

La Crosse County 4-H Parents and Leaders Board Minutes

August 8, 2024– Hamilton Town Hall (Open Forum 6:45, Meeting 7:00 p.m.)

Open Forum: Oliver Strassman re: Space Camp

Attendance: Lynette Berg, Sue Kramer, Nancy Wakefield, Stacy Sheffield, Tina Langrehr, Carolyn Christopherson, Pam Hoth, Brandon Wright, Jenny Wright, Shari Hegland, Linda Saley (as observer); Ruth Roths, youth; Emily Crook, extension; Mary Temp

Call to order: 6:59 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Carolyn, seconded by Brandon – approved.

Secretary's Report*: June – corrections to paragraph re: ribbons to say we need numbers by Dec. 1 plus a spelling correction. Moved by Sue, seconded by Carolyn – approved.

Treasurer's Report*: June report (as of July 2) – distributed at meeting – moved by Tina, seconded by Pam, approved.

Extension Office update and report:

- Achievement Celebration Report – This year it was moved to the Wednesday of the fair. Emily thought it went OK. Challenges: sound wasn't good, the 6:30 time coincided with judging of the booths in the same building. Idea of moving it back to 7 or 7:30 for 2025. Lynette suggests hanging a canvas on the side of the stage to help with sound muffling from elsewhere in the building. 55 coupons given to award recipients were redeemed at the Food Stand (\$660 will need to come from Leader's account to food stand). More attendance than in the previous years with the separate banquet at Western, particularly by recipients. Continue to promote it for next year. Primary conflict is with the dog show. Plan a poster to hang in the New Youth Building to also recognize award recipients throughout the fair.
- Summer Camp Report – La Crosse County had 25 campers, 4 chaperones; 5-county total: 137 people. Incorporated more flexibility and choice for 4-Hers, including options for quiet time or games. Numbers were similar to or slightly higher than last year, including more chaperones for a better member:chaperone ratio.
- Day Camp Update – Aug. 17 – 9 kids signed up so far; cohosting with Monroe County and still seeking more signups. Cloverbuds (K-2nd grade)
- Craft Fair (Oct 12) Update – Sign ups open, but still a ways off.
- Annual Financial Reports due Sept. 3 from clubs.

Agricultural Society Rep. Report: Carolyn

Happy with fair attendance, no drastic events with 4-H, etc. LYL will have their check handout Aug. 21 at 6:30 at Farm Progress Building; members should bring stamped, addressed thank you note.

Ag Society will host superintendent meal on Aug. 21 at the Exposition Building to hear feedback.

4-H Ambassador Report:

- Food Stand Video Report – Recorded a video of what an order taker would do; still need to edit and do voice overs, etc.
- Goosechase Report – Had 34 teams participate, up slightly from last year. 26 teams had points; 15 first place teams. But were a few questions that threw people off, such as taking a picture of an animal in costume. Awarded 1st through 3rd with gift cards.
- Next meeting: Aug 11
- Cloverbud Day Camp - Date - Aug 17, 11am-3pm, Rockland Village Park – Plant themed, including water activities and a STEM craft.

Committee Reports:

- Food Stand Update (Sue)

- Thanks to everyone for all the help. Have not paid all bills yet, so a final profit number is not available.
- Clean up still needs to be completed, specifically behind the grill after the fire suspension and vents have been taken down. Need to power wash – Ag Society does have a power washer – Carolyn has contacted Kevin Greeno with maintenance to arrange it. Plan is to do these tasks Wednesday, Aug. 14, at 6 p.m., with several board members saying they could help and Ruth/Emily to take the request to the Ambassadors at the Aug. 11 meeting.
- Sue will need to take a food management class through Reinhardt to update her certification. Jamie and Linda each have a current certification. It would be good to have additional people if possible, as well as having more people on the Food Committee (current is Tina, Sue, Linda, Jamie Norris, Linda Trautman). The Leader’s Board covers the cost for certification. Sue has been approached by another individual with restaurant experience who may be willing to be part of the committee.
- Suggestion from Tina: To ask clubs to send people two weeks before fair and two weeks after fair for pre- and post-cleaning.
- Idea from Emily for increasing participation: Financial back to the clubs for each shift worked.
- Will work on a different service than SignUp Genius for next year.
- Tina: Do we need to break down what the funds go back to and promote that to the families so they understand?

New Business:

- Fair
 - How did it go?
 - Ideas for next year?

Discussion spurred by Mary Temp

She has concerns regarding the food booth situation; she has been unfairly accused by an unstable individual before in a volunteer situation. She spoke to the board in support of Linda and to express concerns about how a single accusation can impact the reputation of a volunteer, and how that will impact attracting volunteers in the future.

Further discussion amongst the board: Volunteers need protection, too. Should we consider cameras for protection of other people?

Can the food stand management report parents/adults who make threatening statements or don’t follow standard rules/Code of Conduct, such as wearing name tags? Yes. It was suggested to keep a binder or folder for easy access to document what happens.

Our options:

- Clearly explain expectations of behavior ahead of time – Code of Conduct, emotional reactions, etc.
- Document and report what happens, with witnesses.
- Extension can remove the parent from participation in the kids’ activities.

No formal action taken.

Motion to Adjourn: Moved by Jenny, seconded by Carolyn, approved.

Next Meeting: September 12, 2024

***Attached**