

September CCFM Advisory Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

In Attendance: Jane Sewell, Tony Richardson, Dawn Thomas, Judy Fortin, Beverly Humbert, Commissioner Joe Vigliotti, Tom Gordon, Jr., Dawn Thomas, Dana Wachter

Tony Richardson called the meeting to order at 9:36a.

July Meeting Minutes – Tony Richardson noted the slight correction that he was not in attendance, then asked for a motion to approve, Judy Fortin so moved with Beverly Humbard as second to accept.

President's Planning Report – Tony Richardson

- Tony advised the board that new Board Member, Tim Bangerd, has applied and was accepted by the Commissioners to join the Advisory Board. Tony has been in touch with Tim and told us that Tim works in Montgomery County schools as an Administrator. He is an avid supporter of the Farm Museum. However, Tim would have difficulty in attending day time meetings.
- There was a follow-on discussion about the possibility to move some or all of our meeting to evening meetings, which would allow those who serve on the Advisory Board, but also work full time, to more easily attend. Jane will send out a communication/poll about this to ask Board members their availability on weeknights beginning at 7p
- Tony thanked Jane for her selfless dedication to the Farm Museum during the very busy summer season in the wake of multiple staff shortages. All Advisory Board members are grateful to Jane and her staff.
- On the note of thanking the staff for their selfless dedication, Beverly Humbert suggested a bonus/gift or perhaps a meal in recognition of the extra effort of all staff this year. Jane advised that will be considered.

Events Report – Dana Wachter

- July 4 had over 6,000 in attendance. Dana commended the staff for working around the pavilion restricted areas.
- The Summer Concert series did end up in the black with the final concert being the most well attended.
- The next Secret Garden show will be in October with the organizer adding a date in November
- Kid's Fest went very well, with 1000 attendees within the first hour, a total of 1350 overall. Recs and Parks were in attendance. There were many fun activities for the kids. The Wellness Wagon was very successful.
- The Wine Festival is this Saturday, 9/13, with the last two events being the Art Festival and the Holiday Tour.

Events Report – Dana Wachter - continued

- Dana reviewed sponsorship for all the events.

Manager's Report: Jane Sewell

- Race organizers approached Jane to run a Torch Race from the Farm Museum. The initial thought was for it to be a 10K, however, the decision was made that it will be a 5K. It will start at the Farm Museum in the late afternoon and be open until 9p with food and bands. Details will follow. The date is June 13, 2026.
- Pavilion Update: The actual structure could be finished today. Shingles are next, then the stamped concrete. Jane advised of the accident that occurred with one of the trusses. Two workers (subcontractors of General Contractor, Vigil), were hurt, one was flown out. Both will recover, the more serious had rib injuries. Vigil, has hired a new subcontractor to complete the work with increased supervision. OSHA responded to this incident. Although no fault directly was found with CCFM, OSHA has the right, and will conduct random and unannounced visits looking for things that are out of compliance.
- Caretaker's apartment is almost finished with some minor carpentry work left.
- Caretaker Position has had several applications. One applicant talked to Jane by phone and had several questions. When he understood the position was part time at minimum wage and he would be required to live on property and pay for the apartment, he said he was no longer interested. Jane has several other applicants. The Advisory Board continues to have serious concerns that this position will be filled as it seems that the first applicant came to the conclusions that the Board did: Part time, maximum flexibility, must live on the premises and pay to do so does not seem tenable.
- Volunteer Coordinator, Ann Gilbert, has been hired and will start Oct 9. Her office will be in the Alms House on the 2nd floor. Jane and the Advisory Board are happy this position has been filled by this excellent candidate.
- New Assistant Curator, Shirley Yohn, has been here for 6 weeks and is a great fit. She dresses in period costumer and is very enthusiastic and well received.
- The Camps went very well, led by Jane in Mackenzie's absence. There were 4 new counselors this year. Two were very good, two were not. Camps need supervision. The Sheriff's Dept brought two canines for the camps and were a great hit. The officers and dogs had a great time interacting with the kids. There will be no mini-camps this Fall. Mackenzie is a contractual employee and has remained off. Jane was advised the baby remains in NICU.
- Teas will again be held this Fall.
- Work on the Blacksten Mill is pending Land Management approval.

Commissioner Vigliotti's Report:

- A proclamation is in the process for CCFM's Oxen Ambassadors, Jack and Jim, to commemorate their 10-year anniversary at CCFM, to take place at the Oct 11 Arts Festival

New Business:

- Janes advised that a decision had been made that Wrenchie was not an appropriate fit at CCFM. Board members recognized Ted's efforts on this with thanks,

Tony Richardson asked for a motion to close the meeting at 10:48a, so moved by Beverly with second by Dawn.

The Next meeting is October 8, 2025 at 9:30a.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Fortin