

South Lake County Agricultural Historical Society

Board of Directors Meeting 1-8-2024

The board of directors meeting of the South Lake County Agricultural Historical Society was called to order by President Bill Wiater. We had a moment of silence for members George Meyer and Jim Cummins. Lori Zemaitis read the treasurer's report.

Our insurance was discussed, they have asked some questions of us that Julie Fritz has answered about upcoming events and now we are just waiting for a quote from them. Kelly Miller said he would investigate when the next grant application was due for the Crown Point Community Foundation and apply for it. Julie Fritz reported that she was approached by a member of the community foundation about us starting an endowment with them. Irene Doty reminded us that our 2024 dues are due and should be paid by now. There was a motion to approve the Scholarship that we fund with the Lowell FFA for \$500 that was made by Ron Leighty and seconded by Greg Kleine and passed. It was discussed that we should investigate funding a scholarship at Crown Point High School as well for next year possibly. Sponsorships were discussed. Our booklet pays for itself, we are tasked with asking our vendors that provide services for the show if they would be willing to discount our bill for an ad in our booklet or ask if they would be interested in sponsoring a part of the show that we could put up a banner for them. Our last year statistics were that it cost us \$39,639.10 to put on our show, our income was \$49,153.29 leaving us a profit from the show of \$9514.19. Placement of the Cedar Lake Farmers Market will be in the Feature Tractor building, it was asked if we could relay that they should try to fill that building and have better vendors like we had the first year. Placement of Steam Engines during the show was discussed, and swapping areas with threshing was discussed. They plan on putting up a big tent that would house the model steam engines. Some discussion was held regarding seeing if the engines could plow in front of the big grandstands. The steam guys were tasked with putting together a set up for where the steamers would go as well as where the corn and wheat machinery would be. Perry McLemore would like to see an allotment for the hauling of steam and bigger tractors. He would set up criteria for how this allotment would be distributed and would like to seek sponsorship from outside vendors. Perry McLemore made the motion to create a travel allotment committee for hauling equipment, seconded by Ann Marie, and passed. Tractor pulls were discussed, Bill Wiater said he had a group of guys to get together to look at the sled, Jerry McGarr asked about bringing in an outside pulling group. We plan on having the garden tractor raffle again, Dave Fritz said he would talk to McCullough and Gruel Bros about a unit to raffle. Kelly Miller suggested maybe instead of a riding tractor we could look at a great push mower as well. Eric Zurbriggen will check with Jack and Debbie Rogers about the petting zoo. He was also given a business card for another petting zoo. Discussion was held regarding gate pricing. It was suggested that we do a questionnaire again or do a Facebook poll. Perry McLemore made a motion to change the age that kids get in for free to less than 10 years old and increase the gate fee to \$8 per person. Seconded by Lori Zemaitis and passed with a hand vote of 8 for and 4 against. It was also suggested that we try to make little changes in places that don't produce income or investigate sponsorship, such as the bags tournament and the kiddie Korral. Kelly Miller made a motion that if the bags tournament was not 100% self-sufficient or money making for the club, then we should sell the boards, seconded by Lori Zemaitis, and passed. It was suggested that we look for sponsors for the bags tournament, kiddie korral and kiddie tractor pulls. Lori Zemaitis suggested that we switch QuickBooks to the online version of it and it would

save the club \$900 per year. Golf Carts were discussed, it was decided that everyone will require a tag from registration. All golf carts that we rent will be numbered and assigned and returned after using them. Ron Leighty made the motion to not charge for golf carts or camping for members, but they all need to register for either. Seconded by Ann Marie and passed. Please turn in your budgets by the next meeting. Julie Fritz discussed the advertising budget. We will not be advertising with the Times this year and eliminate the South Shore Convention and Visitors Association savings \$3375 from the advertising budget, planning on putting most of our advertising dollars towards Facebook. It was noted that we did not get charged for ice this year due to the problems we had with delivery at the last show. Dave Martins asked if he could put up a box for St Jude house donations with his Christmas village and it was approved. Ron Leighty made the motion to adjourn and seconded by Gloria Miller and passed.

Respectively Submitted,

Julie Fritz Secretary