



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*

PUBLIC MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds

4100 N 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68507

Lincoln Room (behind LEC Office)

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

8 pm

1. Call the meeting to order and proof of due notice of meeting and open meeting notice on display
 - *The meeting was called to order at 8:03 p.m.*
2. Roll call
 - Present
 - John Cooper
 - Ron Dowding
 - Lynn Hagan
 - Kendra Ronnau
 - Ron Suing
 - Bryce Doeschot
 - Tom Messick
 - Jennifer Cusick-Rawlinson (arrived after meeting start at 8:32 p.m.)
 - Absent
 - Karen Rutt
 - Other members present

- Amy Dickerson (Managing Director)
- Greg Rook (Operations Director)
- Karen Wobig (Unit Leader/Extension Educator with University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Lancaster County)
- Liz Shea-McCoy (local art enthusiast)
- Nate Dowding (Sr. Operations Manager/Super Fair Manager)
- Hoyt Kraeger (Business Development)

3. Proposal for Pershing outdoor mosaic mural to find new home at LEC Fairgrounds (Liz Shea-McCoy)

- Early Summer 2022 is the targeted timeline for the removal of the Pershing outdoor mosaic mural which features images of activities at the auditorium soon to be torn down after opening in the mid-1950s. Some of these activities continue to this day at the LEC fairgrounds.
- Shea-McCoy would like to move the mural to LEC; it is an ideal location since it is right off of I-80 and because of attendance at events. It also adds beauty to NE Lincoln which doesn't have as much public art as other parts of the city.
- The mural is very large and would cost ~\$2 million to remove it, transport it elsewhere, and conserve it with undetermined amount to install it in another location depending on size of mural that can be preserved and type of structure. McCoy needs \$13,000 by Friday (11/19/2021) to fund a feasibility study. The project also needs a 501(c)(3) to take the funds for this project which they have secured.
- More details about the project cannot be given until the feasibility study is complete on amount of mural that can be moved and preserved and if there are any asbestos or other issues. Worst case scenario, there may need for a warehouse that would be willing to store the mural. Shea-McCoy will share the feasibility study when it is ready.
- As long as the mural material is considered safe and funding is secured, the board is in favor of having further conversations for providing a location to re-install the mural on the fairgrounds.
- Shea-McCoy will draft a statement on the Ag Society's support of this mural preservation exploration she plans to share with Lincoln Journal Star and have Dickerson review and approve it beforehand.

4. Approval of minutes from Oct. regular board meeting

- *Dowding moved to approve the minutes from the October regular board meeting. Hagan seconded, and the motion was approved on a 4-0 vote. Doeschot, Messick, and Suing abstained from the vote due to not being present at the October regular board meeting. (Cusick-Rawlinson was not present for the motion.)*

5. Financial report—approve Oct. financials and checks (Martin)

- *Cusick Rawlinson arrived*

- *Cusick-Rawlinson moved to approve the October profit-loss and balance sheet financial statements. Suing seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously on 8-0 vote.*
- *Cusick-Rawlinson moved to approve October checks in the amount of \$480,605.25. Messick seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously on 8-0 vote.*

6. Officer and Committee reports

- President (Ronnau)
 - The LEC executive board and Dickerson are working really hard with lobbyists, the city, etc. to help tell LEC's story and progress as well as to promote LB73 portion of new county casino gambling tax for fairgrounds in same counties and help secure a funding source.
- VP (Dowding)
 - *Nothing to report.*
- Secretary (Cooper)
 - *Nothing to report.*
- Treasurer (Rutt)
 - *No report; Rutt was absent from the meeting due to health issues.*
- Committee Reports:
 - No committee reports or actions
 - Strategic Planning Committee (Cusick-Rawlinson), Personnel (Ronnau) Fund Development (Cusick-Rawlinson), NHSFR (Cooper), Grievance (Cooper)

7. Super Fair Update (Nate Dowding)

- Disc Dogs will not come to the event center due to another offer they received as well as LEC's facilities not meeting the specifications/requirements of its show.
- Nate Dowding is working with a show promoter that would do all the acts that LEC has requested that is also cheaper than Disc Dogs, Puppy Pals, etc. The show's main theme is puppy pirates.
- Daryl's Racing Pigs can do the 2nd week of the fair but not the 1st. The organization already has a deposit paid by LEC that will go toward the total cost. Nate Dowding will connect with him to get more information.
- Nate Dowding is currently working on the farm show, but will work on identifying a new Open Class Static Manager and finalize the Open Livestock shows afterward.
- A fair budget was prepared and distributed to the board. The board discussed some of the proposed changes and items in the budget, including the removal of the trade show and how the facility admin column expenses apply to the total cost of the fair.
- The board discussed pros/cons of taking a break from the trade show in the MPA which can be difficult to find vendors that fairgoers are excited about and vendors comment the traffic is not always worthwhile throughout the first 4 days of the fair. While there would be a loss in vendor booth revenue, there is

reduction in costs for pipe & drape, electrician, staff time for setup/teardown.

- *Cusick-Rawlinson moved to take a break from the trade show in MPA for a year. Hagan seconded, and the motion was carried on a 4-3 vote. (Cooper, Messick, and Doeschot voted no; Rutt was not present.)*

8. 4-H Program / Extension Update (Anderson/Wobig)

- Vicki is looking ahead and setting dates for the fair book with first schedule changes due mid-January again. Otherwise, 4-H and Extension have been operating as normal.
- The Extension board has voted on two new members; the decision is being forwarded to the County commissioners for their review/approval. Bob Hughes is remaining on the board for his second term. (Pat Heather and Jim Pinkerton will be leaving the board.)

9. NAFM award nominations due December 20th – appoint board lead

- The board agreed to take a break from submitting NAFM nominations this year due to the demands of the fair and rodeo amid the pandemic.

10. Determine final candidates for Annual Ag Society Board Election (Nominating Committee Cusick-Rawlinson, Dowding & Messick)

- The 3-year terms of Suing, Rutt, Ronnau are ending.
- The board is to confirm final candidate bios/pics received by today's Nov. meeting deadline.
- *Cusick-Rawlinson moved to approve the three candidates up for re-election (Suing, Rutt, and Ronnau). Hagan seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously without objection, and the three candidates were officially added to the ballot.*

11. Reminder Ag Society Election & Annual Meeting (Thursday, Dec. 15, 2021)

- Election 5:30-6:30 pm
- Annual meeting 6:45 pm
- Monthly Board meeting 7:30 pm

12. Approve 2022 Ag Society Board Meeting Dates

- *Suing moved to approve the 2022 Lancaster Ag Society board meeting dates as presented. Messick seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously without objection on 8-0 vote.*

13. Operations Director Report (Rook)

- A few people were hired on using new Breezy online portal posted on multiple job sites but tracked in one location. LEC has been seeing good applications from the platform.
- Preparations are currently underway for the Farm Ag Expo show.
- Rook is still working on rolling out budgets to the managers with Martin.

14. Managing Director Report (Dickerson)

- Dickerson submitted a letter of interest for City/County ARPA grants for attraction/business district funds. Dickerson noted that these monies will not flow

until early Spring if LEC were approved.

- Dickerson presented an updated visual concept of LEC's long-planned Phase 3 expansion with new uses proposed for the corner in addition to the Ag Coliseum and Pavilion 5 that is being used for the State ARPA proposal. Proposed up front in the corner is a new Ag Tech Experience mini-demo farm to be open year-round for local youth groups & visiting youth and out-of-state visitors of all ages that attend LEC regional/national events with room for ag tech demos inside that interact with adjacent test plots of crops, urban gardens and livestock. The vision is to secure partners to help fund the build-out and operations of this innovative ag education experience designed to help Nebraska keep its youth excited about future ag careers and attract new students, citizens & investors to Nebraska.

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

- *No members from the public present.*

16. Adjournment

- *Hagan moved to adjourn the meeting. Dowding seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously on a 8-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 p.m.*

Next Ag Society Public Meetings: THURSDAY, December 16, 2021

Lancaster Room (enter Business Center, Pavilion 1)

- Board Election 5:30 – 6:30pm
- Annual Meeting 6:45 – 7:30 pm
- Monthly Board Meeting 7:30 pm


(See final meeting timing/location at LancasterEventCenter.org, click on About Us, Public Notices)

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 16 day of December, 2022

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



President Kendra Ronnau



Secretary John Cooper