

Ag Arena Committee Meeting

March 12, 2025

In Attendance: Clinton, Dixon, Coxe, Hagner, Revels, Cooper, Ferguson, Kunde, McCarter, Ruth, Westbrook, Senn, Harper, Knott, Cotton

LMG Update:

Based on current funding and the desire to continue the momentum of the project, bids will be done in phases. The bid package for the site plan will go out first which allows us to plan for a groundbreaking in either May 23 or June 9. Bids for the construction phase will be done at a later date.

Fundraising:

The project is still working within a \$5.5 million budget and to date, we have raised \$4.3 million. We have also received 3 donors who have made contributions following the Giving Guide. As of the March Meeting, only 1 brick has been sold. The committee was asked to spread the word about the bricks.

Kristin Kunde, 4H, shared with the steering committee that there had been conversations with some members of the community to explore the purchase and development of York Place. Discussion then centered on pros and cons including additional costs, work completed thus far, communication to the public, location of/centrality of York Place, existing structures including restrooms and classrooms, communication with York County Council, public trust and transparency, closer proximity for Fort Mill schools, city restrictions limits, maintenance, etc. The committee concluded with a consensus that we were too far into this project to change the arena location. The community group may continue to explore York Place as a complimentary venue to the arena in Hickory Grove.

Sponsorship Levels and Benefits:

Committee members were asked to reconsider funding levels within the Giving Guide. Specifically, should they be adjusted as a means to increase donations? The suggestion was made that it's not likely to reach the fundraising levels until construction begins. Suggestions were made to add sponsorships between the \$1,000 brick and the \$10,000 bench (i.e. wash stalls, flagpole). The steering committee requested the fundraising committee explore options and bring a report with recommendations. The suggestion was made to offer the use of the facility at no cost throughout the year to the top sponsors or to name specific events after the top sponsors.

March 15: Youth Swine Show in Union, SC. Meg will man a table for the WCYAA at which bricks and t-shirts will be sold as well as raise awareness.

March 20: Youth In Ag Night at YCHS cafeteria where there will be brick and t-shirt sales as well as chicken drop.

March 22: Lineworker Rodeo hosted by York Electric breakfast; food items have been donated, expect to serve 500; volunteers needed to sell breakfast; all sales will be profit. Let Amy know if you are willing to volunteer.

April 18/19: Table with promotional materials, t-shirts, and bricks for sale at Bucking K Ranch Rodeo.