

Minutes
Forest County Fair Committee
Tuesday, April 11, 2017

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Bucky Daily stating this was a public meeting of the Forest County Fair Committee with notice and agenda being provided to the public and media on April 7, 2017.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called. Members present were Bucky Daily, Stephen Bunda, Don Dehart, Kris Houle, Melinda Otto, and Paul Millan. Citizen's Fair Board members present were Brenda Flannery and Dennis Thiel (Absent: Allen Flannery, Dustin Perry, Kaleen Dennee and Cole Kincaid) Forest County Agricultural Society members present were Howard Sipple, Steve (Squeak) Bocek, Victor Bellomy, and Gary Bocek. (Dennis Thiel also serves on the Agricultural Society.) Others present were Dave Tupper and Jill Krueger.

3. Approve Agenda

Motion by Otto, seconded by Houle to approve the agenda as is, all voting aye.
Motion carried.

4. Approve Minutes from the April 11, 2017 Meeting

The July 26, 2016 minutes were read silently. Motion by Bunda, seconded by Houle to approve the minutes as is, all voting aye. Motion carried.

5. Discussion on 2017 Forest County Fair

Bucky Daily started the discussion stating that the fair committee had two questions, one which was how the plans were going for the 2017 fair and where things are at and the second was the Citizen's Fair Board and Agricultural Society's thoughts on moving to the Brush Run grounds in the future. He stated that the Brush Run is going ahead with a festival this year and that this county committee had nothing to do with the planning on this event. Gary Bocek responded with his concerns regarding the fair moving to Brush Run and the loss

of a permanent fairground site. Howard Sipple discussed the county fair history and the criteria for the grounds in terms of the legal deed. Brenda shared that the land discussion is nothing new and has gone on for years. She stated that there have been many meetings where the city has proposed acquiring the land for the industrial park and that the County Board Chairman at the time told them that they would need to find replacement land with equal amenities to trade for the existing property and then the proposal could be considered by the County and Citizens Fair Board. Squeak is very concerned about this move and the loss of the fairgrounds. Brenda Flannery stated that the grounds is important to youth and the ability to have a place to go to practice, hold meetings and take pride in. The kids have already done work and are afraid to do more with the uncertainty that keeps surfacing. It is important for the youth to have a place to go where they will have year round access and availability all the time. Dave Tupper shared that he felt that there was no need to discontinue the fair at the current location and the loss of the land is a concern. He stated he feels that the festival is a separate commerce opportunity and there is no reason that the fair can't be supported to be bigger and make improvement to the grounds in the current location. He also stated that the county fair committee could be a little more transparent and spoke to the timing of the meeting notices as an example. The fair committee stated that no changes have been made in terms of the 2017 fair and that the county has not made any changes as of yet for any future years. A lengthy discussion followed. Melinda Otto reiterated that they have nothing to do with the Forest County Festival plans.

Brenda Flannery then addressed the plans for the 2017 fair. She stated that the Citizen's Fair Board has addressed the core of the approved fair items that are budgeted for annually. The base schedule is all in place with the typical events such as the judging, talent contests, the horse show and the DJ was booked as in previous years. She also shared that the 4-H plans on continuing with similar activities as in the past, which includes the horse show. The Open Class building is full in terms of booths that will be set up by organizations such as the Forest

County Health Department, Potawatomi Public Health, Wild and Scenic Rivers, ADRC and the Senior Snoop Shop to name a few. She then asked Howard Sipple to share plans the Agricultural Society is working on. Howard stated that the Agricultural Society plans on working on raising money and paying for either a free ride block and/or free or reduced wristbands if they are able to do this. They will also be planning other games and contests to be ran by volunteer groups. They are working on raising funds to support this and have applied for a raffle license. The Fair Committee asked about what they did last year and Howard shared some general information. He stated that the Agricultural Society's records were at the accountants currently. Howard then shared his perspective on the grounds and the legal deeds which was followed by a lengthy discussion on keeping the grounds at the current location or replacing the land with land and amenities of equal value that would be a permanent fairgrounds as designated in the legal paperwork. Melinda encouraged the fair committee to check out the festival. Brenda stated that the current plans were that the volunteers and 4-H members that were available would partake in the parade in Crandon and then would be traveling around the County to support all of our communities as they celebrated the 4th as we felt that as county fair volunteers who were representing all the communities in the county, it was important to support more than just the City of Crandon. Bucky Daily stated they would set up another meeting in a month or two. Brenda Flannery asked them to remember that the Fair Committee has traditionally met at 6:30 p.m. so more of the fair workers and volunteers could attend meetings and provide input.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Bunda, seconded by Houle to adjourn at 6:17 p.m.