



Unit 20 Extension Council Meeting Minutes **Thursday, November 14, 2024**

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Molly Morecraft Council Chair
- Members introduced themselves, sharing roles and contributions within the unit.

2. Roll Call

- Members present: Molly Morecraft, Lendzy Stewart, Erica Hatfield, Randy Peterson, Chandra Gerberding – (Chandra attended via ZOOM)
- Extension Staff present: Susan Sloop

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed.
- No corrections were noted. Motion to approve made by Lendzy and seconded by Erica. The minutes were approved.

4. Unit Updates

- **Leadership:** Susan Sloop, newly appointed County Director, shared her excitement about returning to the unit, leveraging her past experience as a 4-H Educator and her tenure at the State 4-H Office.
- **Staffing Updates:**
 - Dara Potts, STEM Program Coordinator, began on September 30. She is actively engaging with schools, libraries, and community partners.
 - A new Agriculture and Natural Resources Program Coordinator position, housed in Edgar County, was posted with a closing date of November 27. This role will support Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners across the unit in addition to other programming focused in agriculture and natural resources
- **Facility Upgrades:**
 - Replacement of outdated equipment with 65-inch TVs on mobile carts for flexible use in all county facilities.
 - Updates to Clark County's phone system
 - Parking lot addition to the Clark County Building

5. Program Updates

- **4-H Activities:** Livestock judging teams and STEM-related programming were highlighted as growing successes.

6. Financial Updates

- Signature cards for bank accounts need to be updated to reflect current staff, removing Stacy Woodyard and ensure those listed include: Susan Sloop, Jaylynn Schober, and Mary Liz Wright.
 - Clark – First Mid
 - Crawford – First Financial Bank
 - Edgar – Prospect Bank
- A Motion was made by Erica to approve the changes to the bank signature cards and seconded by Lendzy. The motion was approved.

7. Additional Discussions

- **Facility Challenges:** Concerns about lighting and accessibility were addressed, with plans to improve exterior lighting and designate accessible parking spots.
- **Program Outreach:** Importance of collaborating with county boards and maintaining positive relationships was emphasized.
- **Event Coordination:** Discussion of fair schedules and livestock show enhancements, including introducing skill-a-thons and other youth engagement activities.

8. Public Comments & Sharing

- Members shared updates on upcoming events like the Bethlehem Experience on the Marshall Square and the nearly full Hometown Holidays vendor event.
- Encouragement for council members to share programming needs or feedback from their communities.

9. Future Plans

- Plans to introduce light meals at council meetings, starting next year, to foster camaraderie.
- Encouragement to council members to identify and recruit individuals for council membership.
- Next meeting scheduled for January 23, 2025 at 5:45 pm

10. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.