



Home of the



A nonprofit 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to growing community like yours, and proud home of the Super Fair

## **Lancaster County Agricultural Society, Inc.**

*A Nebraska 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation  
and quasi-governmental organization created under Nebraska law in 1870  
to promote agriculture, youth, and community  
through management of Lancaster's county fairgrounds  
and organizing the annual Lancaster county fair*

### **MINUTES**

Board of Directors Monthly Meeting  
Lancaster Room – Sandhills Global Event Center  
4100 N. 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln NE 68507  
Tuesday, September 17, 2024 – 7:30 pm

**President Ronnau called the monthly meeting** of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society board to order at 7:11pm.

**Proof of due notice** was given in the Lincoln Journal star and the Nebraska Open Meeting Act was displayed in the room.

**Lancaster Ag Society Board members attending** in person were Ronnau, Cusick-Rawlinson, Suing, Hagan, Cooper, Rutt, Hardesty and Sump. SGEC staff in attendance included Beckstrom, Rief, Bohaty, Stara, Juengel, Orton, and Nathan.

**Approval of Minutes** – The minutes from the August meeting were presented for approval. Cusick-Rawlinson requested to remove the 2 sentences on page 2 regarding foundation grants – a grant has been identified. Cusick-Rawlinson moved to approve the minutes as amended and Sump seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 7-0. Rutt abstained.

**Approval of 2024 budget hearing minutes** – The minutes from the August 2024 budget hearing were presented for approval. Cusick-Rawlinson moved to approve the minutes and Hardesty seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed 8-0.

**Officer Reports** – Ronnau said she was looking forward to the Blue Jean Gala, and honoring others. There were no other officer reports.

**Committee Reports** – There were no committee reports.

**Fair Manager's Report** – Preliminary 2024 financial/attendance results were reported by Stara. Cusick-Rawlinson said that changing how parking was done this year was positive. Ronnau asked to have the estimate of 2 attendees/car be evaluated, suggesting it should be higher.

Early 2025 planning information was provided by Juengel. Discussion about a potential Ribfest and Frogfest events in 2025 were had. Ronnau asked about creating a post-survey for the Super Fair. Ronnau asked the fair team to meet with 4-H fair organizers for their feedback on the fair. Ronnau observed that there is opportunity to utilize more space. Bohaty stated that the team is reviewing fees for outdoor vendors. Cusick-Rawlinson asked about future potential grandstand events. Cooper inquired about profit/loss information from the fair. Ronnau requested additional data to support decision-making on future events. Cusick-Rawlinson expressed appreciation to Juengel and other SGEC staff in attendance for thinking outside of the box to continue to create a memorable, fun-filled Super Fair. Cusick-Rawlinson asked about the timeline for the 2025 fair budget; it was decided that it will be presented at the October board meeting.

Sump moved to advance the Financial Report (#13) to this part of the agenda so that the presenter can leave. Hagan seconded the motion. The motion passed with no objection.

**Financial Report** – In attendance were Todd Blome and Annie Hopping, representatives of BMG CPA firm. An overview of the 4 broad areas being reviewed (Payroll, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, and Tax Compliance/Financial Reporting) was provided by Blome. Blome said they continue to update SGEC bookkeeping with recommendations to provide clearer checks and balances. Ronnau asked if anyone had any questions for BMG.

Stara presented June Financials for information, and August checks for approval. Cusick-Rawlinson moved to approve the August checks totaling \$645,134.22 and Suing seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed 8-0.

**Extension Update** – None

**Communication from the Public** – No public in attendance.

**2024 Ag Society Hall of Fame nominations** – Juengel reported that the candidates have been notified.

**Appointment of Annual Board Election Nominating Committee** – Ronnau reviewed the requirements for nominations. The nomination committee includes Dowding, Cooper, and Hardesty.

**Nomination of candidates for Board of Directors** - Hardesty moved to nominate Ronnau, Suing, and Rutt as candidates for the LCAS Board of Directors. Hagan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken; the motion passed 8-0.

**Operations Report** – Dowding provided updates on the Blue Jean Gala; new plaques have been ordered. Hormel is donating all food. Dowding provided a construction update – everything is on schedule; HVAC updates are completed.

**Naming Committee Report** – Nathan provided updates on various naming projects: quotes are being obtained for Trailer Wraps and LED screens; Door logos are being installed; campground signs will be installed soon. Ronnau asked Bohaty to get more background information about LED screens.

**Managing Director’s Report** – Bohaty reported that the recent office organization changes are making a positive impact on workflow and team building. Bohaty provided an updated on an office design. Ronnau said that shovel-ready grant funds could be used for an office expansion. Ronnau asked if the design accounts for future growth. Cooper asked about the availability of funds for the project; Stara confirmed the funds are currently available. Ronnau asked Bohaty to move forward with obtaining a quote for the proposed office design. Rief provided an update on the Wifi installation that took place last week. Overall, it went smoothly, and he continues to resolve issues. Ronnau suggested a staff training once complete, so they can assist as needed. Bohaty provided an update on camping, stating that numbers are very strong.

**Confirm board meeting times & VIP events rest of year** – Nathan provided an update on Magical Lights, reviewing the increased marketing efforts from Coke in local businesses. QR codes will be tracked.

**Other business** – Ronnau reviewed the need for remote-linking for the monthly meetings. The decision was made that a remote link will be available for board members as requested but will not be available to the public.

**Other Business** – Hagan moved to go into an executive session for a personnel discussion. Hardesty seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 8-0. The board moved into an executive session at 10:08pm.

Suing moved to leave the executive session and Hardesty seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed 8-0. Executive session ended at 10:48.

There was no further discussion.

**Adjournment** – Cooper made a motion to adjourn; Sump seconded the motion. The motion passed with no objection. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50pm.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED as set forth herein on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024. Submitted by the LANCASTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IN THE STATE OF NEBRASKA.

President Kendra Ronnau \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary John Cooper \_\_\_\_\_