff. So far a majority that have applied aren't serious about finding a job. Construction wise the announcer stand just needs an electrical inspection before final finish. Ticket booth is getting footings added underneath as it is in a floodplane. Rook and Kraeger are at NHSRA Mid-Winter meeting in Texas this week and have reported having lots of productive conversations with directors. Currently the only

question that's been brought up is if the health guidelines will allow the rodeo to go forward, which Dickerson noted the health dept says its looking promising.

Managing Director Report–Dickerson gave an update on DHM/COVID operations, Controller/Financial Manager hiring process and the 2021 organizational plan.

Approval to continue with Virtual Board Meetings through April–President Ronnau shared Gov. Ricketts made it OK to have official meetings through April. The board discussed in depth whether to have virtual, in person or hybrid meetings. It was decided the board would make decisions month by month. Cusick-Rawlinson moved to continue with a virtual board meeting in February, and Cooper seconded. Motion passed 7-1 with Doeschot voting against.

Other business–none.

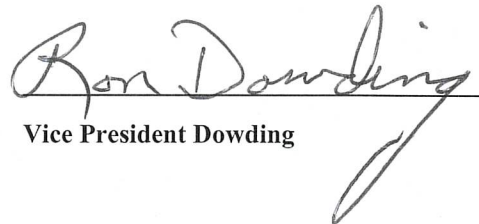
Executive session– Rutt moved to enter executive session and Messick seconded. Motion passed without objections and went into executive session at 9:08pm.

Messick moved to come out of executive session and Suing seconded. Motion passed without objections and came out of executive session at 9:29pm.

Adjournment–Dowding moved to adjourn the meeting and Rutt seconded. Motion passed without objection. Meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.



President Ronnau



Vice President Dowding

Next Meeting: February 18, 2021 at 7:00pm