

March 21, 2023, AGM Minutes

Call to Order 6:34pm

Present: Sandra McFadden, Von Parking, Elizabeth Roberts, Hope Dickson, Ron Hillman, Don Mackenzie, Claudette Lemesurier, Scott Dubuque, Bill Brown, Carolyn Brown, Dwayne McFadden, Randy Zhok, John Cowan, Laurie Cowan, Gary Langstaff, Dan Mills, Scott McKay, Dennis Duford, Rob Doyle, Charlene Patterson, Jerry Manikee, Janice McEchran, Leon Mansfield, Antonia Smith, Ken Smith, Ralph Bloomfield, Lucille Laprise, Randy McFadden, Sheryl Emery, Alicia VanEsse, Collin Pool

Quorum – Yes

Conflict of Interest: none identified.

Additions to Agenda: Grounds & Buildings

Approval of Agenda: Bill, 2nd Charlene, carried.

Review of AGM Minutes: - Have been on the website for a year. A copy will be available to you as well.

Approval of Minutes – Charlene, 2nd Lucille, carried.

Financial Statement given by Scott McKay from BDO:

- Scott outlined the responsibilities of Management.
 - The preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements.
 - Assessing the organization’s ability to continue as a going concern.
- The Auditor’s responsibilities were then outlined.
 - Obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.
 - Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement.
 - Obtain an understanding of internal controls.
 - Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies.
 - Conclude on the appropriateness of management’s use of the going concern basis.
 - Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements.

- Scott then reviewed:
 - the Statement of Financial Position.
 - Note 3: Building and Equipment
 - Note 5: Deferred Capital Contributions.
 - Note 8: Racing Grants
 - Note 9: Deferred Revenue
 - The Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures- Agricultural Society
 - The Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures - Raceway
- Suggestions for Management were:
 - To initial bank reconciliations quarterly
 - Improve documentation of cash received and deployed (petty cash)
 - Have a director initial for any cash disbursements.
 - Need better documentation of revenues at events (tractor pull, demo derby, etc.)
- Scott then talked about only needing one HST number and working with CRA to resolve the issues around HST and eventually cancel one of the HST numbers.

New Business:

- Overview
 - Working through an AGCO Audit.
 - Finally have the re-zoning completed.
 - Licenses have been approved by Chatham-Kent.
- Tractor Pull last year and whats in the works for this year (Alicia)
 - Last year's tractor pull was a success. We had Southwest Tractor Pullers Association and Good Times Tractor Pullers put on the show. We had a great crowd and made some money.
 - This year the Tractor Pull will be on July 28th and the show will be put on by Good Times Tractor Pullers. We are also going to have a live band that is being sponsored, so it won't cost DAS anything for the band.
- Demo Derby last year and whats in the works for this year (Ron and Hope)
 - Didn't have very many cars last year.
 - New for this year a truck rumble.
 - A new truck will enter the ring every 30 seconds until all of the trucks are in the ring. It has been capped at 30 trucks. It was very successful last year in Niagara Falls.
- Racing last year and what is in the works for this year (Carolyn and Bill)
 - Last year was a good year, we were finally able to have customers after 2 years of no patrons.
 - New Facilitator, Claudette:
 - She started in February.
 - Created a new website Dresden-raceway.ca.
 - Still working on what is coming for each race date.
 - As AGCO requires, the track rules have been completed and will be posted on the website.

- Have a package for advertising on Blackburn radio.
- Updating twitter and Instagram daily.
- Working on proposal to receive funding from COSA for marketing.

- Slot building (Re-ride, Elizabeth Roberts)
 - Sold their farm and needed a new place to set up shop.
 - Renting half of the old slot floor.
 - Will be opening March 31st.
 - Having an open house on Easter Weekend (April 7-9)
 - They will be open 9am -6pm, 7 days/week.
 - They want to support racing.
 - She asked about removing the palm trees. Lucille said that they will be gone before the end of April.

- Grounds and Buildings
 - Many upgrades over the last year
 - Judge's booth has new windows and counter.
 - New tote board and sound system.
 - New lift will be going into the Grandstand.
 - Barn 1 has been redone.
 - New starting gate and new betting booth.
 - New winner's circle.
 - Currently working on water lines in the grandstand, painting, and stall mats for the paddock.
 - Working on the second floor of the Grandstand.
 - We have had several issues with someone calling MPPs, AGCO, the Ministry of Labour etc.

Additions (Chaired by Colin Pool)

- OAAS Judging Schools (Carolyn)
 - Brigden for quilting and handcraft sewing, May 6th.
 - Culinary arts in Wallacetown, April 22nd + 23rd.
 - More information is available in the office.

- Direction from the Membership
 - Colin spoke with Vince regarding conflict in fairs.
 - Doesn't understand why volunteers on a board are fighting.
 - Boards are very important and should be unified.
 - Colin read a letter written by Cathy Gaudreau regarding issues with a board member.
 - John Cowan said Dwayne is a good guy, take care of horses when he goes on holiday. Says he was threatened for not renting stalls correctly.
 - Dwayne said Cathy is lying. He never spoke to her regarding board business.
 - Dwayne said he always follows the constitution.
 - Rob said Cathy helps. Sam is in school taking horse therapy. Dwayne reported her to AGCO. She in school, learning and doesn't need the hassle.

- Rob also mentioned calls to Ministry of Labour regarding lighting in Barn 1, the electricians did the work.
- Hope mentioned the corruption of the board in 1979-1983.
- She also mentioned how Dwayne is constantly calling the board corrupt, and promotes violence against women.
- Colin said that we live in a society that is trying to eliminate history, but history is what made us.
- The constitution is continually changing. If we operate within the realms of the constitution, we are doing it right.
- Sheryl said that Bill and Ron were harassing her on September 12th.
- It was the day before the board meeting. They were very rude asking about where Darel would be moving to. They asked about Darel's bookkeeping and called an accountant. They asked her about the List brothers. Ron took pictures. Darel was asked to leave and then received a letter to vacate.
- Colin pointed out that he is a rep from another fair board and is looking at things as an outsider. He thinks that it would be a bad idea to throw the board out. He thinks that we should work on resolving the issues and move forward.
- Randy said that AGCO came in and looked at stalls, They said the stalls were pig styes and we need to remedy the problem or we could lose funding.
- Dan said that AGCO has made changes that we need to accept. The stall agreement was approved by the board and signed by everyone renting stalls.
- Leon pointed out that things are run by AGCO not Dresden Raceway.
- Dwayne said that he doesn't support abuse. Everyone agreed.
- Colin suggested a committee in the barns and one on the board to work out issues. We need to bury the hatchet.
- Rob said that he paid his membership and thinks that it is a good idea to have one horseman to speak to the board. He also said that the board is good to work with.
- Alicia spoke about when the AGCO came and inspected the barns. They asked about the stall agreement and if everyone had signed the stall agreement. They asked what had been done about the dirty stalls. She advised that DAS had given 3 notice letters. They wanted to know why that person hadn't been removed. They gave 30 days to take care of the 'problem' or they would remove funding.
- Without horse racing DAS is done.
- Darel and Alicia worked out plans several times. He talked about some of the problems he was having. They met several times. Unfortunately, Darel never followed through with his part of the plan that was made.
- Bill said that he had 4 calls from horsemen complaining about 1 person. He wanted to know if we should vote if that person should stay on the board.
- Hope said that DAS is 95% great and 5% disconnected.
- Carolyn suggested making Rob the spokesperson for the horsemen. Rob wants Alicia to look into if it would be a conflict of interest for him to be spokesperson for the horsemen.
- Colin said we should make an agenda item "horse barn concerns."
- Randy said that we can't lose funding over 1 problem. Everyone agreed with Randy.
- Bill mentioned that the executive had a meeting with the horsemen on February 1st. Each of the horsemen signed a new stall rental agreement.

- Leon said that DAS has done a remarkable job with the barns and there hasn't been any problems except for a couple of people.
- Colin said that we needed a grace period and try to fix the problems. Then we need to do what needs to be done.

Adjournment 8:29 pm -Hope