

MDGA Board Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2014
Minnesota State Fairgrounds – Dairy Goat Office

In attendance: Casey Prochniak, Karyl Dronen, Mary Thompson, Michelle Scheglowksi, Allen Weinand, Rodney Coe, Laura Kieser, Lauren Schifsky, Andi Strusz, (all board members), Treasurer, Bonnie Augustine, and MDGA members Marge Kitchen, Linda Ahrndt, Adam Prochniak and Marlene Hunt

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. by President Casey Prochniak.

The secretary's minutes from the May 31st general membership meeting held at Poplar Hill were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Bonnie Augustine reported that there is \$2156.51 in the Futurity Fund. There is \$23,552.07 in the General Fund with a \$300 pending bill. There is \$1617.49 in the Youth Fund.

A motion was made by Mary and seconded by Laura to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

Discussion took place on combining the General Fund and the Youth Fund into one General Fund, ensuring that activities for youth will be budgeted and that our youth remain a priority for our association. This discussion came about as we are no longer having the I milked a goat booth which had been a fund raiser for youth in the past. It should be the responsibility of the board, youth and all active members to actively seek out ways to continue to raise funds for the work of our association.

Allen made a motion which Mary 2nded to combine the two funds into one general fund but to continue to emphasize the importance of youth in our activities which will be reflected in a budget that supports our youth. Motion passed.

Virtual Goat Exhibit – this was discussed as it has become the new focus for public education at the state fair, with the disbanding of the **I Milked a Goat Booth**. We thank Brian McCann for this lovely representation of a goat. While Brian has refused reimbursement for this the board agreed he should be reimbursed his costs and Bonnie will follow up on that. It is agreed that the nipples/milking apparatus need some refinement and Rodney offered to take it home and work on this. We also need to enhance this goat with other professionally rendered educational materials. Michelle has looked into some educational items we might purchase. We still need to see how the state fair might support/provide funds for some additional educational exhibits. Allan recently attended the Iowa State Fair and had some great ideas of how we might incorporate some of the things he saw there here. He will share picture of what he saw with us all electronically. Allen, Rodney and Michelle will be the ongoing educational committee to develop our display.

Annual Conference - will be November 15, 2014

Adam shared a tentative schedule. JoAnn Mueller will do a youth/activities class but would like some direction on a topic.

Laura discussed the food contest. She is hoping to have three judges. The number of categories will be limited: fresh cheese, aged cheese, recipes with goat cheese as a main ingredient: desserts and appetizers. There was a suggestion to see if Keith or Morgan might be able to secure Andrew Zimmer from Bizarre foods as a judge or possibly speaker. If he's not able to participate this year with such short notice possibly he might be able to next year?

Discussion on lunches. If we go with Nelson's which has a superior lunch to Subway or other fast food places, we are charged in the neighborhood of \$7.50 per lunch, as opposed to \$5, but it seems that Nelson's is appreciated more. Alan made a motion/Mary seconded to charge \$20 for MDGA members and \$25 for nonmembers (a slight increase this year) to cover the extra cost of lunches. We will continue to charge \$5 but will be subsidizing them for 2 to 3 dollars. Motion passed.

Mary has the following **auction animals this year:** Nigerian Dwarf from Lauren Schifsky, Saanen from Bonnie Augustine and Alpine from the Thompsons. Other donations always find their way in to us and we'll have a silent auction as well. All are encouraged to contribute as well as to buy.

Andi will talk to Morgan about Big Gain providing **morning donuts.** Laura will order lunches. Allen and Bonnie will be at the registration table to take walk in registrations as well as new memberships. A discussion of who has tables and will bring them took place. Not sure where we are with that.

Futurity

Linda Ahrndt reported that there were 146 goats entered this year and 26 shown. There is an issue for people to continue to enter animals with the current problem of not everyone who enters gets to show. The question is why should they continue to enter. Lots of discussion took place on this issue with no resolution as it is not an MDGA issue, but a State Fair issue. Keith Allen has been working on this and will be the point person for working on this with the fair board as well as our new superintendent, Mark Boorsma.

Awards

Discussion of this took place, Two individuals were discussed/nominated here at the meeting to be recognized. Laura will follow up (names kept out of the minutes so it will be a surprise.)

G G G

We need a new editor. Michelle Ruedy has offered to do this. This will be a time for her to discuss with the membership what they would like/need for ongoing communication in the GGG in the new world of social media. Currently our bylaws state 10 issues, would a

quarterly issue that is more meaty, say with a buck issue with pictures in the fall be more worthwhile? Casey will get an issue out by **October 15th** with ballots for this fall's election. We would like people to be able to cut their ballots out and submit them at the fall conference in an attempt to have a better turnout. Mary, Allan and Emily Thompson will be the Election Committee this year. We have several good people willing or thinking about putting their names on the ballot. The deadline for having ballots turned in will be December 1st, if not in the ballot box at the conference, they may send them by mail to Mary Thompson. Laura, Karyl and Mary are all going off the board and having each served six years are not eligible to be on the ballot in 2015.

AI Clinic – Laura said she's been getting lots of requests for one of these for MDGA to sponsor again. It's been a few years since we've last had one. It's too late this year but perhaps next year if the new board in 2015 can address this and start working on it early in the new year. It should be place on the agenda for their 1st meeting.

Outstanding Youth and Scholarship forms/promotion needs to be highlighted on the website, on **Facebook** and in the new GGG so all youth are aware of this and that due process can be followed.

Marlene stated that they will no longer be **recycling trophies for the youth show**. It is a hassle and youth would better appreciate and be able to utilize a more functional trophy. She will work on securing those. The board feels that this is appropriate.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes submitted by
Mary Thompson, Secretary