Seward County 4-H Council Meeting

December 1, 2020

Council members did not meet in November because of lack of quorum.

Vice President Allyson Krohe called the December meeting to order via Zoom at 6:43 p.m.

Members present included Allyson Krohe, Kristi Ideus, Megan Vrbka, Jon Dybdal and Ellie Tempel, with Cori Stava and Jon Eberspacher arriving later. Absent were Chad Phillips, Hannah Roebke, Kia Brown, Jessica Dybdal and Ember Penas. Extension staff present were Ann D., Cindy W., and Emily H.

Members began discussion on minutes, reviewed the 2020 budget and heard an update on a request for funds, but were not able to take action on these items, as quorum had not yet been met.

The request for funds update was regarding the purchase of dog equipment from Nemaha County. In September, the council approved the purchase up to $373.73 or whatever amount the 4-H Foundation does not cover. Nemaha County no longer has all of the equipment initially listed for sale, so Seward County will purchase the remaining equipment at a cost of $150. Ann Schlueter, Seward County Dog Show superintendent, asked if she could use the remaining funds that were approved ($223.73) to purchase additional new equipment. The council tabled making a decision until January because of lack of quorum.

Cori and Jon E. joined the meeting at this time.

Emily gave a report on Achievement Party and thanked the council members who helped or were able to attend. Election results were shared. New council members beginning in January will be:

Adults At-Large: Allyson Krohe and Kent Fickel (one-year terms)

Adult District 1: Pat Vrbka (two-year term)

Adult District 2: Sabryn Phillips (two-year term)

Youth At-Large: Ellie Tempel and Cole Luebbe (one-year terms)

Youth District 1: Braeden Dey (two-year term)

Youth District 4: Nolan Eickhoff (two-year term)

Hannah Roebke, Jon Eberspacher, Kia Brown and Jon Dybdal will remain on the council to complete their terms at the end of 2021.

Jon D. moved to destroy election ballots. Cori seconded. Motion carried.

Extension staff recognized outgoing council members and thanked them for their service to Seward County 4-H. Each will receive a certificate in the mail.

Ann shared with the council about Extension’s fall intern, William Wilton, who will complete a 12-week internship in December. William has been working with the 4-H Afterschool program and also helping with Maker Kits. The Extension office will have another intern for the spring semester.

The council discussed updating its constitution/bylaws to reflect a contingency plan for elections. They currently state elections are to be held at Achievement Party each year. Because of COVID-19, Achievement Party was by invitation only this year, which meant not all 4-H members, parents and volunteers had the opportunity to cast a ballot. The council made absentee voting available at the Extension office for this year. Allyson will work with staff to draft changes and bring them to the council’s January meeting for consideration.

Ann gave a year-end enrollment report, which showed total 4-H participation down about 10% from the previous 4-H year. She said this was not surprising because of the effects of COVID-19, and that staff were encouraged that numbers were as high as they were given the circumstances.

Council books need audited. Cindy will ask Diane Holtorf, a local who does audits, if she can take a look. A backup suggestion was Whitney Fleischmann. This will be set sometime in January.

Cori will review the 2020 budget and make a draft of a 2021 budget for the January meeting.

Senior scholarship applications are due Jan. 8. Interviews are set for Jan. 11 at 6 p.m. Jon E. volunteered to sit in on interviews. An additional one or two council members will be needed, as well. Ann brought a request from one senior applicant for the council to consider: the applicant did not know they needed to turn in their Achievement Application by Oct. 1 in order to be eligible for scholarships. They turned theirs in, but late. Cori suggested leaving the decision up to those who conduct the interviews.

Emily gave reports on Maker Day Take It and Make It kits. Around 90 families signed up for 287 kits. Those will go out Dec. 10-18. She also spoke on School Enrichment. A few courses have already been taught this year, but many classrooms are waiting until the spring to see if COVID-19 restrictions lift.

Ann spoke about 4-H Afterschool programs, which have been successful at Centennial, Seward and St. Vincent schools this year. Milford is not currently allowing outside guest educators.

Phone-a-Thon dates were tentatively set for Feb. 8 and 16. Those dates will be confirmed in January.

Trophy/Awards committee deferred choosing a trophy and award options for fair to the new council. This will need to be done first thing in January.

Fundraising ideas are needed for the spring.

A volunteer training will be planned for early February.

Returning members were asked to consider what offices and committee roles they would like to pursue in January. Those who were not elected to the council were invited to serve on committees as non-voting members.

The next 4-H Council meeting will be Jan. 4, 2021 at the Extension Office or via Zoom. Megan moved to adjourn. Cori seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Emily Hemphill

Acting Secretary