

## 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.*

### MINUTES

#### Board of Directors Monthly Meeting

Lancaster County Farm Bureau Room – Lancaster Event Center

4100 N. 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Lincoln NE 68507

7pm - Thursday, February 20, 2020

President Ronnau called the meeting of the Lancaster County Agricultural Society to order at 7:00 p.m. Proof of due notice was given in the Lincoln Journal Star, and the Nebraska Open Meeting Act is posted in the meeting room.

Board members present were Cooper, Dowding, Messick, Ronnau, Rutt, Swanson, and Suing. Absent were Secretary Jamie Bauman who passed away in a car accident on February 5, 2020 and Jennifer Rawlinson. Also present were Karen Wobig, Lancaster County Extension Leader, Managing Director Amy Dickerson, and Business Development Manager Hoyt Kraeger and Jess Nguyen taking minutes.

**Executive Session** - It was moved by Rutt and seconded by Cooper to go into Executive Session at 7:03 p.m. to discuss an update on a legal claim for a personnel matter. Motion passed 7-0. It was moved by Cooper and seconded by Messick to move out of Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. Motion passed 7-0.

**Minutes** - It was moved by Dowding and seconded by Swanson to approve the December Annual Meeting minutes. Motion passed 7-0. It was moved by Dowding and seconded by Suing to approve the January Monthly meeting minutes. Motion passed 7-0.

**Financials** - Dickerson presented the January financials. Rutt moved to approve the January financials, seconded by Cooper. Motion passed 7-0. It was moved by Suing and seconded by Dowding to approve the paying of the checks in the amount of \$223,231.60. Motion passed 7-0. Messick moved to approve the corrected November P&L, Rutt seconded. Motion passed 7-0. The Aging Summary was present for information.

#### Officer and Committee Reports

- President (Ronnau) – No report
- Vice President (Dowding) – No report
- Secretary (Open) – No report
- Treasurer (Rutt) – No report

- Personnel Committee (Ronnau) – The committee believes the Ag Society board should continue make themselves available to the LEC staff periodically through open forums hosted by the Personnel Committee probably twice a year or as needed. Dickerson will work with the board to find dates that work for open forums.
- Strategic Planning Committee (Rawlinson) – Rawlinson was absent. No active actions.
- Fund Development Committee (Cooper) – Cooper reported where sponsorships are at for the fair and rodeo. Roles are divided up for sponsorships that were locked in or developing.
- Premium Auction (Cooper and Bauman) – Bauman had taken notes on paper which haven't yet been found since her accident. Cooper reported on how boosters would like to put up banners of their sponsors during the livestock 4-H show. Board members will talk with Calvin DeVries and Tracy Anderson before deciding on how to coordinate with Ag Society on seeking Premium Auction sponsorships moving forward.
- NHSFR (Ronnau) – Nothing to report
- Grievance (Cooper) – Nothing to report

### **2020 Fair Update (Amy Dickerson)**

Wobig presented the fair book draft and mentioned that she saw good teamwork between LEC team and fair book to complete the details.

Dickerson mentioned that Bauman had the Pepsi Main Stage entertainment series 90 percent planned and Fair Coordinator Bulling to complete the agreements. The fair book will attribute her as the producer of this series and Dickerson suggested board might consider tributes we do at Fair for Bauman. Dickerson filled the board in on the Nebraska Ribfest to be added to the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the fair Thurs night to Sat night. 4-H/FFA exhibitors can come back for something fun and special for recognition during a Family BBQ Picnic planned Saturday afternoon during last day of NE Ribfest. Dickerson is working on sponsors to make it affordable for families if possible. All changes to the fair book will be final by March 1.

Celebrity Showmanship Status (Ronnau): The goal is to have well-known people in the show to help draw in a crowd and get press coverage for the rest of the fair. Dickerson will put "Specialty Showmanship" as a placeholder in the schedule and change the time to "following the beef show".

**Extension Update (Karen Wobig)** – Wobig thanked the board for including Extension in the fair planning conversations. She thinks all looks good and is excited.

### **Nebraska Quarter Horse Hall of Fame Proposal (Ronnau)**

Ronnau mentioned that the NQHA is exclusive to the Lancaster Event Center and does not show with anyone else. The NQHA would like a place to hang their wall of fame pictures at the LEC. Dickerson brought up Nebraska Roping's large metal sign in P3 which was obtained by donating chutes. Business Development Manager Kraeger believes there are not any huge risks regarding future sponsorships in having a wall of fame offered to NQHA without a set LEC sponsorship cost. Cooper believes it will benefit but was concerned about how many other organizations would come and ask for a similar arrangement.

Suing motioned to vote on allowing NQHA to have a wall of fame at the LEC (location and size TBD) with an annual free-will donation to the LEC. This will be a year-to-year agreement as long as NQHA is exclusive to the LEC. Dowding seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.

### **Ag Society Board Member Vacancy Process (Personnel Committee)**

Ronnau opened the conversation about what the board will do going forward in the absence of Bauman. It is an urgent matter to get the position filled with the busy upcoming summer schedule. The bylaws state that the board can appoint someone, keeping their vision and mission in mind. The appointed must live in Lancaster County and will serve until the end of Bauman's elected three-year re-elected term which was just starting in January 2020. The board discussed how to nominate an appointed board member to be considered. It was discussed that filling the Secretary officer position would be a separate process. Dickerson discussed the outpouring of support for Bauman and suggested posting the open board position on Facebook for the county to suggest nominations by those inspired by Bauman. Suing suggested the Ag Society Board itself should handle the nominations as it was closest to the requirements of the position and make a decision at the next meeting. Swanson and Dowding agreed with Suing. Interested individuals will submit a bio and answers to two questions to the Personnel Committee by March 6. The two questions to be answered are 1.) What expertise would you bring to the board? and 2.) What's your vision for the Ag. Society and LEC? Cooper moved that the board gives the Personnel Committee the responsibility to suggest the top candidates for the open board position from these applications and to have the board appoint an individual at the next meeting with the candidates invited to come to the meeting to introduce themselves (March 19). Messick seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

### **Hiring Ag Society Clerk Proposal (Ronnau)**

Ronnau brought up that the board needs somebody to take minutes and help with agendas who isn't part of the board or LEC staff to spread the administrative bandwidth to someone that focus on getting these out by deadlines of Open Meeting law. This will open up the Secretary officer position to any board member, not just those with word processing skills. The Ag Society Board Clerk would take accurate and detailed minutes and provide the draft minutes after each board meeting to the Secretary and Dickerson as well as potentially help with preparing each month's minutes and other administrative duties that arise related to Ag Society board business. This will be a paid position. Dowding moved to hire an Ag. Society Board Clerk, Suing seconded. Motion passed 7-0. The board may hire a back up clerk as well in the case that the primary clerk cannot make it.

### **Secretary Officer/Executive Board Position Opening Process (Ronnau)**

Ronnau thinks Cooper would be a good fit for the role of Secretary. Cooper is interested. Rutt made a motion to vote for Cooper to fill the position of Secretary. Swanson seconded. Ronnau asked for any other nominations for Secretary two times. No other nominations were made. Motion passed 6-0 with Cooper abstaining.

### **NHSFR/FMCA Report (Rook)**

Operations Director Greg Rook was absent as ill. Kraeger and Dickerson reported. Kraeger, Rook, and Dickerson went to Biloxi Mississippi for the NHSFR MidWinter meeting and gave site committee presentations and answered questions for about 200 attendees at a booth table. Construction update included grandstand footings at LEC are poured and all portable stalls have arrived. UNL Rodeo would like to use portable stalls as soon as April and may volunteer to help assemble them depending on the weather. Kraeger updated the board on sponsorships for the rodeo. He has a list of ones locked in, those he is confident will sponsor, and those he is targeting. Kraeger will talk to NHSFR Marketing Director Chanel about if car service sponsorships fit with

the exclusive Ram vehicle national sponsorship. The volunteer site is launched on NHSFRLincoln.org web site. The trade show has requests for 70% of space. Food vendor invites are going out now.

FMCA brought half a dozen people last week to visit LEC, all were professional staff or contractors that help with all their conventions. They will come back in April to assign driveways in overflow campsites to be set out in parking lots and get emergency services organized.

**Managing Director Report (Dickerson)** - No additional report

**Other Business** Ronnau brought up two nominations that came in for the Lancaster Event Center Hall of Fame. Nominations remain open until May 1.

**Communication from the public (5-minute limit per person):** None

It was motioned by Suing and seconded by Messick to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 p.m. Motion passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jess Nguyen – LCAS Board Clerk

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President Ronnau

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Vice President Dowding

**Next meeting: March 19, 2020 at 7pm**