

La Crosse County 4-H Parents and Leaders Association Board

January 2023 Meeting Minutes

Hamilton Town Hall

Open Forum: no speakers

Present: Kirsten Harris, Emily Crook, Carolyn Christopherson, Linda Saley, Rick Shisler, Tina Langrehr, Sue Kramer, Shari Hegland, Nancy Wakefield, Stacey Sheffield, Ruth (? - ambassador)

Call to order: 7 p.m. by Tina Langrehr

Approval of Agenda: 1st Community Credit Union account updates were added under new business. Linda move, seconded by Carolyn, to approve the amended agenda. Approved.

Secretary's Report: There were no corrections to the minutes as sent by email. Motion by Nancy, seconded by Linda to approve the minutes as sent. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: November and December 2022 treasurer's reports were presented by Linda; moved Kirsten, seconded by Rick to approve the reports as presented. Approved.

Extension Office update and report by Emily Crook

- New Family Support Update – Emily presented idea of an orientation for new families to the ambassadors, who had the idea of conducting an event twice a year: at Clover College and at Achievement Celebration. This year's Clover College will also include a "4-H 101" class for new families.
- Extension Office Update – Kaitlyn has taken a state specialist position, so she is not in the county office providing ag educator services. It is not clear yet if there will be a new hire for a traditional ag educator position; that discussion is under way between the county and the university. Intern/preceptor Josie starts Jan. 23, with a principle mission of learning about the position and evaluating the 4-H program. She will be attending club meetings and other events to get feedback from parents and leaders. Emily says she wants to see what the current needs are to evaluate how to adapt programming moving forward.
- Archery & Pellet Gun Update – Host site was lost due to the arrest of an employee at that location on child-related charges. The shooting sports leaders and extension office are looking for a new host site.
- Fur, Fin, Feather: April 29 – The region had been debating whether to hold the event in 2023 because the Monroe County position, which has normally been the lead organizer, is vacant. Vernon County will take the lead for 2023; the event will still be in Sparta at the Barney Center.
- Camp Counselor/Chaperone training: Training is scheduled for May 6, hoping to do both together, and to be sure chaperones have the necessary "supporting youth mental health training."
- Logger Game Date— Scheduled for July 28. There will not be VIP seating due to the cost. 4-H will have fundraising tickets to sell from which we will receive a cut. We will also be featured in announcements during the game. Emily hopes to have someone represent in the Chris Clover costume.
- Yard signs for graduating seniors – The idea was presented to recognize graduating senior 4-H members, similar to how schools have graduates on yard signs. The estimated cost, however is \$30/sign. Other ideas that were discussed included: stickers (for water bottles), bumper stickers, window clings, phone stickers or a "clover on a stick" that could be added to a member's existing yard sign.

- Cloverbud and Explorer boxes – Emily signed up to offer this virtual program developed by the state; had about 4 family sign up to receive each type of box. She was gathering the needed supplies and anticipated delivering them Friday, Jan. 13.

Agricultural Society Rep. Report: by Carolyn

- La Crosse Youth Livestock (LYL) meeting between ag society and LYL is scheduled for Monday night, Jan. 16, 6:30 p.m. at the Farm Progress Building.
- Ag Society has signed contract for the carnival.
- For the 2023 fair, in the youth foods division, they will be using stickers rather than ribbons (similar to those for open).
- There may be bands on the race track Friday and Saturday nights, but it has not yet been approved. These would be in addition to those in the beer tent, raising concerns about the impact on beer sales that benefit the ag society and West Salem Legion.

4-H Ambassador Report by Ruth (Next meeting Jan. 22)

The ambassadors discussed Expressive Arts Fest, Clover College, Day Camp, new family orientation and other activities.

The ambassadors propose creating new countywide awards for Cloverbuds and an award or acknowledgment for community services. The Groth sisters are working on plans which they will bring to the Leaders Board at a later date.

Committee Reports:

- A sign-up sheet was passed around for members to choose committee assignments for 2023.
- Expressive Arts Update from Emily – The festival is Jan. 14. There are only about 20 kids entered, mostly in music categories. There were no drama entries and only one room needed for speaking. Emily suggests possibly moving it back to later in the spring. A question presented about opening it up to community members to provide opportunities for 4-H members; Emily said that it is open to the public, it has simply never been promoted as such.
- Nominations - VP position is still open. There was a possible individual suggested by Heidi Groth in December. Emily will follow up with that individual.
- Clover College Update – Registration this year is through an online signup. Sessions will run between 8:45 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Barre Badgers are serving the lunch. Emily reported that sign ups seem to be coming in, but she did not have specific numbers yet, as families have to submit payment as well as complete the online registration (or call the office to register if they do not have sufficient internet access for the online form).
- Float Storage – Pam had been in touch with someone who had pulled it in Bangor parade; we need to follow up with where it is currently. Carolyn said that there could possibly be a place at the fairgrounds in the future, but we would need to go back to ag society to make those arrangements. It was suggested that we continue to explore other options that wouldn't require moving it during the fair.

Unfinished Business

- Countywide Awards Discussion – Ambassadors are developing ideas to present to the board.

New Business:

- Union State Bank Accounts Updates –
 - Checkbooks had to be updated with the new tax exempt number. That has been done.

- Also need to add new signatory for president and secretary. Shari and Tina will need to stop in once the bank gets official notice from the extension office.
- Linda has closed a CD at Union State Bank; Linda recommended reopening a new CD for \$5,000 at Union State Bank to replace the one which had expired and take advantage of current interest rates. Carolyn made the motion, seconded by Rick, to open a \$5,000 CD at Union State Bank. Motion was approved.
- 1st Community Credit Union is used for the food stand (fair and Octoberfest) needs only
 - Names need updated there as well – current is Linda and Sue; Linda would like to have another board member on it. Will add Shari. Sue has to sign it again also.

Future Agenda items:

None.

Adjournment: Rick moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.; Linda seconded the motion.

Next Meeting: February 9, 2023

(Minutes submitted Jan. 17, 2023, by Shari Hegland)