



**Extension Board Meeting
Boone County 4-H General Projects Show
Community Building Complex, 111 W 1st Street, Belvidere, IL
Saturday, July 8, 2023, 10:00 AM**

MINUTES

1. Introductions: Tom Walberg, Boone County Board member, Heather Coyle, Rachel Coyle, Mike Delany, and Teresa Schwarz were present.
2. Event Tours and Interviews with volunteers, participants, and staff. Toured 4-H General Projects exhibits. Interviewed volunteers and judges to see why they want to be involved in 4-H, and what keeps them coming back each year.

Volunteers Bob and Nathalie Lyford said that 4-H is a good program and they like seeing the kids grow up. Bob mentioned, “In 4-H, kids learn by doing” and that with 4-H, parents must be involved. He said that it is “very rewarding” to see the kids of previous 4-H members in 4-H themselves. The culture is being passed down.

Heather mentioned the Hometown Leaders event that was held in Boone County recently. Another way to keep parent involvement and support is to encourage parents to speak about their careers in clubs. This will give kids an idea of what types of careers are in their own community. Heather also mentioned that CED Educator, Mike Delany is working on a video project. Parents could participate in the video.

4-H judge, Mike Razim, was in 4-H when he was younger and now works in advertising. He said that learning to problem solve as a 4-H member was a crucial skill to learn. He gained self-confidence while in 4-H.

Paul Zeien has been judging 4-H General Projects for years. He said past members he judged own their own business now. He said it is interesting to see the projects of the same kids from level 1 to level 3 and the growth and skill that develop over time. He is impressed with the Cloverbuds program and feels Melissa (Irwin) does a great job promoting and running it. He said this is a great opportunity for parents who are looking for age-appropriate activities for the younger school-aged children.

One 4-H member's parents who were there to support their daughter were interviewed and asked what makes 4-H worthwhile. They responded that the kids gain self-confidence. This parent was a 4-H member growing up and a 4-H leader. Both felt it was important to communicate via club newsletters, email, and social media, to engage 4-H families.

Other judges and volunteers stated: “I like the people involved in 4-H, not just the members, but everyone, and like the community environment”; “I can’t say enough great things (about 4-H)”; and “My daughter was a 4-H member, and it helped her with her communications confidence”.

3. County Needs Discussion: The value of Extension to local communities and the needs of Boone County were discussed. Themes included continued youth development, career exploration, workforce skill development, agriculture business and sustainability, agriculture education, minority and new audiences, and food resources.

4. Budget Materials

a. Financial Statement

b. Rationale

c. Impact Report

d. County Funding Request- Extension Board member, Tom Walberg, was present and agreed with the request of \$130,000 from Boone County.

5. Lunch, Adjourned at 12:15 PM

Boone County Schedule

Saturday, July 8

8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Project Judging

1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Public Viewing

2:30 pm – 2:45 pm

Project Pick-up

Council Roles Summarized: * Linking University of Illinois Extension with local leadership, communities, agencies, and organizations.

* Supporting and advocating for Extension programs. Identifying needs and potential resources (human, financial, physical).

* Advise the program planning and implementation processes. * Assuring council membership represents all segments in counties served. * Assuring program outreach meets equal opportunity and program access guidelines.