

# Board of Directors Annual 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

January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

## 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 Cornejo.

**Directors present:** President, Leslie Cornejo, Vice President, Leah Lacayo, Michael Bradbury, M. Cecilia Cuevas, Daniel Long, Shanté Morgan-Durisseau and Jim Salzer.

**Absent:** Bonnie Atmore.

**Staff present:** Barbara Quaid, CEO, Vickie Taylor, Accounting/Finance Supervisor, Kim Leach, Exhibits Supervisor, Jason Amelio, Assistant Satellite Wagering Manager, James Lockwood, Marketing and Publicity Manager, Lilia Kenneally, Sales Manager, Luis Juarez, Senior Maintenance and Heidi Ortiz, Executive Secretary.

**Guests Present:** Lisa Kaye, Brad Starr, Mike Worstell, James Winbigler, Ana Del Rio-Barba, Terri Lisagor, Kevin Gaston, Richard Silbert, Rick Raives, Curtis Popp, Barbara Cortee, Gail Casey, Marian Walluks, James Steele, Laura Vergel, Frank McCarthy, Lance Wierschem, Charles Mourwood, Neil Ingram, Jerry Flinda Thoreter, Julie Diaz-Martinez, Jim Lingrosse, Rachel Cahn, Leslie Purell, Richard Emerson, Troy Corley, Jim Friedman and Christie Weir.

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)

Jim Friedman introduced himself as a newly elected City Council official and is the volunteer liaison to the fairgrounds.

## 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.

Due to the long agenda and presentation President Cornejo limited each speaker to three minutes.

Troy Corley: Anti-Gun Show - Asked the fairgrounds to stop hosting gun shows. Disappointed that the Board has not established a gun show policy yet. She thought it was disrespectful that the Board is discussing the gun show policy in an Ad Hoc Committee where the public cannot attend. She will continue coming to the meetings to voice her opinion until a decision is made.

Ana Del Rio-Barba: Anti-Gun Show - She stated she was the Ventura County Director for the Tri County Education Coalition and explained the purpose of the organization and what the members try to accomplish. They submitted a paper in regards to gun shows and how they impact children and she asked the Board to review and take into consideration its content.

Steve Nash: Anti-Gun Show He gave the Board a handout that had possible alternative revenues in place of gun shows. He commented on Governor Newsom's inauguration speech, Steve Bennett's Board of Supervisors request to the Fair Board and the City of Oxnard's agenda item which was to discuss and determine whether to send a letter to the fairgrounds Board of Directors to cease contracting for gun shows. He asked the Board to not approve contracting for gun shows.

Marian Walluks: Pro Gun Show - She is a long time attendee and vendor at the gun shows. She has attended many board meetings and one thing that concerns her is the flaw in the reasoning that people against the gun shows share. She expressed her opinion on the gun shows and stated gun shows are legal activities and supports continuing with them.

Frank McCarthy: Pro Gun Show – He observed at the last board meetings that almost none of the anti-gun people have actually attended a gun show and understand what goes on. He shared that a recent DOJ said that less than 1% of guns used by criminals were purchased at gun shows. He explained gun culture is nothing new and it is the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment for this country, not an afterthought. He explained that gun shows have nothing to do with traumatizing children and there is nothing illegal going on at the gun shows.

Kevin Small: Pro Gun Show – Explained the recent DOJ survey that came out and stated that gun show loopholes is a myth and criminals don't go through background checks because they don't get guns legally. The show is a legal way of attaining firearms. He asked the Board to consider contracting the rest of the gun shows through the rest of the year. There are policies written every day by companies and operations don't shut down, so he asks the Board to continue the shows while developing the policy.

Barbara Thorp-Cartee: Anti-Gun Show – Stated that the Board has the power to cease contracting for new gun shows. She expressed her opinion and explained that the California State legislature under local pressure has passed bills related to ceasing contracting of gun shows which she shared where. Encouraged the Board to vote no on contracting more gun shows.

Karen Peters: Anti-Gun Show – She is a volunteer at the Ventura County Chapter of the Brady Campaign. She was present in November when the Board voted to contract for two gun shows in 2019 and wanted to know if those were the only shows that will be

contracted. She thinks that there needs to be more communication and dialogue regarding the gun shows.

Julie Diaz-Martinez: Anti-Gun Show – Explained she is part of a law enforcement and military family who all own guns responsibly and legally. They are against gun shows and explained everyone has a right to own guns but they are trying to raise attention that the fairgrounds is a government owned land and should not hold gun shows. She mentioned Board Supervisor Steve Bennet’s resolution that passed and Pro-Temp Mayor of Oxnard Carmen Ramirez introduced an agenda item. The responsibility of the Board is to not appeal to one small segment and she asked the Board to stop gun shows.

Sheila Smith: Anti-Gun Show – Stated that they have a genuine concern for their community. Commented that we are not taking advantage of the gorgeous location and offered suggestions of alternative ways to generate revenue in place of gun shows. She also suggested looking into grants.

Ron Rambin: Pro Gun Show – Has attended the gun shows for the last fifteen years and really enjoys guns. He goes to see the latest gadgets and trends in weaponry and enjoys shooting. He explained the Board’s mission statement online and he can’t see how the Board can go against it by not contracting a legal show. He would like the Board to honor that charge.

Bruce Boyer: Pro Gun Show – He is candidate for sheriff and has worked and attended the gun shows for the last twenty years. He stated that the gun show isn’t a 2nd amendment issue but a freedom of assembly and explained why. He said that everybody has a right to put in an application for the type of show they would like to see, but should not take away a show that someone else would like to see like the gun show.

Darren Swanick: Pro Gun Show – He is in support of the Crossroads of the West gun show and an advocate for firearm safety. He explained that he uses the gun show as a means to teach people many things regarding firearms. He commented that the gun show is a very emotional discussion but it needs to be dealt with logically.

Lauren Lopez-Berry: Pro Gun Show – She is a family nurse practitioner and doctoral candidate at Duke University and a widow of a war hero. She is in support of the gun shows. It is a legal show and nobody that wants to commit a crime would attend the show they would find a different avenue. She thinks it is morally appalling to infringe on the people’s rights to free assembly, to gun ownership and to free commerce.

**V. Presentations - None**

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

A. November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Board Meeting

Director Cuevas stated that she appreciates everyone’s submissions to the Board packet, whether on time or at the meeting.

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes from the November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Board Meeting.

Director Bradbury	<b>Approved</b>	<b>Not Approved</b>	
<b>Board Member Name</b>	<b>(Yes Vote)</b>	<b>(No Vote)</b>	<b>Abstain</b>

Director Long	X		
Director Morgan-Durisseau	X		
Director Salzer (Second)	X		
Vice President Lacayo (Motion)	X		
President Cornejo	X		

**VII. Financial Report**

A. Financials ending November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Ms. Taylor gave a detailed explanation of the financials.

Director Cuevas asked where things were at with the 2017 receivables.

CEO Quaid stated that she spoke to Mr. Lieberman and he was meeting with REM Friday and they are supposed to pay at that point. He is on his second letter to Solar City. Everything for the 2018 auction has been paid.

There was discussion as to why these two receivables have not gone to small claims court. President Cornejo stated that CEO Quaid assured that if there is no positive action by these two companies by Friday then they will be taken to small claims.

Director Salzer wanted to go on record that Director Cuevas harasses our CEO and would like to see a censure of that person because she spends too much time talking about the same issues. President Cornejo stated it would be referred to the Executive Committee.

**VIII. Old Business**

A. City of Ventura, Brad Starr – Surfer’s Point Phase II

1. Discussion and possible action regarding Surfer’s Point Phase II.

Mr. Starr explained that they would like to wrap up the Surfer’s Point project. They had a presentation to show how they can meet the Board’s expectations and move forward with a final design. They are looking for acceptance of the infrastructure and geometry for that preliminary design in order to move forward with the final design. The goal is to get funding for the construction projects so the design has to be in place in order to start. The presentation touched on introductions, project history/overview, preferred concept plan, funding sources and timeline.

Director Cuevas asked to put in the MOU a further commitment from the City to continue to drive the funding efforts as it pertains to grant development and acquisition.

Mr. Starr explained that the City would have no other choice but to be the lead on getting the funding. He assured that the City is completely on board and throughout the last several years has made that commitment. He commented on the others organizations who partner in this project and want to see it completed and he reassured that the other City Council members present could speak to that commitment.

Councilwoman Weir stated that on behalf of the Ventura City Council they are committed. This is an extremely complicated and exciting project because their partnership with the fairgrounds has been going on a long time and it has been successful. They are looking at this as an example of sustainability. The opportunity

that the two entities has as a partnership is to make a sustainable project that will sustain nature over a long term. They are looking forward to continuing to partner with their staff, funding and working together. Councilmember Weir brought pictures of the coastline that will be part of the record.

Brian Brennan – He thanked the members of the fairgrounds who participate on the Working Group and stated everyone should be very proud of what is out there for Phase I. He explained that BEACON is a joints powers agency that represents the two counties, Santa Barbara and Ventura, and six coastal cities. He stated they have been committed as a team to move forward and bring back at different points through staff and the Fair Board the different opportunities and decision making. He cautions to not micro-manage too much as they get into the detailed phases only because the amount of time it takes to go back and change the drawings, designs, etc. He understands that the fairgrounds still is a business and has to be managed and that is why this team has come forth to work together to fill the gaps and move forward. He thanked the Board again.

Paul Jenkin – He explained this is the 4<sup>th</sup> Fair Board that has convened under the timeline of this project and appreciated the Board hearing this today. He explained many people love the beach and it is a focal point in the community. The main thing with this new proposal is to improve the amount of parking which is a key issue for the Fair Board as well as the beachgoers; he would like the day use parking to be maximized. There is a lot of people that care about this project and the amount of people that showed up today really says that.

There was a brief discussion regarding any possible concerns with moving forward. President Cornejo explained that because of the good partnerships they have been able to collaborate and come to a point with a project that everyone can agree on.

**MOTION:** To approve acceptance of the preliminary design of the Surfer’s Point Phase II project as presented in honor of Ron Murphy.

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

President Cornejo called for a short break at 10:41 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:49 a.m.

**IX. Committee Reports**

- A. Marketing Committee Meeting January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 – Leah Lacayo, Chair
    - 1. Discussion and possible action regarding budgeting NTE \$15,000 on a professional survey.
- Vice President Lacayo stated the committee has talked for several years about doing a survey. At one meeting last year the Board allocated up to \$25,000 but due to financial

circumstances and after further discussion with her committee members Vice President Lacayo was convinced that there is a need for a survey. Therefore, the committee has allocated for up to \$15,000 to go offsite and hire a professional company to provide that service.

Director Morgan-Durisseau stated that when she was appointed to the Board one of the things she advocated for most is to improve communication and feedback from our community. She wanted to determine what our needs are and what we should be doing in terms of our fair. She is very pleased to see that the Board is finally at the stage to actually do a professional survey.

Vice President Lacayo stated that we do a survey online after the Fair every year which has some really good questions but the company will be providing all the information that the committee and staff should be asking. She also explained that the poster contest is set to launch February 1<sup>st</sup> and explained some of the details.

**MOTION:** To approve budgeting \$15,000 for a professional marketing survey.

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

B. Executive Committee Meeting December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – Leslie Cornejo, Chair  
 1. Discussion and possible action regarding adopting CDEA’s Public Records Act Request Policy.

President Cornejo stated that there were two action items that are coming out of the Executive Committee. One is to formalize the Public Records policy which CEO Quaid briefly explained.

**MOTION:** To adopt California Department of Food & Agriculture’s Public Records Act Request policy.

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

2. Discussion and possible action regarding approving the 20 year lease for the Phoenix Tower International contract.

Ms. Taylor explained that this is the company that leases the two cell towers that are located on the fairgrounds. They lease the property, own the towers and lease the antennas to wireless carriers. The fairgrounds currently has a contract in place where they pay us \$6,500 per month to lease the land. She explained the two different pay schedules that they are proposing.

CEO Quaid explained that there was a map of the location of the cell towers in her CEO report and stated that they are not in locations that prohibits business in any way. It is very difficult to get cell towers and get this source of income because businesses are going elsewhere like the Crown Plaza. She recommended the 20 year lease because it is a lump sum at one time and if anything happens to those cell towers then we already have the money. If the Board approves this then it has to go to DGS for final approval.

There was a full discussion regarding the usage of the money. Paying off the loans for the barn and barn doors is being considered. Ms. Taylor stated that she could create a proposal on the best usage of the money for both options. CEO Quaid would like DGS to approve it first before any time is spent doing that.

Another discussion ensued regarding the two options and there were concerns brought up. After much consideration the Board voted on the one lump sum payment.

**MOTION:** To approve the 20 year lease for the Phoenix Tower International contract as recommended by the Executive Committee.

<b>Board Member Name</b>	<b>Approved (Yes Vote)</b>	<b>Not Approved (No Vote)</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Director Bradbury (Motion)	X		
Director Cuevas		X	
Director Long	X		
Director Morgan-Durisseau	X		
Director Salzer	X		
Vice President Lacayo (Second)	X		
President Cornejo	X		

Once this goes through DGS and approved, then it will be taken back to the Budget Committee to decide how the funds should be handled and then brought to the full Board for final discussion.

**X. Board Correspondence – Informational only no action required**

- A. Memo from John Quiroz at California Dept. of Food and Agriculture, Fairs and Expositions: 2019 State Rules for California Fairs
- B. Correspondence received on Gun Shows

**XI. 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, 1-2, and B are approved by the vote that approves the Consent Agenda, unless an item is pulled for separate consideration.**

- A. Agreements
  - 1. Standard Agreements
  - 2. Rental Agreements - Interim
- B. Travel Claims

**MOTION:** To approve items A, 1-2, and B on the consent agenda.

<b>Board Member Name</b>	<b>Approved (Yes Vote)</b>	<b>Not Approved (No Vote)</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Director Bradbury (Motion)	X		
Director Cuevas	X		
Director Long	X		
Director Morgan-Durisseau	X		
Director Salzer	X		
Vice President Lacayo (Second)	X		
President Cornejo	X		

**XII. CEO Report**

- Director’s need to take their required training course. The link and due dates will be emailed out as soon as the information becomes available. There are some new courses that are being required which will be provided in the information emailed out.

**XIII. President’s Report**

- Appreciates and thanked everyone for their vote on moving forward with the Surfer’s Point project. There was a lot of work, time and dedication put in by all partners to make this happen and she is glad to see it come to fruition.

**XIV. Director’s Reports**

Director Bradbury

- Congratulated President Cornejo for her role in moving the Surfer’s Point project through.

Director Salzer

- Emphasized the importance of maintenance and infrastructure as far as the fairground’s facilities. Public safety is a major concern of his.

Director Long

- Appreciates Director Salzer’s comments on infrastructure and hopes we can find a way to fix the roofs.
- Appreciates President Cornejo’s comments on Surfer’s Point.

Director Morgan-Durisseau

- Thanked the Board for moving forward with the survey.
- To the public, as an appointee to the Board, she takes very seriously her role to the community as well as the needs to the Fair Board.

Vice President Lacayo



- Echoed Director Morgan-Durisseau’s remarks and also takes her role as a Director very seriously and also takes public comments seriously.
- She is here for the good of the fairgrounds and the community.

**XV. Future Agenda Items**

1. Strategic Planning Session

**XVI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Heidi Ortiz, Executive Secretary

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Quaid, CEO Ventura Fairgrounds

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leslie Cornejo, Board President