Fair Board Meeting

Date: July 20th, 2026

Facilitated by Joan Kutchin, President

Recorded by Megan Byrne, Secretary

Present: Chad Horling, Seth Hulst, Kevin Graftema, Maria Dunneback, Joan Kutchin, Jon Monroe, Karla Potts, Curt Visser, Mike Wells, Curtis Kruithoff, Michelle Seifert, Andy Pike, Teddy Omlor, Jessica Doddy, Brenden Visser, Sam Kruithoff, Dylan Visser, TJ Murphy, Curt Visser, Tom Killebrew, Ken Zahm, Randy VanManen, Rhiannon Finkler, Sam Lindberg, Mary Willcome, Karla DeYoung, Fred Karel, Terri Graftema

Junior Board: Hope Wallinga, Brayden Monroe, Sydney Graftema, Noah Davis

Absent: None

Topic	Discussion
1. Approval of Minutes	• Motion to approve minutes made by Kevin Graftema second by Curtis Kruithoff. Motion passed.
2. Correspondence	• None
3. Raceway Report	• Raceway is not present. • We did get an email from Mike Bursley and have a few things to reconcile with him. He was not happy with the clean up but Jon did come back up here and further clean the track with a wash down with the fire department.
4. Treasurers Report	• Banks are reconciled through July 20th, 2026. • Teddy did bring fair week financials to review as well, overall a excellent fair week.
5. Committee Reports	• **Executive –** We did meet with Skerbeck's on Saturday evening. They wrote us a check for $41,119.10 as well as a $10,000 check towards the electrical upgrades on the King property as well.

Topic	Discussion
	• **Facilities** – Overall went well, we had a few electrical issues that needed to be repaired during fair week. We will be making some additional updates. The roof on the monthly meet barn is leaking; we will be getting quotes. Ken Zahm mentioned looking into removing/replacing the current fair week office as well as revisiting the conversation about the potential barn that Gordy has discussed with us. • **Commercial Vendors –** Including the two 1-day vendors, we had 40 vendors this year. We plan to send out thank you letters with the new dates for next year. This year we did mark on a map where the vendors were located so that we can number them and organize it as they come in. • **Still Exhibits –** Most of the items have been picked up, the barn looked pretty full this year. Kelly and Brenda said it went well. • **Livestock –** It was a very good year overall. Minimal issues, all the animals were healthy, excellent auction numbers. We will try to make poultry work smoother next year so that kids can have their animals for grand and reserve photos. We did have a small issue with the photos on grand/reserve night – just need to clarify with the photographer next year. Joan gave Rhiannon a kudos for figuring out all the new features with FairEntry on the fly this year. Currently working on creating a form for new clubs. We did take a call from WM Beef, there was a heifer that would not lay down (paced), died before it hit the kill floor. We have arranged to take a backup steer from Pike's that Seth the butcher will process. The buyer has been contacted and is on board with this as well. • **Winter Storage –** Keeping the same dates for fall – need to update the website. • **Parking –** Overall parking went good except for Lot A Friday-Saturday. We need to have this figured out for next year, especially for Saturday livestock haul out. Need to make a few more sign for parking lot A – Parking Lot Full, Lot Closes at 12pm. • **Camping –** No update, will have feedback for next meeting. • **Adv & Promotion –** $57,000 in advertising revenue. This is the first year that outside of the flyers, yard signs and fair books we did not spend any money on marketing.

Topic	Discussion
	• **Entertainment –** Everything went well. On grounds entertainment seemed to stay busy and have good crowds throughout the week. Carvings from the fair week are going to be put online for an auction for fundraisers for the fair. • **Rodeo –** Rodeo outfitter was very happy with everything overall with the rodeo. They are looking forward to 2027 and will be drafting contracts within the next month. Lack of credit card machines – try to get another one for next year in the rodeo beer tent. VIP Section – get a beer section in there for them next year. Large Screens – great feedback on this, and are looking to add another one for next year and put it by the goat barn or beer line for spectators. We will be getting more bathrooms in the rodeo area for next year too. • **Grandstand –** All events went well and the weather was great. The crowd was great for the Demo Derby and the weather was finally in our favor. Our downside was the track took a lot of work to clean up after these events. • **Horse –** Had feedback from Lisa Mancarelli following fair week. The new way the FairEntry printed out was difficult for them so next year we will try to make this easier by finding a way to do the barcode but also including the backtag number for them. Overall, they had great numbers, and it went smoother with traffic and less issues. Draft Horses **–** We were down over half our normal number of draft horses this year. Would like to review premiums moving into next year. • **Social Media –** Kudos to everyone this year, we received two complaints all week which normally its 10 or more each night. Next year we need to not allow vendors to sell toy weapons. • **Junior Fair board –**
6. Old Business	• Gordy Stroven attended the meeting last month to check in on the status of his proposal of an antique barn. He did some homework and met with a builder as well to review where the cost would be and back into the amount of renter there would need to be.
7. New Business	• Large road signs (to note location for next year placement) - RiverRidge, Alt Oil, Priced Right Auto, Tim Stroven, McCormick on Ravenna Rd ad Russell Rd, Wilson Ave, Mottman's, I-96 just before exit 19, Blaine's, M45 & 120, Walcott's (72nd and M45), Janssen Trucking in Zeeland and Muskegon (Maple Island), Grand River Plumbing in Allendale, Kruithoff (Kent City on 17 mile), Craig Bushman's on Moorland, Ravenna Livestock, Pike's farm (Sparta),

Topic	Discussion
	M37 between 8 mile & 9 mile, Dykstra Excavating 120th Ave, Townline Poultry North of Zeeland, Cutting Edge Excavating on Chicago Dr, M37 in Grant, TenBrink's, 31 & Blair (Schoenborn Processing property). • There was a guy wanting to do a motorcycle event on September 11th, they needed land owner permission to do this. Teddy received this email and briefly discussed it. They want to land a black hawk on the infield. We are going to continue conversation with them.
8. Good of the Order	• Karla – Suggesting an additional ADA bathroom on disability awareness day. • Mary Willcome – Dairy show Tuesday morning, we had 38 contestants this year. Brenda Dryer from Ottawa Co Dairy Committee came in to talk to Mary, she stated that they are willing to get the Dairy judge and pay $250 of the total cost of the judge. Next year wondering if we can work with them.

Next Meeting is Monday, August 17th, 2026 at 7:00pm.