

OFMA Minutes – September 19, 2017, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Columbus, Ohio

Meeting called to order 9:30 am

Attending: Bob Buxton, Rod Arter, Bob Dawson, Paul Harris, Roger Smith, Tom Stocksdale, Richard King, Cara Muhlenkamp, Tom Higbie, Dan Bullen, Wade Flory, John Ackerman, Stanley Strode, Chris Brust, Amanda Sines, Tom Archer and Bev Fisher

Also present: Paul Oeschle, Dan Martin, Tim Massie and Darrel Cubbison

Minutes: Tom Stocksdale made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Wade Flory and motion passed.

Financials: Bob Dawson reviewed the financial statement and account balances. Bob noted one large CD (#4) matured July 29, 2017 and he has rolled it into a new 27 month CD at 1.3% interest. Bob discussed the actual to budget figures and said a couple changes to note were the larger deposit requested by the speaker for the 2018 convention and the deposit due on Battelle Hall. Expense requests made by directors have been slightly higher than expected. Stan Strode asked where the money to cover some of the increases would come from and Bob stated an increase in registration fees and the Friday Showcase dinner versus the proposed event should both help offset the increases. Motion was made by Tom Higbie and seconded by Tom Stocksdale to accept the financial report and expenses as presented. Motion carried.

Government Advantage Group: Amanda gave a brief overview from her legal report. The credit card policy was discussed and it was noted if a fair has a policy – it must include who can use the card and there MUST be an itemized receipt for ALL purchases. The policy needs to be specific and Bob Dawson said it is advised to set limits. State Budget – OFMA testified on the inflatable ride along with representatives from GOSA. ODA is concerned about the time frame for permitting inflatables as it could put extra stress on ODA inspectors if people wait until May to purchase the permits and pay a discounted 6 month fee. It would shorten the time frame for doing inspections and they are already busy with amusement and fair inspections. Prevailing wage was again brought up and it still remains a topic see Senate Bill 72. School start date is also still being discussed, but don't hold much hope for it changing. OFMA was well represented at the Ohio State Fair. Amanda briefly covered Ohio issue 2. Rod Arter asked about the Pickaway dispute among the fair board and the county commissioners. The Commissioners want a new fair grounds and the fair board does not support the commissioner's idea. Rod Arter and Dan Bullen attended a joint meeting with Representative Shearer and the fair board. Then a meeting with Dan Bullen, Rod Arter, Amanda Sines and Representative Shearer took place with the county commissioners and they did not feel things went very well. October 9th is the fair board election in that county and it has been requested that Mike Vartorella, Dan Bullen and Roger Smith attend and oversee the election process. The commissioners did not see the design of the new building the fair board was proposing and Chris Brust said the commissioners purchased 2 pieces of property for the new fair grounds. Bob Dawson questioned if the commissioners were working to load the fair board. It was stated that as long as a fair board has a fair, the revised code says the fair board manages the fair grounds.

Extension: Tom Archer was on his way to the Farm Science Review and he updated the board on the positions of new extension educators and current resignations of educators from some counties. Tom

stated per Dr. Forshey, there may be changes to the quality assurance program that a youth must complete the assigned program 45 days before they participate in an event. Tom also stated, there may be changes in the age limits for 4-H participants. It currently states 8 years old and the 3rd grade. They are changing it to 9 years old and any grade. This will give hands on for youth who may need the experiences but have been held back in school for other issues. **Dan Martin commented packers and producers are fine with staying with Ohio's program for the YQ Program.** (additional information: The QA program is status quo. Nothing has changed. OSU Extension is still going to put on the program with the help of the fair boards(the ones that help) and there will be no charge. There was a rumor being circulated that the packers would not accept Ohio's program that is why the committee checked with the packers to see they would still accept our program and they said yes.) Everything is the same as it has been since QA started

John Ackerman said the Carroll County educator left and they are using support staff only in the extension office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Convention – Paul Harris said things seem to be set. There are a couple of open slots to fill, but almost done. Ton Stockdale asked about fraud prevention possibly being discussed at the Secretary-Treasurer Sessions. Rod Arter asked about covering Easy-Ups. Paul asked the committee to meet after this meeting to discuss mandatory meetings at the convention once Mike Vartorella is present. Bob Dawson commented he had contacted someone in the Attorney General's office and was told they can do a one hour or whatever we need session. They did not see a need to have a mandatory meeting, but said it would be nice if it was separate from the Secretary and Treasurer Sessions. Bob would like to change the wording to "Strongly Recommended" and not use mandatory. Another topic was - Deadlines and Bob is looking for help with Purchase Order Procedures. Dan Martin said Dr. Forshey's meetings are not being attended by the correct people as we are still seeing issues with reports and rules. Darrel Cubbison asked if "Bees and how important they are in Ohio" could be added as a session. Rod added county bee groups are displayed at various fairs so that may already not be an issue. Paul Oeschle asked if anyone could help with his memorabilia and sales session.

Hotels – Drury is sold out and Howard is reviewing to be sure the 6 room limit per fair is working. Please book rooms through the OFMA.

Hall of Fame – Awards by Fair were discussed again and John thinks this will save a lot of time and actually give each fair more recognition. Forms are due in October 25, 2017

Meals – Committee to meet immediately after this board meeting.

Trade Show – Layout has been approved by the Fire Chief and things are going good.

Talent Showcase – Friday night is a no formal dinner night. Burnham and Flower has stepped up with a sponsorship for this and a limited number of tables will be sold at \$100.00 each. Badges will be required to enter and it was recommend that Paul Oeschle have additional staffing available for the ticket give away and checking badges at all doors including the back way in. Rod Arter asked everyone to get their table reservations in for tables and don't wait thinking they will be held.

Spouses Events - Dan Bullen said there will be 2 wine events and a single wine and paint event. This year the wine and paint may be on barrel heads. Wine glasses are to be ordered and any help with the wine event would be appreciated.

Auction/Gala – Gifts are needed. Be sure to include all your fairs.

Jr Fair – Lisa is to have a conference call Friday at 10:00 am to discuss topics. She felt there were two topics that were more suited for senior fair boards rather than junior fair boards and maybe they could be added to Saturday. Cara Muhlenkamp asked about adding “Showing youth how to step up and be confident in a positive fashion” would be a good topic.

Queen – Committee to meet after this meeting. Discussion is on reviewing expenses including proper dress, Ohio State Fair use and issues, room charges and transportation cost. Bob will send a report of current expenses for review.

Dan Bullen said sponsors are coming in including Burnham & Flower. The title sponsor is still in question as of today.

Stan Strode asked about the H3N2 and if a county health department had any jurisdiction on the fairgrounds as far as requesting the board separate the hogs from other animals. Bob Buxton remarked fairs should let ODA rule on those issues.

Tour – Still have 4 seats open if anyone is interested.

OLD BUSINESS:

The grant program was brought up and it was discussed that Greene, Bellville, Knox, Hocking and Fulton had not applied for funds.

Spring meetings – District 1 & 2 will announce shortly where. District 5 & 9 will know by October 1st.

NEW BUSINESS:

The subcommittee with the livestock announced Dr. Forshey is pushing to have all (4-H project) swine shows be terminal. The biggest issue per Dan Martin is if you make it mandatory and we still have an outbreak it will be ugly. Dr. Forshey is asking OFMA to support the issue. If not a terminal show, then he recommends that hogs only stay on the fairgrounds 72 hours. Paul Oeschle asked about private sponsored barrow hog shows during fair. The 4-H youth can participate for a fee and he questions if they could continue to with the show if they make it a terminal rule.

Break at 11:29 am

Reconvene at 12:15 pm

Associates:

ODA: Mike Vartorella commented on the 90 fairs that participated in the grant program. There is still monies remaining and he has just heard from Knox that they knew nothing about the program. They requested an application. As of today there is \$451,592.26 left in the program and he is still getting a few invoices in that need to be covered. There was discussion as to how to split the funds and whether it would be divided evenly among the 94 fairs or pro-rated among the fairs that participated in the program. Mike is not sure what is going to happen with the funds that are left, but he did state they will

be distributed by November 1st. Paul Harris asked about time frame for getting any additional grant monies. Mike does not feel fairs will need to do anything to get the additional funds. He hopes within the next 3 weeks he can tell the Director of Agriculture how much money is left to split. Tim Massie suggested only fairs that took the full amount should get any additional funds. Wade Flory and Paul Harris said maybe pro-rate the money based on how much each fair was able to use of the original grant monies. Mike stated they have had 67 public record request pertaining the grant monies.

Elections – Mike will be attending the election at Pickaway to monitor the procedure.

Doug Guinsler has requested Mike attend the Muskingham election 10/25/17.

Election is from 2 pm – 7 pm. Stan Strode and Rod Arter agreed to attend also.

Cindy Bodi asked Mike to convey she is working on topics to be covered at the 2018 convention.

Accident – Mike stated the Ohio State Fair incident is still under investigation. The Ohio State Patrol has completed their investigation but ODA is not done. Incidents are being reported by other people at other fairs and it will be going on for some time. ODA appreciates OFMA and its member support.

Computers – Mike says they are upgrading the system at ODA to come to the 21st Century. It will take some time, but they are trying to get everything updated in a timely manner. Mike asked all to check the information as the ODA database contact sheets are not all correct. He is seeing 20 – 25 Fairs that need better contact information and any help the OFMA could give would also be appreciated. Some fairs are still complaining about audits. One fair has a budget of \$600,000.00 and they paid \$10,000.00+ for their audit.

OHHA: Renee said we are nearing the end of racing circuit. Delaware is doing some new wagering ideas. Horse sales on August 28th and 29th were new this year and the results were good. Out of state people were purchasing Ohio sire animals and that is good for breeders in Ohio.

Northfield Park Litigation: The expert report period ended 9/15/17. Results will be public as soon as they are reviewed. In July the complaint was amended and she was surprised by what was going on that no one reported. A jury trial is being scheduled for April 2018. Renee expects should Northfield loose, they will appeal. The next OHHA board meeting is scheduled for October 25th. They are currently following HB 132 – Fantasy Sport. (All pole based sports.) They are trying to get horse racing exemption for that bill.

Review of Recommendations:

It was discussed as follows:

1. District meetings shall stay at Friday AM to allow for convention scheduling to run uninterrupted – died for lack of a motion.

2. Concern was not everyone will hear the same thing. Discussion followed concerning this recommendation. Tabled due to lack explanation.

3. Stan Strode and Tim Massie remarked there are limits now. John Ackerman recommend to allow it to die. Tom Stocksdale said his district questioned the Director At Large being able to sit on this board when they are not a director on their own board.

Steve Cover at the November 8th meeting.

Bob Buxton announced Dan Martin and Tim Massie shall sit on the nominating committee. This committee shall meet on November 8th at 8:30 am prior to the board meeting. Howard Call to have room and send notices.

Fall District Meetings:

October 22 nd	District 8	1:30 pm Harrison Fairgrounds
October 22 nd	District 7	2:00 pm Washington Fairgrounds
November 2 nd	District 2	7:00 pm Auglaize Fairgrounds
November 16 th	District 5	6:00 pm TBA
December 9 th	District 1	10:00 am Seneca Fairgrounds

There being no further business: Wade Flory made a motion to adjourn. Richard King seconded the motion and all concurred.

Respectfully submitted:

Bev Fisher, CFE

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