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

Home of the



August 1-10 2024

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.*

Lancaster Event Center Fairgrounds
Lancaster Room – Pavilion 1 Business Center entrance
4100 N. 84th Street, Lincoln NE 68507

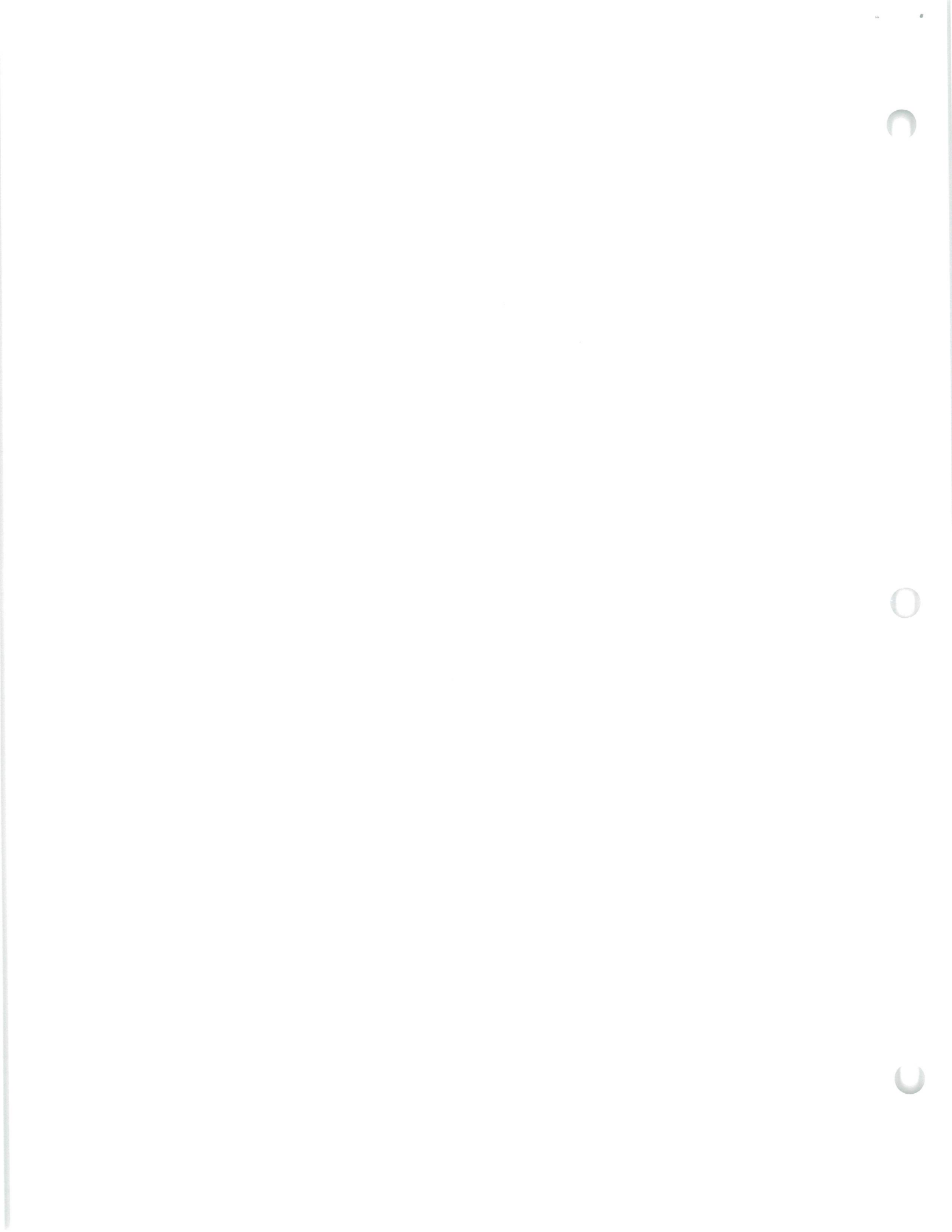
MINUTES

Board of Directors Monthly Meeting

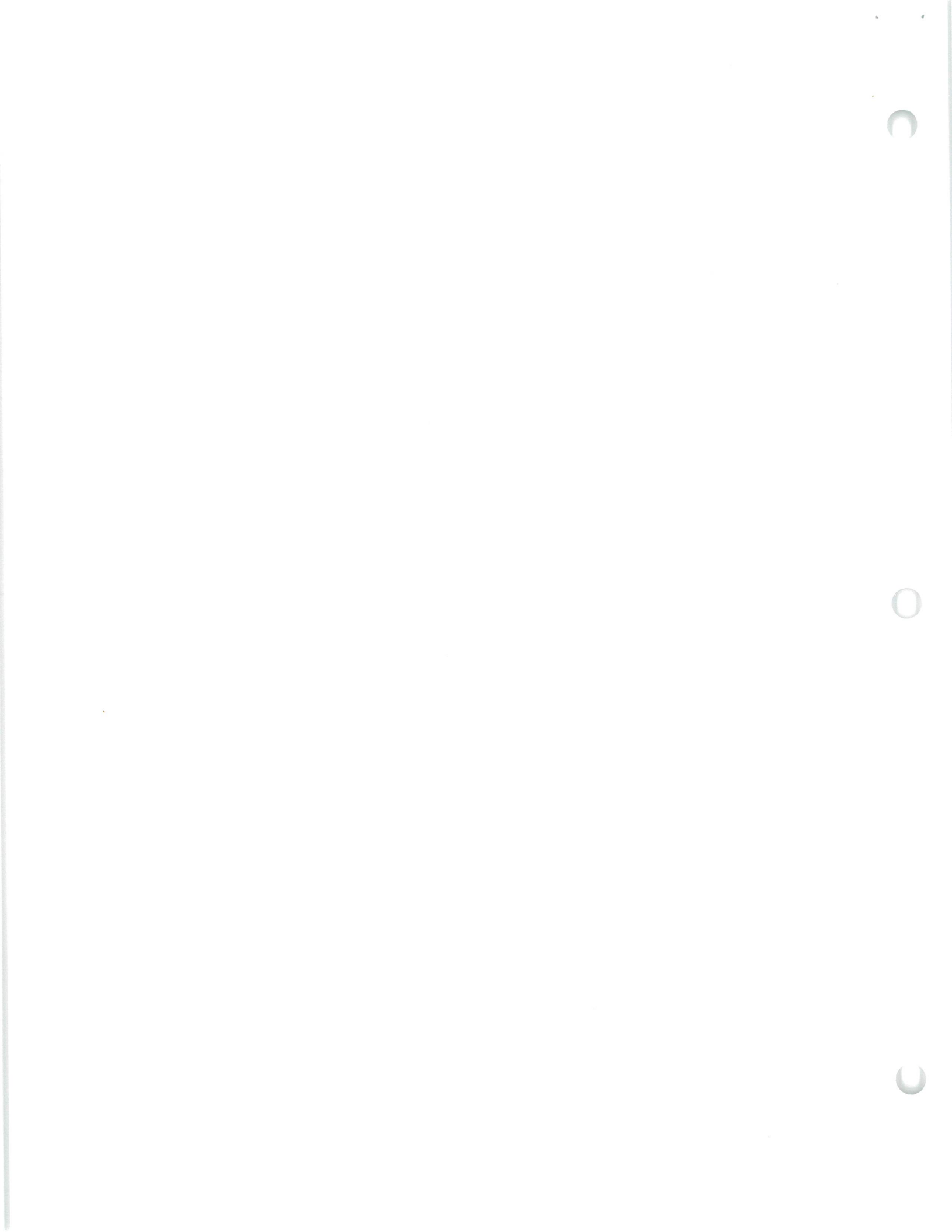
Thursday, September 21, 2023

no sooner than 7:30 pm

1. Call the meeting to order and proof of due notice of meeting and open meeting notice posted
 - Chair Ronnau called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm with LEC staff taking minutes.
 - Ronnau confirmed that proof of due notice had occurred in the newspaper and that the open meeting regulations were available in the room for reference
2. Roll Call
 - Present: Rutt, Hardesty, Ronnau, Suing, R. Dowding, Cooper, Sump
 - Absent: Cusick-Rawlinson, Hagan
 - LEC staff present in person: Dickerson, N. Dowding, Harrison, J. Rief
 - Extension staff in person: Wobig
 - Extension Board member Chris Scow
3. Approval of minutes from August regular board meeting & 2023 Budget Hearing
 - August minutes approval moved by Sump, seconded by Rutt. Roll call vote passed 7-0.
 - September 21, 2023 Budget Hearing for Ag Society minutes moved to approve by Dowding, seconded by Suing. Roll call vote passed 7-0.
4. Officer Reports
 - President (Ronnau), Vice President (Dowding), Secretary (Cooper), Treasurer (Rutt)
 - President Ronnau commented the staff was very busy—lots of great momentum.
 - No other officer reports.



5. Committee Reports as relevant:
 - Personnel (Ronnau), Strategic Planning (Rawlinson), Premium Auction (Open), NHSFR Rodeo (Cooper), Grievance (Cooper), Fund Development (Rawlinson)
 - No reports given
6. Fair Manager Report
 - Prelim 2023 financial / attendance results (Harrison)
 - Harrison commented that invoices still coming in, that fair finances would be finalized by next month.
 - Harrison says attendance based on rubber strip counting of vehicles increased from 99K to 129K visitors (a 31% increase) which seemed to be driven by wonderful cooler weather and few storms in 2023.
 - Harrison reviewed grandstand event profitability and said that the Demo Derby and new Demo Derby surpassed budget expectations. Dickerson commented that the new ticketing strategy of kids free 12 & under seemed to work very well.
 - N. Dowding said the staff was focused on lots of projects and hadn't had a detailed post-fair meeting yet, but Jones has been doing a lot of great documentation on how each open event went in terms of results/attendance.
 - Ronnau commented that she had heard feedback from a post-fair equine program meeting with parents hosted by Extension that was advertised in Facebook it seems that Ag Society did not know about to send a representative. A major club is considering leaving to compete in Seward County based on some concerns on communication and education opportunities year-round for the youth. Some concern on length of equine show days for 4-H, Ronnau commented no reason to not keep the equine shows within the first 4 days of the public fair given
 - Cooper commented that the major 4-H program educator positions need to be treated as higher professional jobs to keep and attract high quality college graduates, example the Livestock new educator started before the fair and chose to leave right after the fair.
 - Early 2024 planning direction discussion (N. Dowding)
 - N. Dowding commented the staff has not really dived into next year fair planning yet as results were still being tallied
7. Extension Update -- Karen Wobig, Lancaster County Extension
 - Wobig commented Extension staff glad to survive State Fair, were very busy and mentioned the Livestock Assistant role could not be filled yet due to UNL hiring freeze
8. Communication from the public (5-minute limit per person)
 - Extension board member Scow mentioned he was more than willing to help with the 4-H programs, to help understand what the issues might be to keep the youth numbers up
9. 2023 Ag Society Hall of Fame nominations due by October board meeting
 - Suing commented wants to nominate Roma Amundson
 - Ronnau encouraged the board to consider other nominations before the next meeting
10. Appointment of Annual Board Election Nominating Committee (Ronnau, Suing, Rutt)
 - Nominate candidates for board directors at end 3-year terms: Cusick-Rawlinson, Sump, Hagan
 - Annual nominating committee membership was confirmed as board members Ronnau, Suing and Rutt who will be next up for reelection in December 2024
 - December 2023 candidate statements will be due by the November meeting



11. Operations Report (N. Dowding)

- Silver Classic QH up 100 stalls to 360 next week—NE Quarter Horse shows attendance has been up all year
- New Monster Truck Wars in October in the grandstand—will do 2nd show that night if sales go well
- Cutting show cancelled in Oct—needs 1000 head cattle and only has found 300 due to drought since cattle prices up double, trucking higher with fuel prices.
- Reviewed construction planned to be completed before Ag Expo—lighting P2 & P3, roof fix P3, NE Room polished floor, garage door windows, fix electric line for Grandstand, backup sewer lift pump came in, new garage doors fixed from 7/4 storm, submitting damaged bleachers to insurance, all grandstand chain link & white fencing fixed from 7/4 storm
- Cooper said we should look at the trailer popup bleachers to save labor and sell our old bleachers for salvage metal value as we potentially get insurance monies for some new bleachers
- Harrison said the new lighting will take us down \$10K in utility costs for P3 if run at lower rate for two months next summer
- N. Dowding mentioned that one of the main HVAC units over the Lincoln Room has failed and is getting quotes on design of entire new system. Cooper commented to check on building control system longevity and compatibility with HVAC units we purchase over time.
- Harrison commented that the Lincoln Room cooler and freezer are now on the new digital alarm system installed today in addition to portable Bluetooth monitors on the other refrigerators/freezers throughout the 9-acre facility to avoid major losses if any cooler/freezer isn't keeping our food & beverage inventory at temperature.

12. Financial Report (Harrison)

- For info: Prelim P&L & Balance Sheet (August – final at October meeting)
 - Harrison said August financials will be available at next month's meetings as waiting for fair invoices
- For info: A/R, A/P, Budget YTD (through August)
 - Harrison presented Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable status through August and through Sept 18th. She commented Accounts Payable is current on payments.
 - Budget YTD through August will be presented next month when financials completed.
- For approval: Checks (August)
 - Harrison presented \$633,851.01 in checks from August for approval. Moved by Cooper and seconded by Hardesty to approve checks in this amount. No discussion. Passed by roll call vote 7-0.
- Update: 2024 operational budget process
 - Harrison said she would be meeting with Department Managers to develop their 2023-2024 operational budgets with a goal to present to the board before the start of the fiscal year in November
 - Ronnau commended Harrison on getting this operational budget process instituted, it's been an ask of the board for a while.

13. Naming Committee Report

- Ronnau commented the committee had been very active meeting approximately three times since last board meeting to give staff specific feedback and approvals on logos and signage so far has been focus.



- Logos approved
 - Dickerson gave update on logos approved by Ag Society and Sandhills Global before the 30-day deadline in the naming rights agreement
- Signage status
 - Dickerson took board through highlights of signage proposed by Sandhills Global that are currently being finalized to show the board naming rights committee to provide final approvals

14. Managing Director Report (Dickerson)

- Update Other Naming Projects in Progress
 - Dickerson mentioned that the LEC team was working on updating the web site, social media, printed stationary & documents/forms as well as updating uniforms
- Funding Development Process
 - Dickerson said LEC would be applying for a new special lodging tax grant in October to provide matching funds from the County for the State Shovel Ready grant.
 - The DED is due to announce results of the State Shovel Ready grant shortly.
 - LEC lobbyists are staying in touch with the City on how they may participate as well in providing matching funds to complete the fundraising.

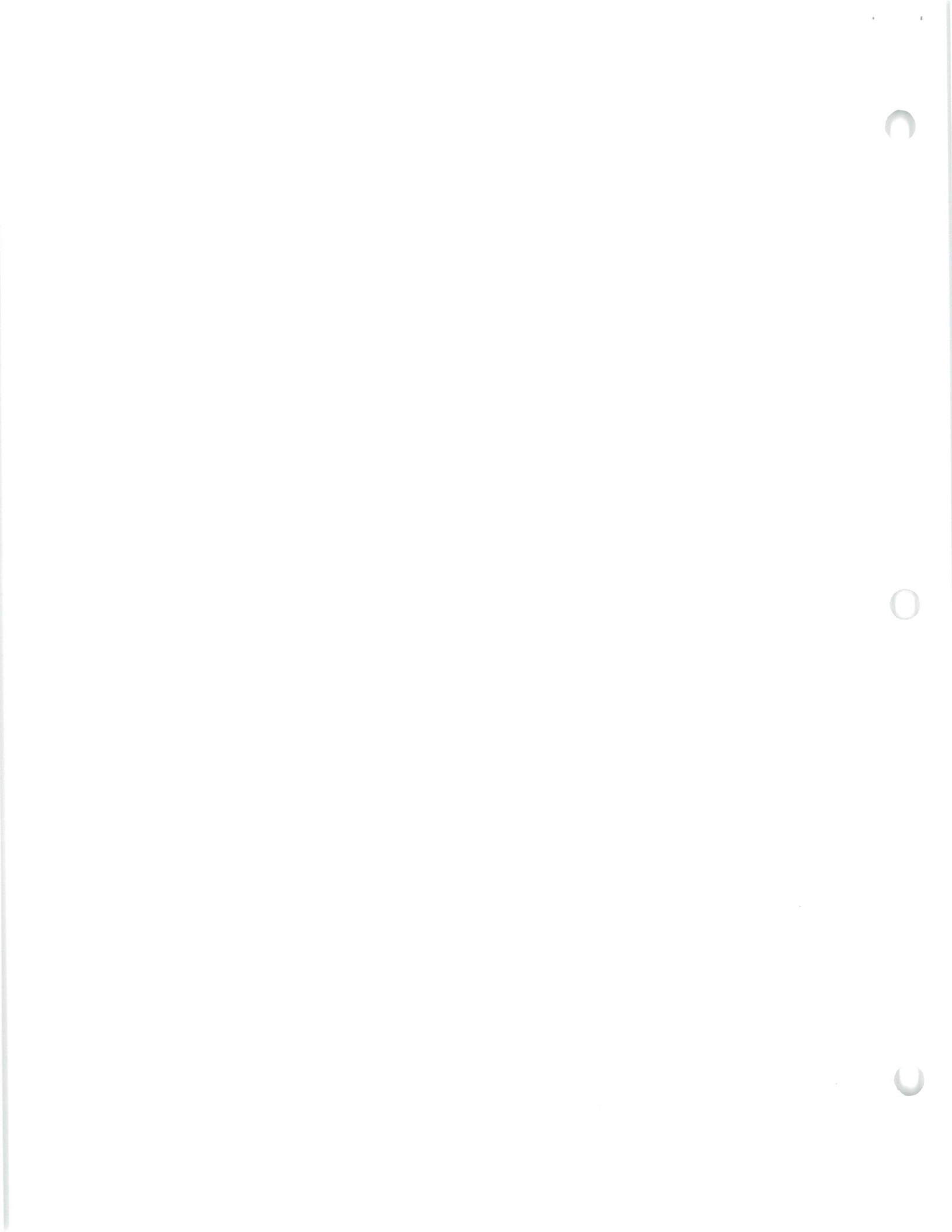
15. Confirm board meetings & VIP events rest of year

- Reminder board meeting times move to 7 pm Nov – March
- Confirm November meeting on Thursday 16th – vote
 - Hardesty moved, Rutt seconded the motion to meet on Thursday November 16, 2023 for monthly meeting. No discussion. Roll call vote passed 7-0.
- Magical Lights Preview for board/staff...opens 11/24 day after Thanksgiving
 - Board asked in discussion that this year due to naming events, Joni Jones work out to get coupons for LCAS board, LEC staff and other LEC VIPs like volunteers, sponsors to visit this new show as works around their personal schedules over the holidays.
- Naming Launch VIP Preview Reception – Thurs Nov 30
 - Dickerson commented plan was to honor one AkSarBen farm family this year and couple Ag Society Hall of Fame inductees typically each year with more limited sponsors/volunteers recognized this year to keep the program crisp and to recognize that many don't come unless major award. Need to confirm date with Sandhills Global team as well.
 - Dickerson mentioned we needed help to organize this event to take her place this year due to all the naming rights execution happening at same time.
- Naming Public/Media Ribbon Cutting/Tour – Fri Dec 1
 - Dickerson mentioned this is the effective naming date and that "hold the dates" would get out to public officials and other VIPs shortly for both Nov 30 and Dec 1 events as these were confirmed with Sandhills team

16. Other business – None discussed.

17. Adjournment

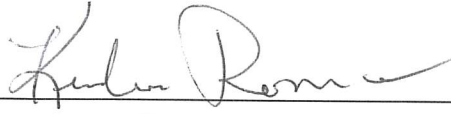
- Cooper moved, Hardesty seconded to adjourn. Passed without objection. Meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.



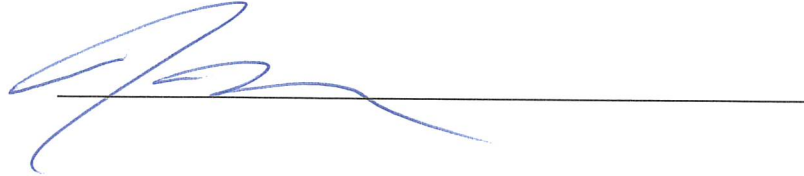
PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 14 day of December, 2023

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

President Kendra Ronnau



Secretary John Cooper



Next meeting scheduled for: November 16, 2023 at 7:00pm
See LancasterEventCenter.org → Public Notices

