



Minutes - October 11, 2023

Call to Order: Chair Bostwick called the hybrid Agriculture & Extension Education Committee to order at 7:15 pm.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Bostwick, Crary, Sweeney, Stevens, and Towns.

Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Chrissy Wen, Julie Hill, Brent Southerland, Brad Meier, Ryan George.

Others Present: None.

Adopt Agenda: Supervisor Towns moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Crary. ADOPTED.

Approval of Minutes:

September 13 2023 Ag and Ext Minutes: Supervisor Towns moved approval of the September 13, 2023 minutes, second by Supervisor Crary. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: none.

Division of Extension:

Review of September Payments: September payments were reviewed.

Program Report: Julie Hill, Horticulture Outreach Specialist: Julie Hill introduced herself, sharing that she continues to respond to county resident inquiries about gardening, plants and best practices. Starting to schedule programming for the upcoming year. Foundations in Gardening state-wide online course is ongoing and Julie explained that her role, with the Foundations in Gardening, includes co-teaching some of the four optional online lab sessions. Julie also highlighted the upcoming fall/winter related Webinar schedule, explaining that these webinars are designed to be seasonal topics and the webinar topics will change throughout the year. Julie shared that she's excited about some programming opportunities that may be coming up with Aldrich Middle School.

Monthly Impact Report: Chrissy introduced the monthly impact report, noting the highlighted Rock County community partners and the current activities and program planning for each educator.

Fairgrounds::

Review of September Payments: September payments were reviewed.

Approval for September Contracts: September contracts were reviewed. Supervisor Towns moved approval of the September Contracts as presented, seconded by Supervisor Crary. APPROVED.

Review of Yearly Contracts- Year to Date: Yearly contract report was reviewed.

Request for Rental Contract Changes: Brent explained that this request to change the Rental Contract content started as an effort to determine the best way to encourage larger groups/events to rent the entire fairgrounds while being sure to offer a fair rental fee that covers all county costs. Brent explained that he is looking for feedback from the committee and he will bring back to the committee at the next meeting an initial draft of the Rental Policy and Rental Contract changes for the committee's review and or approval. Brent went on to explain that, based upon his initial review, and due to increased materials used and cleanup costs, the cost to rent out the entire fairgrounds would be about \$2,000/day. He then introduced some of the language and content discrepancies between the Rental Policy online and the Rental Contract that will need to match, like access hours, quiet hours, key pickup, cancelation notice timeframe, etc. He also mentioned there has been a noticeable increase in noise complaints by the neighbors who live around the Fairgrounds. The noise concerns for the fairground neighbors were echoed by Supervisor Bostwick and the Committee. The committee discussed the need for security on the grounds for the events that included an alcohol permit. Brent plans to meet with the Rock County Sheriff's department and the Janesville Police department to discuss options and responsibilities for law enforcement. Brent will also talk with several local security companies to be able to present Rental Contract and Rental Policy changes, rental pricing recommendations and associated costs to the committee at the next meeting. Supervisor Crary thanked Brent for his efforts in getting this topic resolved.

Request to Amend the Rental Fees: Brent asked the Committee to consider a \$2000 rental fee for the entire Fairgrounds and approve the request to amend the rental fees to cover all Rock County costs including security costs when needed for each rental event.

Fair Board Report: Ryan noted that it appears the usage of the Fairgrounds is changing and suggested the committee consider the primary use of the Fairgrounds. A conversation ensued, and it was generally agreed upon by the committee, that the understood arrangement that Fairgrounds usage by the Fair, during fair time, be discussed and possibly put in writing. Ryan also agreed that the discussion about rental policy and rental contract changes is going to be important to get right so as to keep good relations with the local residents, especially with the Fair during fair time. Ryan added that they are already planning for next year, including renewing contracts and signing new entertainment contracts. He's looking forward to seeing how the final fair numbers look at their November meeting but noted it is looking a lot better than what was expected given the weather.

Comments from the Committee: No comments.

Adjournment: Supervisor Towns moved to adjourn at 8:21 pm, seconded by Supervisor Stevens.
ADOPTED by acclamation.

Name of person who took the Minutes: Brad Meier

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