



Minutes - August 14, 2024

Call to Order: Chair Bostwick called the hybrid Agriculture & Extension Education Committee to order at 6:11 pm.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Bostwick, Schneider and Whitledge.

Committee Members Absent: Supervisors Towns, Ringhand,

Staff Members Present: Chrissy Wen, Brad Meier, Mike Parille, Brent Sutherland

Others Present: Ryan George, Gideon, Beth Burdick

Adopt Agenda: Supervisor Whitledge moved approval of the agenda for August 14, 2024, seconded by Supervisor Schneider. ADOPTED

Approval of Minutes:

2024-07-10 Ag & Extension Committee Minutes: Supervisor Schneider moved approval of the July 10, 2024 Ag and Extension minutes, seconded by Supervisor Whitledge. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Division of Extension::

Review of Payments: July payments were reviewed.

Monthly Impact Report: Chrissy Wen introduced the monthly impact report, noting the Extension summer highlight section that included photos and testimonials from the department educators. Chrissy went on to point out the significant amount of programming and collaboration through Extension this summer. Chrissy highlighted Erin Conway's successful Better Together program that just finished at the Hedberg Public Library, Josh Kamp's recent field day at the Rock County farm, Alison Pfau's Spanish Dairy Webinar series, and global reach of participants, Julie Hill's summer of horticulture programming, Sara Ennocenti's WeCope program, and all the continued summer programming efforts of the FoodWise team and even a local article in the Janesville gazette

Fairgrounds::

Review of July Payments: July payments were reviewed.

Approval of July Contracts: Brent explained that there were no July contracts due to the fair.

Review of Year to Date Contracts: Brent mentioned that the new security deposit had been implemented for 2025 contracts and there will be a meeting with the security company to address expectations and policy.

Update on Contract Language in Spanish: Brent explained that 80% of the contracts are with the Spanish community and the facilities department is working to provide a legally written Spanish version of the rental contract and agreement, written by a certified translator.

Update on Event Noise Reduction Initiatives: Brent pointed out the new decibel meter that was installed to constantly display the current sound level in the Craig Center. This will help security personnel to monitor event noise levels and provide objective noise management and enforcement of the noise levels as detailed in the rental contract and agreement. Brent mentioned again, that he would be meeting with the security company to discuss ongoing expectations and procedures related to security personnel and the responsibilities of the security officer at fairground rental events.

Review of Rental Fees: Brent provided a brief review of comparable, nearby fairground event rental spaces, comparing space, amenities and associated rental costs. Jefferson and Walworth County fairgrounds were included in the review. The committee discussed several maintenance items that need to be addressed in the near future, like plumbing, that have been planned for and in the 2025 budget if approved. The committee discussed changing the rental rates at future committee meetings.

Fair Board Report: Ryan George, President of the Fair Board, and Beth Burdick, Vice President of the Fair Board, shared that the fair was an overall success for 2024. Ryan explained that the success of Saturday was attributed to the Wristband package. Ryan said the fair was profitable, but final numbers haven't been tabulated. The beer tent was profitable and an overall success, with no known issues. Ryan also noted the extra effort of Robin, one of the Fair Board members, with the hundreds of volunteer hours and the personal monetary investment in the landscaping and flowers throughout the fairgrounds.

Fairgrounds Tour: The committee toured and walked throughout the fairgrounds.

Comments from the Committee: None.

Set Next Meeting Date : The committee agreed to meet next Wednesday, September 11, 2024 at the UW Extension office conference room at 7:15pm.

Adjournment: Supervisor Whitledge moved to adjourn at 7:20 pm, seconded by Supervisor Schneider. ADOPTED by acclamation.

Name of person who took the Minutes: Brad Meier

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