

# 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

March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## I. Call to Order

### Roll Call

### Declaration of Recusal or Conflict of Interest

The meeting convened at 9:00 a.m., and called to order by President Cornejo.

**Directors present:** President, Leslie Cornejo, Vice President, Leah Lacayo, Bonnie Atmore, Michael Bradbury, M. Cecilia Cuevas and Daniel Long.

**Absent:** Shanté Morgan-Durisseau and Jim Salzer.

**Staff present:** Barbara Quaid, CEO, Vickie Taylor, Accounting/Finance Supervisor, Cristian Yopez, Accounting Assistant, Kim Leach, Exhibits Supervisor, Jason Amelio, Assistant Satellite Manager, Marty Lieberman, Sponsorships, James Lockwood, Marketing and Publicity Manager, Lilia Kenneally, Sales Manager and Luis Juarez, Senior Maintenance.

**Guests Present:** Steve Nash, Karen Peters, Jim Meyer, Glenn Rowe, Troy Corley, Barbara Cartee, Jeff Nettleton, Marian Walluks, Frank McCarthy, Darren Swanick, Jackson Mirabelli, Cameron Clark and Julie Diaz Martinez.

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

## II. Pledge of Allegiance

Director Bradbury 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)

## 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.

President Cornejo allowed each speaker up to three minutes to give their comments.

Jim Meyer: Pro Gun Show – For many years his family has been coming to the county fair and his kids were involved in 4H. They have been to the fairgrounds many more times for the gun shows and would like the Board to consider doing anything they can do to maintain and continue the gun shows.

Glenn Rowe: Pro Gun Show – The daughter of a friend of his was at Borderline and survived, but her friend did not. He also knew other people that were in Vegas that were shot at and he mentioned that for one side of the issue. He has also been a non-gun vendor for over twenty years at the gun show for two different companies. From an inside perspective he has never seen nor heard of any illegal transactions taking place at the gun shows. He agrees there needs to be gun safety in the United States, but closing the gun shows is not the way to do it.

Troy Corley: Anti-Gun Show – A State facility should not profit from the sale of guns and ammunitions. Having gun shows and allowing people to handle guns, allowing children to come in to see guns promotes gun culture. Explained some gun related events that took place since the last board meeting and stated some facts. Currently, there are people from Del Mar in Sacramento taking action on a bill to stop gun shows at state owned fairgrounds in Del Mar.

Steve Nash: Anti-Gun Show – Explained some consequences of gun culture. There are approximately 40,000 people dead every year from guns and spoke about carnage. As community leaders and decision makers the Board has to acknowledge this issue and ban gun shows at the fairgrounds.

Barbara Cartee: Anti-Gun Show – Discussed the Oxnard City Council letter that was in board correspondence and explained that change starts with a series of small local ones. The profit from gun sales on state property is no longer defensible when a public health crisis of gun violence, mortality and morbidity of epidemic proportions is ravaging our nation. Public opinion is shifting in California and asks the Board to stop the gun culture and gun shows.

Jeff Nettleton: Pro Gun Show – Explained he is a retired Deputy Sheriff for this county and he has been around guns his whole life. Guns are used for more good purposes and lawful purposes than they are used for any crime. There are a lot of things in the media who blow it up because of agendas which is fine because everyone has an opinion. However, guns are not only used to kill or to hunt, they are used for other lawful activities. He explained that there are more deaths from automobile accidents. Taking out one thing because it is politically correct or seems to be a hot topic at this point seems a little extreme. A lot of honest people come to the guns shows to learn, to buy things and it is a good profit for the fairgrounds. He wants the Board to consider all things before they make a decision to cancel the gun shows.

Marian Walluks: Pro Gun Show – She is a vendor and attendee at gun shows. She uses guns for all legal activities and she does not ever think about killing people with them. One thing that is predictable is if gun shows are cancelled it will affect the livelihoods of a number of businesses. The Board will also cut into the fairgrounds budget. If there was another event that brought in the same amount of money as the gun show she is sure it would have been done already. Gun shows do not cause the violence that everyone is hearing about and if gun shows are banned it won't stop any of it. It is not guns that kill it is people and she would like the gun shows to continue.

Frank McCarthy: Pro Gun Show – Gun culture has been talked about and it has been in this country for a long time. At all the meetings and hearing people speak he has noticed there

is nothing broken and nothing needs to be fixed here. The gun shows are well organized, safe and legal. Regardless of what certain County Board of Supervisors or other communities are encouraging the Board to do these shows are well attended which means there is plenty of community support for them. He is looking forward to that continued support and seeing the gun shows at the fairgrounds.

Darren Swanick: Pro Gun Show – Explained he is present to show his support for the gun shows. He discussed the first amendment and President Cornejo’s comment regarding going to Cuba and being proud to live in the US because we have the right to speak freely. He discussed a few other gun related facts in other countries.

Jackson Mirabelli – Pro Gun Show – He is in favor of the gun shows and stated it is wrong for a vocal minority to decide to not have a gun show. He had multiple friends at the Borderline shooting and he thinks it is wrong for people to use those deaths to crack down on something relatively loosely related.

Cameron Clark: Pro Gun Show – He heard quite a bit regarding the general sentiment around the gun show issue. Local government should and do have some discretion as to who they allow to access public land. He believes it is a first amendment, freedom of association, issue. Changing culture is completely different than wanting to deny people the use of public land and have the freedom to associate.

Julie Diaz Martinez: Anti-Gun Show – She has come to many meetings and feels it is important to hear from all voices in this community. She comes from both pro-law enforcement and pro military family who are all collectively against the fairgrounds continuing gun shows. She repeated Troy Corley’s fact that more children die from gun violence than cancer. They are asking that their tax dollars not be used to promote gun violence through gun shows. She explained that the majority of California is against gun shows and the proliferation of gun violence. She reiterated that the Fair Board received yet another letter from a City Council asking to stop the gun shows.

**V. Presentations - None**

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

A. February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Board Meeting

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes from the February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Board Meeting.

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

**VII. Financial Report**

A. Financials ending January 31<sup>st</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Mr. Yepez presented the financials for January and February 2019.

B. Statement of Operations 2018

Mr. Yepez presented the Statement of Operations for 2018.

**VIII. Old Business**

A. Discussion and possible action regarding board meeting attendance policy – Executive Committee

- This was brought up at the last meeting and CEO Quaid reviewed the Executive Committee’s recommendation.
- If a board member is going to be absent it is their responsibility to notify either the CEO or the President.
- There will not be a judgement by the Board, but simply recorded if the Governor ever sees a need to look into a Board member’s attendance.
- Director Cuevas read the section in the policy manual regarding board members attendance for understanding and explained the issue is the recording of whether the absence is excused or not for purposes of tracking a resignation by that Director for lack of attendance.
- There was a full discussion and in the minutes it will only say absent whether it is an excused absence or not, but it will be tracked in case the Governor’s Office inquiries about it.
- The main purpose is to remedy the fact that we haven’t been reporting specifically the absences as said in the policy but we do not want to include any specifics as to health reasons or anything else.

**MOTION:** To refer the board attendance policy back to the Executive Committee to clean up the proposed verbiage.

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

B. Sponsorships Update – Marty Lieberman

- Sponsorships are ahead of last year with \$280,000 and Mr. Lieberman thinks we’ll surpass last year.
- REM has paid \$5,000 and the owner promised to deliver another cashier’s check for the remaining \$5,000 tomorrow.
- Staff is still talking to Solar City and is working on getting the money before going to small claims court. Mr. Lieberman said things are moving up the chain of command so he is hopeful in getting the money.
- If any Directors know of a potential sponsor they can be referred to our website to look at the sponsorship packages or refer them to Mr. Lieberman.

**IX. Committee Reports**

A. Budget Committee Meeting February 26, 2019 – Cecilia Cuevas, Chair

1. Discussion and possible action regarding the 2019 budget.

- Director Cuevas explained that the committee went through the budget and staff was able to answer most of the questions that she submitted prior to the meeting.
- It was noted that there will be an increase in parking fees for both interim and fair.
- There are some areas of the budget that Director Cuevas and CEO Quaid will review. Courtesy and credential admissions as well as utilities are among those items.
- Staff and the Budget Committee will continue to look at ways to tighten the budget and possibly find areas to increase revenues.

**MOTION:** To pass the 2019 budget as submitted.

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

B. Operations Committee Meeting March 5, 2019 – Mike Bradbury, Chair – Informational

- The most important matter discussed was reordering the priority of projects.

C. Marketing Committee Meeting March 5, 2019 – Leah Lacayo, Chair

- Staff will be doing more with social media because so many people rely on it.
- There have been funds allocated for the survey. Director Morgan-Durisseau has put a lot of effort in seeing this through and Vice President Lacayo and Director Atmore both commended and thanked her for her work on it. It is an ongoing discussion.

D. Livestock Committee Meeting March 5, 2019 – Bonnie Atmore, Chair

- The online buyer add-on registration update will be more efficient and effective and Director Atmore thanked Ms. Leach for her efforts on getting that up and running by June 1<sup>st</sup>. It will increase the amount of donations to the kids.
- Due to the New Castle outbreak and not allowing any type of bird onto the grounds the Small Livestock Department is going to be doing new educational displays to still allow the kids to participate in something.

**MOTION:** To approve raising the proposed entry fees for Small Livestock.

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

E. Ad Hoc Committee Meeting March 14, 2019 – Leslie Cornejo

- The CDFA attorney was unable to attend, but provided a list of items to discuss, which the committee did, and are doing research on these items.
- At this point there is no action but it was stressed at the meeting that there is an urgency to get resolve on this issue for everyone.
- The committee, staff and our attorney is doing their due diligence and researching any issues that are brought up by the public and by the board.
- Legal counsel is going to assist the board on the legal aspects of the policy but the policy will come from input and research from the board.

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

- A. Letter from the Oxnard City Council
- B. Memo from John Quiroz at California Dept. of Food and Agriculture, Fairs and Expositions: Implementation of Assembly Bill 1499
- C. 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, 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

**MOTION:** To approve the consent agenda with items A, 1-2.

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

**XII. CEO Report**

- Explained that we are always looking for other events to have at the fairgrounds not just in relation to not having the gun shows.
- Commented that Ms. Taylor retired March 1<sup>st</sup> and thanked her for all her hard work and dedication over the years.

**XIII. President’s Comments**

- Thanked Lilly for stepping in for Ms. Ortiz and taking minutes.

**XIV. Future Agenda Items**

- 1. Survey report from Director Morgan-Durisseau

**XV. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

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

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

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