

Illinois State Advisory Board Meeting
July 15, 2015

A meeting of the Board of State Fair Advisors was held on Wednesday, July 15, 2015 commencing at 1:00 PM in the 2nd Heat Building located on the DuQuoin State Fairgrounds.

Advisory Board members present:

Director Phillip Nelson	Mike Ammann	Allen Entwistle
Bill Fugate	Gary McConnell	Jim Maurer
Doug Parett	Bill Range	Tami Schilling
Brad Temple	Patricia Walker	Paul Walker

Phone Participants:

Marla Behrends	Duane Noland	George Obernagel
Sue Schafer	John Slayton	

Others Present:

Patrick Buchen/Illinois State Fair Manager
Guy Alongi/DuQuoin Mayor
Roger Brand/Special Events Coordinator (DuQuoin)
Stephanie Knop/Administrative Assistant (DuQuoin)
Kari Lowery/Grounds Entertainment Coordinator (DuQuoin)
Danette Mohr/Executive Office (DuQuoin)
Chuck Novak/ City of DuQuoin

Members Absent: Mike Martz, Ray Ropp, Rod Stoll

DuQuoin Mayor, Guy Alongi, welcomed the board to DuQuoin. Mayor Alongi stressed the importance of the fairgrounds for the economics of DuQuoin.

Patrick Buchen, Fair Manager, introduced Norm Hill, Assistant Fair Manager. Norm provided the rich history of the fairgrounds and the Hayes family.

New Business

- a. Jr. Show age requirement currently 10-18
Tami Schilling expressed her concerns with other shows age eligibility being different and with exhibitor numbers declining. She recommended the eligibility age requirement be changed from 10-18 to 8-21.

Bill Range agreed that pulling in 8 year olds would help increase interest.

Sue Schafer (on phone) likes the idea of changing age to 8-21.

Jim Maurer made the motion to change the age from 10-18 to 8-21 with the eligibility age as of January 1st with the agreement of 4-H and FFA; otherwise leave the eligibility date of September 1.

Bill Fugate seconded the motion. Zero opposition. Motion was carried

b. Jr. Show vs. 4-H/FFA Show

Suggestions were made for the Director of the Board and Patrick to speak with 4-H regarding the impact that a name change would have on the program.

Paul Walker supports going to Junior Show status.

Tami Schilling seconded the motion

No opposition. Motion was carried to begin talks with 4-H.

C. Grand Marshal and Ag Ambassador

Kristi Jones presented the idea, under the recommendation of Director Nelson, that an Ag Ambassador is named for the both fairs. The honored person(s)/family would serve as a Face of Illinois and represent the Ag industry. Criteria would be set that must be met. For example, the individual/family would have some relation to Ag business, production of ag, and/or other ag capacity. They would also have deep roots within their community.

John Slayton made the motion to setup a committee that would be appointed by the Fair Board Director.

Allen Entwistle seconded the motion.

Zero opposition. Motion was carried.

Board members discussed Land Of Lincoln and breed ratios. It was agreed that there should be a committee setup to discuss issues outside of the Advisory Board.

The next meeting will be scheduled in November or December with a date to be determined.

Fair Board members were adjourned and invited to participate on tram guided tour of the fairgrounds, hosted by Norm Hill, Assistant Fair Manager.