

November 14. 2024 Olmsted County Agricultural Association meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. There were twenty-six members present with three guests. The meeting started with the Pledge of Allegiance and the 4-H pledge,

The fair board members introduced themselves: Scott Schneider, Judy Plank, Bridget Bubendorf, Robby Roeder, Jon Dilworth, Jeannette Sheehan.

The 4-H volunteers, public volunteers and the STS were recognized for all of their work before, during and after the fair. Financial support from local businesses is important to the fair: Priority Construction, Rochester Youth Hockey, Toyota, Rochester Police, Olmsted County Sheriff Dept. C.E.R.T. Kwik Trip and others.

Mike Sheehan moved to approve the November 2023 minutes; Dave Kjome seconded the motion; the motion was approved. The new event center plan is based on the community needs. They plan on breaking ground right after the fair in 2025. The Dairy, Horse and Miracle of Birth building are reaching their end-of-life stag and will be taken down. The grandstand went down last year; they will replace it with an activity pad that can be used for concerts and car events. There will be an open house at Auni Hall on Thursday, November 16th from 4:30 TO 6:00 giving the public time to review the different plans for the new building.

Scott discussed the importance of a grandstand for the economy of the fair. Bull riding in the grandstand is difficult; we cannot seat enough people. The first three rows are not usable, for safety and viewing reasons. We are currently looking for bleachers for the 2025 fair. The bleachers we used last year are already spoken for by other fairs for 2025.

In 2025 we will have lost the Auto cross because of our calendar. We will have the demo on Sunday and are looking at a sanctioned bull riding event for two nights, Friday and Saturday and a car show earlier in the week. Tuesday and Wednesday we could have Auto Cross, but it would be difficult to clean the dirt for the Bull Riding event. We would not have the help that is needed to do this.

Our contract with Gold Star will be renegotiated this year. Gold Star looks at the grandstand events to see what will draw will be for the fair. This is one of the reasons for them coming to our fair.

We will be flipping the indoor vendor and beer garden; indoor vendors will be in Floria Hall. This will put the beer garden closer to the free stage.

The ballot for the board was introduced: three-year terms, Jon Dilworth, Eric Lohman and Brandon Helgeson; two-year term: Kathy McLaughlin: one-year term: Lonnie Kautz. Each individual introduced themselves. Mike Sheehan moved to make it a unanimous

ballot, Robby Roeder seconded the motion. The motion passed to approve all of the nominations for Olmsted County Agricultural Association.

Scott thanked the outgoing board members, Nete joe and Tom Graham for all of their help.

Larry Plank made and motion to adjourn the meeting, Mike Sheehan seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.