

# Lancaster EVENT CENTER fairgrounds



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. 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln NE 68507

Lancaster Room (Business Center in Pavilion 1)

Thursday, December 16, 2021

7PM

1. Call the meeting to order and proof of due notice of meeting and open meeting notice posted.
  - *The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by President Ronnau*
2. Roll Call
  - *Present: Ron Dowding, Lynn Hagan, Kendra Ronnau, Ron Suing, Bryce Doeschot, Tom Messick, Jennifer Cusick-Rawlinson, Karen Rutt*
  - *Absent: John Cooper*
3. Approval of Minutes from November Regular Board Meeting
  - *Cusick-Rawlinson moved to approve the minutes from the November regular board meeting. Hagan seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously without objection.*
4. Approval of Checks (Rest of Financial Report w/ end of year financials next month)
  - *Cusick-Rawlinson moved to approve November checks in the amount of \$325,992.83. Dowding seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously without objection.*
5. Officer and Committee Reports
  - President (Ronnau)-Better Fair Mtg w/ Extension next steps before 4-H fair schedule due mid-Jan
    - *There was a great farm show this December as vaccinations and have become available. Everyone was thrilled with the show and gave a lot of praise. Lines moved along nicely and Lisa did a great job leading cafe operations. Several local leaders from County Board, City Council and State Senators attended a VIP tour/reception hosted by LEC on 1<sup>st</sup> day. The show has helped spur good discussions and better relations with NEDA that hosts the show. The board plans to host a potluck for the LEC team as a way of saying thanks for all their hard work in 2021 under challenging situation with the*

ongoing pandemic and such huge growth amid a labor shortage; the potluck date and time is TBD.

- VP (Dowding), Secretary (Cooper), Treasurer (Rutt)
    - *Nothing to report.*
  - Committee Reports - *NONE*
    - Personnel (Ronnau)
    - Strategic Planning (Cusick-Rawlinson)
    - Grievance (Cooper)
    - NHSFR Rodeo Committee (Cooper/Ronnau)
    - Fund Development Committee (Cusick-Rawlinson)
6. Extension Report (Wobig or designate)
- Trudy Pedley – The annual Extension State legislative gathering in January will feature NAEB representatives coming down and having 1-on-1 discussions with Extension folks. The state senators have all had good perceptions of LEC Fairgrounds. There are still openings for additional staff that the Extension office is looking to fill.
7. Communication from the Public (5-minute limit per person)
- Marty Minchow It was exciting to see how a community of different ages, backgrounds, etc. came together in a time of crisis (i.e. July microburst storm) during the fair/rodeo. It was also great to see the city being so excited about results and contributions from the LEC Fairgrounds. However, after a recent report in the Lincoln Journal Star regarding how LEC only broke even financially after the fair and rodeo, there is cause for concern. The events that LEC hosts throughout the year are for the purpose of raising funds for the fair (which is what the LEC was built for). I am worried that the fair will be kicked out of the facility and make the rodeo the primary goal. The fair was kind of ready this past year, but not quite, which is also of concern. She asked to just be heard and for the board to not respond, to think about what the comments were.
  - Jerry Minchow: Nobody seems to be aware of why we are here. I was on the extension board at one time and know that LEC Fairgrounds was built to deal with restrictions associated with the Lancaster County Fair on the state fairgrounds. These restrictions put stress on fair superintendents, 4-H leaders, etc. LEC was built to get away from such restrictions. If we are going to have events like horse shoes, trade shows, etc., that is fine, but they better not interfere with the fair (or else I will be unhappy).
8. Election of Officers to serve one year starting upon January 2022 meeting
- *Suing moved to maintain the officer positions from 2021. Hagan seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously without objection.*
    - The positions for 2022 will be as follows:
      - Kendra Ronnau – President
      - Ron Dowding – Vice President
      - John Cooper – Secretary
      - Karen Rutt – Treasurer
9. Elect Ag Society three representatives on Fairgrounds JPA to serve one year effective in January 2022
- Ronnau, Messick, and Suing served as three board representatives for the Fairgrounds JPA last year.
  - *Doeschot moved to have Ronnau, Suing, and Hagan serve as the 2022 board representatives for the Fairgrounds JPA effective January 2022. Rutt seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Thus, Ronnau and Suing will remain as Fairgrounds JPA representatives for 2022, and Hagan will replace Messick as a Fairgrounds JPA board representative for 2022.*
10. NAFM conference final attendance plan (Jan 21-23 in Kearney)
- Nate Dowding will try to attend the conference during the day on Saturday as that is the most

productive day to go to and from the conference without staying overnight. The conference is a good place to find ideas for future attractions.

- Cusick-Rawlinson volunteered to be the primary board designee for the NAFM conference, and Ronnau said she can serve as an alternate voter for the conference. *Hagan moved to make Cusick-Rawlinson the primary voting representative (and Ronnau the alternate designee) for the NAFM conference. Rutt seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*

11. Operating Director Report (Rook)—Ag Expo

- LEC received lots of praise and nice emails following the Ag Expo. The numbers were down just a bit from previous years, but not by too much. Wednesday was a particularly busy day at the show. Kudos to the board for their help during the busier times at the show. There was a new Ag Innovation Showcase and HS Student Ag Careers Exploration Days that attracted 100's of students with UNL's support. LEC was even able to find and hire on new staff members at the show! The show is integral in teaching youth that agriculture is not just being on tractors or out in the field; there are also some technology aspects to agriculture that they can get involved in.

12. Managing Director Report (Dickerson)—ATT cell tower

- ATT very interested in being added to LEC cell tower ever since NHSFR overwhelmed them, contract still in process.
- LEC has made a lot of positive momentum despite the challenges of the pandemic. Dickerson has communicated with folks at UNL to see if LEC can partner with them on the new LEC Master Plan Ag Tech Experience interactive mini-farm to enhance agriculture programming.

13. Other Business

- Doeschot proposed to resume sharing monthly accounts payable and accounts receivable reports at monthly board meetings instead of just with the Executive Board.
  - He commented this would help increase transparency and make information more accessible to all board members to be fully aware of LEC's operations.
  - Staff told the Board that the A/P, A/R reports if handed out at public meetings are expected to be part of the public minutes which in the past were just in a binder in the office and now also have been posted online though not all board handouts are consistently making it into the online minutes packet due to shortage of staff time as of yet.
- *Doeschot moved to resume having Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable reports made available for review and questions at each monthly board meeting. Cusick-Rawlinson seconded, and the motion passed on a 7-1 vote.*

14. Adjournment

- *Doeschot moved to adjourn the meeting. Suing second, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.*

**Next Meeting:**

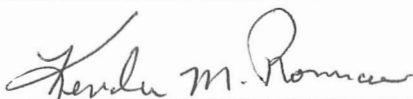
Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 7 pm

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this 30 day of January, 2021

Submitted by the

LANCASTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA



President Kendra Ronnau



Vice President Ron Dowding