

Johnson Council Extension Council Minutes
Regular Meeting Date: May 12, 2020

Called to Order by Scott Ritter at 9:00 A.M.

SPECIAL NOTE: Due to recent recommendations from State Government (see declaration below), CDC and Iowa Public Health due to COVID-19 and social distancing recommendations, the Johnson County Extension Council met by teleconference at 9:00 AM, May 12, 2020. The conference call number and access code were posted in the agenda.

Governor Reynolds Declaration

On Friday, March 20, 2020, Governor Reynolds issued an additional State Public Health Emergency Declaration that included the following directive:

ELECTRONIC MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

SECTION NINE. Pursuant to Iowa Code § 29C.6(6), and at the request of the Iowa League of Cities on behalf of numerous local governmental bodies, I temporarily suspend the regulatory provisions of Iowa Code §§ 21.8, 26.12, and 414.12, or any other statute imposing a requirement to hold a public meeting or hearing, to the extent that the statutes could be interpreted to prevent a governmental body from holding the meeting by electronic means, provided that the governmental body properly notices the meeting or hearing and includes a telephone conference number or website address that permits the public to participate in the meeting or hearing. I also temporarily suspend those statutes to the extent they could be interpreted to prevent a governmental body from limiting the number of people present at an in-person location of the meeting, provided that the governmental body provides a means for the public to participate by telephone or electronically as provided in this section.

Roll Call Scott Ritter, Lori Donahoe, Brent Bonner, Luann Pisarik, Greg Kuntz, Scott Stutsman, John Schneider, Marianne Klouda Absent: Karissa Norine
Others: Gene Mohling, Brittnee Schneider, Kate Yoder, Amey Kollar, Shannon Bielicke

Public Comment Period: there were no comments

County Fair Update & Press Release

Risk, safety, sanitation are considerations. The public aspects of the county fair are cancelled.

With social distancing and restrictions, at this time face to face livestock shows are near impossible to host. For static exhibits the virtual option is being reviewed. The Iowa State Fair will make a decision on or about June 15. May 15 nomination deadline has been pushed back to June 1. We may be able to adopt the plans used by other county fairs for virtual efforts.

Lori Donahoe moved to approve of the press release. 2nd by Scott Stutsman. Carried unanimously

COVID-19 Update – 2020 Johnson County Fair

Johnson County Fair Association Cancels 2020 Grounds & Grandstand Entertainment

Johnson County, IA – May 13, 2020 – Due to the ongoing social distancing guidelines and additional precautions taking place to help slow and reduce the spread of COVID-19, the Johnson County Agricultural Association, has made the difficult decision to cancel the grounds and grandstand entertainment for the 2020 Johnson County Fair.

Johnson County Fair Board President Charlie Isaacs states, “After consulting with Johnson County Public Health, Johnson County Emergency Management, the Johnson County Board of

Supervisors, and fair board members, it was determined this was the best decision due to the uncertainty of what the public health situation may look like at the end of July. We want nothing more than to have a fair, however, volunteers, visitors, youth of Johnson County and staff health and safety are our main concern.”

The Johnson County Agricultural Association, in partnership with the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach of Johnson County and Johnson County 4-H, are working to fulfill the fair vision of providing opportunities to the 4-H and FFA members to showcase their talents and accomplishments despite the cancelation of all grounds and grandstand entertainment for the 2020 Johnson County Fair.

County fair is an opportunity for Johnson County’s youth to have a unique 4-H learning experience. Even if fair in 2020 needs to happen in non-traditional ways, exhibits and evaluation of exhibits are important to help 4-H members complete their project learning. Johnson County 4-H is currently navigating the various options for fair 2020. As details are finalized, information will be sent to families and volunteers.

“In a time of unknown, we are working through uncharted territory and staff and volunteers are working hard to offer an educational opportunity for our youth this summer,” said Kate Yoder, County Youth Coordinator for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach of Johnson County. “Youth are dedicated to their exhibits and I am dedicated to ensuring our youth have an educational showcase opportunity this summer.”

“The Johnson County Agricultural Association would like to thank all the supporters, sponsors, and partners for their support of the Johnson County Fair,” Charlie Isaacs said. “We hope to see everyone at next year’s fair July 25th – 28th 2021 for a bigger and better showing!”

For more information regarding this year’s fair and for updates about events at the fairgrounds, please follow the Johnson County Fairgrounds on Facebook and at <https://www.johnsoncofair.com/> Please email johnsoncofair@gmail.com with additional inquiries.

For more information regarding 4-H & FFA events at this year’s fair, please follow Johnson County 4-H on Facebook and at <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/johnson/> Please email Yoder@iastate.edu with additional inquiries.

Lori Donahoe moved to adjourn. 2nd by Marianne Klouda Carried unanimously

Luann Pisarik, Secretary