



## MINUTES OF MEETING

**COMMITTEE:** Oneida County Fair Planning Team

**PLACE:** UW-Extension Conference Room, Lower Level, Airport Terminal  
3375 Airport Road, Rhinelander, WI 54501

**DATE:** November 3, 2014

**TIME:** 5:30 pm

**Committee Members Present:** Jim Intrepidi, Nancy Gehrig, Leroy Eades, Tom Peterson, Jim Perlberg, Lisa Kuczmariski, Jean Platek, Terri Angell, Theresa Seabloom, Kathy Silbernagel

**Excused:**

**Absent:** Eric Britton, Denise Rheaume-Brand, Joe Berg

**Others Present:** Lynn Feldman, Tom Swearingen, Evie Virgilio

### MINUTES:

1. **Call to Order and President's Announcements:** The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Jim Intrepidi, Acting President. The meeting was properly noticed and the facility is handicap accessible. Intrepidi reported on the decision made at the Oneida County Board budget meeting in October where the Administration Committee, by a vote of 18-3, passed a budget cut to the Fair of \$4,000. The Fair reported a balance of around \$12,000 at the October meeting and the County Board continued to reduce their funding each year as was the agreement when the Fair began at Pioneer Park in 2009. The County Board wants the Fair to become self-sustainable and will expect a five-year plan from the Fair to be reported in a future County Board meeting. It was suggested perhaps a Fair entrance charge could be used.
2. **Approve Agenda for Today's Meeting:** The agenda was approved by Eades, seconded by Perlberg. Motion carried.
3. **Approve Minutes of October 7, 2014:** A motion was made by Peterson to approve the minutes of October 7, seconded by Platek. Motion carried.
4. **Financial Update:** None.
5. **Election of President and Vice-President:** A motion was made by Angell, seconded by Silbernagel, for Jim Intrepidi to be the next Oneida County Fair President. Motion carried. No one agreed to be nominated for Vice President at this time. This will be carried over to the next meeting.
6. **Coordinator's Report:**
  - Gehrig read a letter of resignation from the Committee by Denise Rheaume-Brand. We were also informed of Lisa Kuczmariski's resignation due to new employment involving much travel, and also the resignation of Joe Berg from the Fair Committee.
  - Gehrig shared a County and District Fairs Visitation/Inspection Report sent to her from Bob Williams, DATCP Fairs Coordinator Representative, showing a Very Good rating of our 2014 Fair which also states an Excellent general attitude and mood of fair-goers.
  - Gehrig brought up a \$525 bill for our ad in the Rhinelander Chamber of Commerce magazine and wondered why it was so high. Angell pointed out that last year the bill was \$304 for the ad. The ad is already in the magazine and Gehrig will question the cost.
  - The Committee addressed the fact that the Oneida County Board is reducing their financial support to the Fair. Lynn Feldman stepped up to lead a discussion and the fact that the Fair cannot sustain itself if the OC Board keeps decreasing the monetary support each year. It will be a matter of 1-2 years before we would have to fold without the financial buffer needed to meet expenses and operate the Fair as it stands. It was decided to have Committee members attend the November 12<sup>th</sup> County Board meeting to ask for the \$4,000

back and again express our needs. Without infrastructure, adequate electricity and other needs we will always have these expenses to meet. And without proper fencing, there seems to be no way to charge an entrance fee and control it.

It was stated, however, that Lisa Kuczmarski, who began as the City liaison to the Fair Board, said she never saw an original plan from the County to keep reducing their financial support each year. Intrepidi will ask for the minutes from the City clerk and when it was communicated to the City when they both agreed to help the Fair get started at Pioneer Park. (This was a good faith relationship – the County agreed to give financial help while the City agreed to give the land – Pioneer Park along with Gunder's upkeep and help.) The Committee should clarify what agreement was actually made at the time.

7. **Proposed Open/Invitational Meeting for Fair Support:** Lynn Feldman felt the need to try to incorporate more discussion from the public as we begin the 5-year strategic plan that the County wants from us. Feldman shared with the committee an open-invitational letter that she constructed that can be sent from the UW Extension office to the Oneida County community, businesses and City and County officials to announce a meeting for input from them regarding the Fair. This would be highly advertised via media, TV, newspapers and personal invitation. It is hoped to glean from the community what they want the Fair to be for them and also discuss what possible financial resources and volunteer support from the community to make it happen. This meeting will consist of sessions with discussion notes that focus on a vision, to include the Fair's history, mission and values to the community. A date for this meeting was set for Tuesday, November 18, at 6:00 at a motel conference room, possibly the Quality Inn.

8. **Fair Convention in WI Dells on Jan 4-7, 2015:** It was agreed it was necessary for a team to attend this convention to connect with whatever carnival is out there to hire for 2016 so we can replace our present one. Angell made a motion to pay for and send up to four Committee members who want to go to the convention, seconded by Silbernagel. Motion carried.

9. **Discuss Purchase of 40x80 Big Top Tent:** The Fair has now purchased the 40'x80' tent from Eric at Cross Country Bar for \$3,500. Because of insurance issues, the Fair alone is the sole owner of the tent and can rent it out only if the renter takes out rental insurance. The tent will be kept at Eric's garage for now until we need it. Gehrig will see to it that the bill of sale will clarify where the tent is being kept for us at this time. Tom Swearingen wondered what we are doing with the old Big Top tent – it will be kept and used by the UW-Extension for exhibits or perhaps in the Family Area.

10. **Area and Team Leader Reports:** The topic of entertainment was not discussed. Seabloom felt it was pointless at this time until we are more clear about our financial status with the County.

11. **Correspondence** (specifically addressed to Committee): None.

12. **Public Comment** (3-minute limit): None.

13. **Items of Discussion to be Included on Next Agenda:** Result of Open Meeting for Fair Strategic Planning, Update of Board Member Vacancies and Committee Formation, Update on Fair Finances, Activities for 2015 Fair and other items to be provided at the next meeting.

14. **Date of Future Meeting:** The next fair meeting will be at 5:30 pm on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at the UW-Extension conference room in the airport lower level.

15. **Adjournment:** A motion was made by Jim Perlberg, seconded by LeRoy to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Theresa Seabloom, Secretary