

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

April 23rd, 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, Daniel Long, Shanté Morgan-Durisseau and Jim Salzer.

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

Guests Present: Barbara Thorpe-Cartee, Edith Santangelo, Karen Peters, Robert Gregory, Glenn Rowe, Beth Mansfield, Steve Nash, Ken Bolton, Troy Corley, Marian Walluks, Adriene Coulter, Julie Martinez, Carlye Glaser and Sheila Smith.

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Director Long 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.

Barbara Thorpe-Cartee: Anti-Gun Show – She commented on items VII, financial report, and item IX, committee report. Since the last meeting another 58 fairs in California including the Cow Palace have voted to cease contracting for gun shows. She commented on the budget and how the fairgrounds is continuing to operate at a deficit. She explained that the only way the public can access information is by attending the meetings and that is not feasible for everyone. The broader question is the financial health of the fairgrounds and was requesting budgets over a period of time.

Glenn Rowe: Pro Gun Show – Discussed the term “gun culture” and explained that the United States is ruled by law. He explained there has never been a single crime traced back to the gun show and the second amendment states that an individual has the right to own a gun. He supports the rights for people to keep and bear arms and that would include the gun shows. It would deprive the fairgrounds from revenue and also deprive the constituents to be able to come to the fairgrounds and attain something that they enjoy doing.

Edy Santangelo: Anti-Gun Show – She is in opposition to the proliferation of guns in our community. She stated we need to start somewhere to change the attitudes towards guns in our country. She asked to stop gun shows at the fairgrounds. She stated that there are other ways to make up for the loss of revenue if there are no gun shows. Other fair boards have stopped their gun shows and it is time for the Ventura Fair Board to stop theirs.

Beth Mansfield: Anti-Gun Show – Her daughter is a high school sophomore and one of the leaders of the Ventura Chapter of the National Association of Students Against Gun Violence. She couldn't attend because she is at school signing up students and teachers for a program called Stop the Bleed. She pointed out that the reason her group is hosting this training is so she and her friends might be able to save a life if there is a shooting at her high school. Effective way to reduce mass shootings and gun violence in America is to reduce the easy access to firearms. She is asking the Fair Board to take action to make a safer community by not renewing the contract for the gun shows at our State owned fairgrounds.

Steve Nash: Anti-Gun Show – Read a few excerpts from The Ventura Star article on Gun Magazines. He commented that the Board members are helping to feed the addiction and chaos of gun violence. A moratorium is the least the Board can do until we figure out where we need to go to reverse gun violence.

Marian Walluks: Pro Gun Show – She is in support of gun shows and talked about the process that the Board has been used. She stated that no decision is a decision and this is an unresolved issue. The process being used is irresponsible and not what the Board should be doing. It is not accomplishing anything and it is hurting a lot of small business owners. She asked the Board to consider the process and what it is doing to the people that would like to know where they stand.

Ken Bolton: Pro Gun Show – He is a responsible gun owner and explained that if anyone has attended the gun show knows that the pledge of allegiance is recited. The last sentence says “...and justice for all” and as a gun show owner would it be that way if gun shows were taken away? He explained that Supervisor Bennet has expressed his opposition to the gun shows and he does not represent him. He agrees with both sides that the fact that guns in the wrong hands are dangerous. He emphasized that there are two sides to this issue, but if you recite the pledge of allegiance then believe in it. There is a lot of financial gain to having these events both for the fairgrounds and the community.

Adriene Coulter: Anti-Gun Show – Agree with everyone that says gun owners are responsible people; she was raised by a responsible gun owner and collector. She spent her childhood and many events that sold guns, but times have changed and we need to relook at things. She explained that there are many things Ventura is not doing to prevent gun

violence. She stated that there are 27 gun shows in California at 9 venues and Ventura ties with the Cow Palace with the number of gun shows. She explained that the CDC will be studying gun violence and that it is a disease and the Board are enablers. As a taxpayer, she wants out of this disease and to stop gun shows.

Troy Corley: Anti-Gun Show – She doesn’t disagree with her colleagues on all the points they made and actually agrees with someone on the opposition. The Board has failed in their duties by not having a committee that is open to the public. She explained that the public has no idea what is being discussed and the Board is not accountable on an issue that is so important to the community. Explained that the Cow Palace has voted unanimously to stop gun shows and Del Mar has it on hiatus until they review their policy. The Ventura Board could also put this on hiatus and have an open discussion regarding the gun show policy, but the Board chose not to. Stated Californians want stronger and stricter gun laws. Asked the board to show the public what they have been discussing and open the Ad Hoc Committee.

Julie Martinez: Anti-Gun Show – Discussed gun culture. They are not objecting to the right of people to bear arms in this country, but they don’t want gun shows to be held at their public fairgrounds. There is less accountability at gun shows. She explained that Del Mar and the Cow Palace have ended gun shows. They are united in solidarity to protect their community and are not the minority. It was brought up that there should be justice for all and she wants to know where the justice is for the ones affected by the mass shootings.

Carlye Glaser: Pro Gun Show – She is a resident, mother and small business owner and she has learned a lot about parliamentary process over the last few months. Spoke to a few points that were mentioned earlier such as the study done by the CDC. Everyone is here to discuss whether State property should be used is exercising their constitutional rights. If government owned property is not used for exercising constitutional rights then what is its purpose.

Sheila Smith: Anti-Gun Shows – She explained that we have a gun problem and some people believe that and some do not. She stated some facts about Mexico and that they receive a lot of their guns from the US and we are causing a problem in other countries. She is not against people having guns but commented that we need to stop the gun shows.

V. Presentations - None

VI. Approval of Minutes

A. March 26th, 2019 Board Meeting

MOTION: To approve the minutes from the March 26th, 2019 Board Meeting.

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

President stated now post minutes website

Cornejo that we our on our starting

with November 2018 for the purpose of transparency.

VII. Financial Report

A. Financials ending March 31, 2019

Mr. Yepez reviewed the financials and the Board did not have any questions.

VIII. Old Business – None

IX. Committee Reports

A. Ad Hoc Committee for Fair Admissions

- The committee examined how we handle fair admissions and looked for ways to increase revenues.
- Reviewed in detail the processes in which credentials fair admission are accounted for as well as courtesy fair admissions.
- Director Cuevas stated that she learned at the last board meeting that through the admission tallies there are 22,000 admissions that account for approximately 10% of our gate so she wanted to know what processes or details there were to support that number of admission tickets.
- Credentials for the most part are given to vendors or sponsors.
- WFA members are counted as a credential and we do not give them anything to come in, but it was discussed that this year they will go to Mr. Lowenstein, Admissions Supervisor, and exchange it for an actual credential so we can track how many there are.
- Director Cuevas stated that they have been able to account for 40% of that total 22,000 so there is a little more work to do to figure out where the other numbers are, but the bulk of those are expected to be sponsorships or contracts.
- Credential admission are given for a service and courtesy admission are given to the staff and Board which are well within the FPPC limit.
- This process has been good and this committee will continue to look at the numbers and report out at a future meeting.

X. Board Correspondence – Informational only no action required

A. Memo from John Quiroz at California Dept. of Food and Agriculture, Fairs and Expositions: Governor Newsom Proclaims State of Emergency

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, 1-3, 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
3. Rental Agreements – Fair

B. Travel Claims

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda with items A, 1-3, and B.

Director Atmore (Motion)	Approved	Not Approved	
Board Member Name	(Yes Vote)	(No Vote)	Abstain
Director Bradbury	X		

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

XII. CEO Report

- She met with Nick Nicora, one of the principals with Spectra, and two concert promoters who were discussing partnering in the concert arena that would be next to the grandstand arena. This was a preliminary meeting. CEO Quaid will keep the board updated if anything comes to fruition.
- Asked the Directors to replace the policy page in front of them that reflects the parking increase change that was approved at the last Board meeting.
- Staff will be announcing grandstand acts tomorrow. Everything is booked except Dia de la Familia.
- 99 days until Fair

XIII. President's Comments

- It takes a lot to put the Fair on and staff is doing more with less so she wanted to let everyone know how much they are appreciated for all the work they are doing to put on the fair.

XIV. Future Agenda Items

1. Gun Shows

XV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Submitted by: _____
Heidi Ortiz, Executive Secretary

Approved by: _____
Barbara Quaid, CEO Ventura Fairgrounds

Approved by: _____
Leslie Cornejo, Board President