

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Ventura County Fairgrounds
31st District Agricultural Association - 10 W. Harbor Blvd. - Ventura, CA 93001 - (805) 648-3376
Website: venturacountyfair.org Contact: Barbara Quaid, CEO

Tuesday, January 25th, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4834214737?pwd=d0FrRzVFQUIUNG9OeUxFM0FuUG5qQT09>

Join Via the phone:

1-720-707-2699

Meeting ID: 483 421 4737

Passcode: 575554

This virtual board meeting is called in accordance with Governor Gavin Newsom's proclaiming a State of Emergency to exist on March 4, 2020 as a result of the threat of COVID-19 and the March 12, 2020 Executive Order N-25-20. Board Directors and staff of the California Department of Food and Agriculture may attend this meeting telephonically without notice of or access to their teleconference location. Members of the public may attend the meeting and provide comment at the meeting location noticed above. Any item not so noticed on this agenda will not be considered or discussed.

I. Call to Order

Roll Call

Declaration of Recusal or Conflict of Interest

The meeting convened at 9:04 a.m. and called to order by President Lacayo.

Directors present: President, Leah Lacayo, Vice President, Armando Lopez, Michael Bradbury, Leslie Cornejo, M. Cecilia Cuevas, Daniel Long and Shanté Morgan-Carter.

Staff present: Barbara Quaid, CEO, James Lockwood, Publicity and Marketing Manager, Jason Amelio, Sales Manager, Cristian Yepez, Accounting Dept., Shannon Patrick, Exhibits Supervisor and Heidi Ortiz, Executive Assistant.

Guests Present: Sarah Pelle, Fairs & Expositions; Haig Baghdassarian, CDFA; Beth Mansfield, Chris Dufour, Cody Stults, Dawn NLN, Jeannette Sanchez, Jen McGuire, Karen Peters, Kathie Moore, Louis Cunningham, Marc Beyeler, Megan Hook, Phil Nelson, Rick Raives and Scott Toland.

There were no conflicts of interest with any of the Board members that were present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Director Cuevas led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Welcome and Introductions of Guests and Staff

Invitation for the public to introduce themselves (not mandatory)

Louis Cunningham was recognized.

IV. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

In accordance with State law, the Board will not comment or otherwise consider Public Comment matters until and unless such items have been properly noticed for a future meeting.

V. Presentations

A. Surfers Point Phase II (City of Ventura, RRM and Rick Raives)

Mr. Raives introduced Chris Dufour, who is the project manager with RRM and is helping the City in leading this project, and Cody Stults who replaced Brad Starr as the City representative. He explained they are bringing the Surfers Point project to the Board for their last approval. Mr. Raives conducted a power point presentation to the Board of the updated Surfers Point Phase II project.

There was discussion regarding details of the project and if the Board should move forward with a vote today.

MOTION: To approve moving forward with the Surfers Point Phase II project based on what was presented today.

Board Member Name	Approved (Yes Vote)	Not Approved (No Vote)	Abstain
Director Bradbury	X		
Director Cornejo	X		
Director Cuevas (Second)	X		
Director Long (Motion)	X		
Director Morgan-Carter	X		
Vice President Lopez	X		
President Lacayo	X		

VI. CEO Report

- Committee chairs are all on our website.
- We signed a contract with Searle Creative to redesign our website. We have been struggling with the website the last couple years and it is time to have the whole project redone. Mr. Lockwood spoke to a few website designers and we decided on Searle Creative. It should launch sometime in the spring.
- The poster contest will launch in mid-February.
- We have a new Livestock Superintendent, Jennifer McGuire, who is a home-grown Fair family member.
- Applications are starting to come in for concessions and grounds entertainment. Applications for both can be found on our website.

VII. Approval of Minutes

A. November 23rd, 2021 Board Meeting

MOTION: To approve the November 23rd, 2021 Board Meeting minutes as presented.

Board Member Name	Approved (Yes Vote)	Not Approved (No Vote)	Abstain
Director Bradbury (Second)	X		
Director Cornejo	X		
Director Cuevas	X		
Director Long (Motion)	X		
Director Morgan-Carter	X		
Vice President Lopez	X		
President Lacayo	X		

B. January 7th, 2022 Special Board Meeting

MOTION: To approve the January 7th, 2022 Special Board Meeting minutes as presented.

Board Member Name	Approved (Yes Vote)	Not Approved (No Vote)	Abstain
Director Bradbury (Motion)	X		
Director Cornejo (Second)	X		
Director Cuevas	X		
Director Long	X		
Director Morgan-Carter	X		
Vice President Lopez	X		
President Lacayo	X		

VIII. Financial Report

A. Financials ending November 30th, 2021

Mr. Yopez gave a report on the financials ending November 30th, 2021.

IX. Old Business - None

X. Committee Reports - None

XI. Board Correspondence

A. Gun Show Correspondence

B. Memo from Mike Francesconi at California Dept. of Food & Agriculture, Fairs & Expositions: Proposition 12 and Junior Livestock Auctions

C. Memo from Mike Francesconi at California Dept. of Food & Agriculture, Fairs & Expositions: 2021 Statement of Operations

D. Memo from Mike Francesconi at California Dept. of Food & Agriculture, Fairs & Expositions: 2022 State Rules for California Fairs

E. Letter from Linda Parks, County of Ventura Board of Supervisors

XII. Consent Agenda: Items hereunder on the Consent Agenda are considered routine, not requiring separate discussion and will be enacted in one motion. Individual items A, 1, are approved by the vote that approves the Consent Agenda, unless an item is pulled for separate consideration.

A. Agreements

1. Rental Agreements – Interim
2. Standard Agreements

Director Long asked to pull #22-006 Crossroads of the West contract to clarify the dates.

CEO Quaid clarified that the dates are March 5th and 6th, 2022. There was some misunderstanding that it was March through June, but we are only taking one show at a time and this one is in March.

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda with items A, 1-2, with the exception of item #22-006 which was pulled for separate consideration.

Board Member Name	Approved (Yes Vote)	Not Approved (No Vote)	Abstain
Director Bradbury (Motion)	X		
Director Cornejo	X		
Director Cuevas	X		
Director Long (Second)	X		
Director Morgan-Carter	X		
Vice President Lopez	X		
President Lacayo	X		

President Lacayo opened it up for public comments.

Beth Mansfield – she explained she does not want gun shows on her state-owned property along with many others. After doing a PRA request and getting 5 years of financial data she realized revenue from gun shows only make up 1% of the budget. She also mentioned every board member’s terms have expired and everyone can and will be replaced. She concluded with asking the Board to end gun shows at the state-owned Ventura County Fairgrounds.

Karen Peters – on behalf of the members of the Ventura County Chapter for Brady United, local residents, urged the board to vote against having gun shows at the fairgrounds. She explained they don’t threaten litigation but asked the board to think about which lawsuits there would be if there was one firearm sold at the fairgrounds that was used to take one or more lives. No one can assure that as long as guns are sold at the fairgrounds. She wanted clarification on the board’s policy on ghost guns.

A motion was made by Director Cornejo. Director Bradbury seconded but wanted to make sure to include the provision that there will be no ghost guns allowed to be sold. CEO Quaid stated it would be included as it was for the last gun show contract.

MOTION: To approve contract #22-006 for the gun show March 5th and 6th.

Board Member Name	Approved (Yes Vote)	Not Approved (No Vote)	Abstain
Director Bradbury (Second)	X		
Director Cornejo (Motion)	X		
Director Cuevas		X	
Director Long		X	
Director Morgan-Carter		X	
Vice President Lopez	X		
President Lacayo	X		

XIII. President’s Comments

- She is looking forward to 2022 and the challenges that it brings; we are still dealing with the pandemic and most likely will be for the rest of the year. Everyone needs to be flexible because things can change in an instant.
- As CEO Quaid mentioned, all the committees have been posted online and she has notified and spoke to everyone about their committees.
- She has appointed an Ad Hoc committee for the CEO search which is Director Cornejo and Director Cuevas. They will be working with our consultant, Sarah Pelle, who is with CDFA and has agreed to help. There is a lot of work involved and as they develop the criteria, job description, etc. they will update the board and bring to the board for approval. The good news is that CEO Quaid will continue as the CEO through this search process.

XIV. Director’s Comments

Director Cornejo

- Explained that it is great to be a member of the board for a while and she is very grateful for Leah to take on the Presidency and the weight that goes along with it. She pledges her support again with whatever is needed.
- She is excited that she can tell people there will be a Fair this year when asked. She also is excited with moving forward with hiring and putting people in place to make it happen.

Director Bradbury

- Commented that it was good to see everyone and stated he hopes everyone stays healthy and well.

Director Long

- He really likes seeing that the board is getting closer to Phase II and to seeing that get accomplished.

- Explained it is good to see everyone after a little break and to hear something positive.

Director Cuevas

- Asked to put on the agenda a review of the gun show policy.
- She also asked to continue using the services of the special hire used to monitor the shows as they continue.
- Appreciates the opportunity to serve on the board and to serve the community. She hopes the board can continue to take in and value all the community response as the board conducts business on the fairgrounds.

President Lacayo stated that it is in the gun show contract that the board is using our special hire, Tom Cady.

Director Cuevas clarified that she wants to look through thoroughly with the board to review his first report he did from the last show and how he thinks we can approve the safety and operations of the shows. She feels it is important to hear from him and have him give his comments from the first show and any future shows to ensure the gun shows are as safe as they can be.

President Cornejo suggested inviting him to the next board meeting.

Director Cuevas also wants a future meeting after he reports out regarding revisions and reviews based on his comments reporting to the board regarding the gun show policy with the understanding the board has rights to revise the policy as it plays out.

Director Bradbury agreed with Director Cuevas.

President Lacayo stated that can be put on future agenda items but reminded the board that they voted on having gun shows for 2022. Yes, revisions can be made but the board has to be thoughtful about those.

There was a brief introduction of Large Livestock Superintendent, Jennifer McGuire, who made a few comments.

There was a request by Director Morgan-Carter and Director Cuevas to have a written, comprehensive CEO report. There was a brief discussion regarding this.

There was a discussion regarding the Foundation hog funds and Director Bradbury asked if there could be a brief explanation. CEO Quaid explained that none of that money has been spent and it is in the Foundation coffers. She recommended the Chair, Edgar Terry, should address that because he would be able to explain it better. Director Cuevas asked to have a Foundation report put on the agenda on a quarterly basis.

XV. Future Agenda Items

1. Clarity on Public Comments

2. Update on Closed Session questions
3. Comprehensive report on the Fair
4. Disposition of Foundation Hog funds/Foundation report

XVI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Submitted by: _____
Heidi Ortiz, Executive Secretary

Approved by: _____
Barbara Quaid, CEO Ventura Fairgrounds

Approved by: _____
Leah Lacayo, Board President