

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

June 27th, 2019

I. Call to Order

Roll Call

Declaration of Recusal or Conflict of Interest

The meeting convened at 9:02 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, Jason Amelio, Assistant Satellite Manager, James Lockwood, Marketing and Publicity Manager and Heidi Ortiz, Executive Secretary.

Guests Present: Sarah Pelle, Michelle Diaz, Christine Vana, Jerry Clifford, Jeff Muth, Ken Bolton, Lawrence Carter, Mike Hilborn, Joanne Coville, Barbara Thorpe-Cartee, Viviana Morales, Janice Allen, Edy Santangelo, Daniel Upton, Frank McCarthy, Joan Kennedy, Beth Mansfield, Grace Mansfield, Carol Johnson, Troy Corley, Gordon Henry, Steve Nash, Raymond Fontayne, Tiffany Cheuvrant, Grace Dunley, Carmen Ramirez, Sandi Henderson, Gracie Pekrul, Quinn Muscatel, Kimia Mohebi, Carlye Glaser, Karen Peters, Marian Walluks, Steve Nash, Jerome Clifford and Sarah Williamson.

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice President Lacayo 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)

Raymond Fontayne, Newbury Park

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.

Steve Nash asked that an officer maintains tight control over the audience at the meeting today.

V. **Gun Show Committee Report**

President Cornejo allowed each speaker up to three minutes.

Sandi Henderson: Pro Gun Show – Expressed that she was in favor of gun shows and gave reasons why.

Gracie Pehrul: Anti-Gun Show – Expressed that she is a 17 year old student in Simi Valley who is the regional director of March of our Lives and is not in favor of gun shows and explained the reasons why.

Quinn Muscatel: Anti-Gun Show - Explained all the tragedies that have occurred recently and how her and many others have been effected. She commented that she is not in favor of gun shows at the fairgrounds.

Kimia Mohebi: Anti-Gun Show – Expressed that she is not in favor of the gun shows being held at the fairgrounds and explained her reasons why.

Carlye Glaser: Pro Gun Show – Explained she is a small business owner and thanked the board members for their common sense approach and continuing gun shows at the fairgrounds.

Lawrence Carter: Pro Gun Show – Explained that he used to be a seller at the gun shows but stopped because of the California government. He commented that guns don't kill people and the people's rights are not being recognized.

Karen Peters: Anti-Gun Show - Commented that she was shocked at the report because of how the ad hoc committee arrived at their recommendation and explained why.

Barbara Thorpe-Cartee: Anti-Gun Show – Stated some of her observations of the gun show report and explained that there was a flaw in the process.

Marian Walluks: Pro Gun Show – She reminded the board of the 1st and 2nd amendments and stated that she appreciated the report. She explained that the gun shows are made up of many different things besides guns and is looking forward to the final policy.

Frank McCarthy: Pro Gun Show – Stated that the report is very comprehensive and commented on some of the sections within the report.

Troy Corley: Anti-Gun Show - Stated that she does not feel there was not enough work put into the report and expressed her feelings regarding the Ad Hoc Committee. She commented that the wrong message is being sent to young people and no real concerns were addressed.

Steve Nash: Anti-Gun Show – Stated that this has been a flawed process and explained how the committee could have reached a better compromise.

Jerome Clifford: Anti-Gun Show – He spoke about values and explained that there were none discussed in the report.

Tiffany Cheuvrant: Pro Gun Show – Thanked the committee members for the report and explained that it was not based on fallacy but on California law and Federal law. She explained and gave reasons as to why gun shows should continue.

Raymond Fontayne: Pro Gun Show – Explained the reasons why he was in favor of gun shows. He stated that we need to figure out how to have responsible gun ownership which is what everyone wants.

Beth Mansfield: Anti-Gun Show – Explained that she is upset with the process and the report did not address some of the publics' concerns. She asked the board to make a moral choice and not be in fear of litigation.

Daniel Upton: Pro Gun Show – Commended the Board for standing up for the principles the United States of America and for standing up for the rights of the people. He stated that the problem is human violence and social disruption.

Sarah Williamson: Pro Gun Show - Explained that she is a law abiding citizen and enjoys the freedoms of this country and wants gun shows to continue. She stated that the root of the problem of mass shootings needs to be solved and that is not taking away firearms.

Grace Mansfield: Anti-Gun Show – Explained that she is a student and does not feel safe due to the gun culture that has been created in the community.

Carmen Ramirez: Anti-Gun Show – CEO Quaid stated that she was unable to stay but asked to read her written comments into the official record. She asked for the Board to vote against the policy that will allow more gun shows at the fairgrounds.

Public comments were closed at this time.

President Cornejo stated that the report has been posted on the fairgrounds website for six days for the public to see. Before that there was close to 500 pages of public comment that has been received and noted. The Board has listened to every word on both sides and has taken it into consideration.

Director Cuevas stated that she wanted to clarify that the report does not represent the position of the board, the entire board or the individual members. It is a work product of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Director Bradbury explained his background so everyone knew where he was coming from. He stated it is not an easy decision for any of the Board members. He explained that the significance is not safety but what it symbolizes to victims and the community.

Director Cuevas stated that the gun shows are in fact symbolic of death, danger and fear. Explained that it is unfortunate that the youth are experiencing that in their everyday lives. It is important that the public knows the report is a collection of work and has somewhat of a skewed result. She stated she has been against gun shows from the beginning and will continue to support that decision. If the board in fact does not take that position with her then she would recommend provisions to make the show safer and the costs would be

passed onto the vendor and maybe they will choose to do business elsewhere. She is imploring the board to take action as a change agent. She explained that as a community, take a stance to prohibit the proliferation of gun sales.

Vice President Lacayo thanked everyone who has come before the board because it is very important we hear from the public. She reminded everyone that the Board's purview is Ventura County. She really wanted to address not the moral issue but the constitutional rights. She feels that is how decisions have been based on in the past and she hopes that continues. Morally people may feel differently but the constitution protects us all and that is where this report comes from. Appreciates and respects all Director's remarks. Her opinion is that by having or not having gun shows at the fairgrounds will not stop gun violence. Our 1st amendment rights is something we want to protect as well as the 14th amendment, which is equal protection under the law. She feels the Board, when making the decision, should come from an unemotional place and everyone should be thinking about constitutional rights.

Director Morgan-Durisseau thanked the Ad Hoc Committee and the legal counsel, as well as her fellow board members because everyone has been very thoughtful in preparing this and listening to everything everyone has to say. She explained she worries about her children like everyone else. She was concerned when talking about values because people see it in a different lens so it is important to all be equal and consider laws because values change. She thanked everyone for their thoughtfulness and expressing themselves.

Director Atmore stated that as the board has gone through these discussions she most wanted to share that she has watched the thoughtful nature of each Director who are all three dimensional. The point she was trying to achieve at the last meeting was trying to help find a vehicle for our community, who wants to see a certain kind of change, but it is not in this form. The policy needs to be strengthened and we've heard from many community members as to what that may look like, but our constitutional rights would allow us to have diversity and inclusion as a nation. She is not willing to move off of that belief system because it is what makes us a great country and brings us together. The work that has been done had to be looked at through the correct lens that we were appointed and assigned to do and it is not illegal to have these gun shows and it is a constitutional right. While everyone has different thoughts and feelings about what should happen it is upon us to think thoughtfully in this next step.

Director Long appreciates all the comments from this morning. It has been very difficult for everyone in the room and there is not much middle ground. Regardless of the vote today he explained that everyone's opinions should be respected and not chastised if they disagree. He respects everyone's opinion, whether he agrees with it or not. If there is a vote today to continue the gun shows he would recommend to not contract for the full year next year in order to see if there are other uses of our fairgrounds that have the potential to bring in more revenue. Also, to see how the gun shows profit this year and into the next because it seems like most of the years have gone down. As his fiduciary responsibility as a Director, he wants to look at other opportunities to see if we can make more profit than the gun shows. He wants to have the CEO and all of us look at other opportunities that come up. The vote today if it takes place is not to take away anyone's right to own a gun in this county. He thinks that you are already a part of the problem or part of the solution. He

doesn't think we need to have gun shows on these fairgrounds. He supposes it is a core value and he wouldn't be able to support the recommendation.

President Cornejo stated she wants everyone to understand how seriously they have taken this issue in producing this report. The comments weigh heavily and respect everyone's opinion. One thing that has not come up today that has been talked much about is the moratorium that Del Mar, the 22nd DAA, placed on gun shows. There has been a federal judge's decision and as she read through it, she does not fear a lawsuit it is the discussion of the constitution and the rights of the people that really struck her. She explained the incident with her friend's daughter two weeks ago which shows how difficult and complex these issues are. She believes we can rely on our constitution to guide us to defend everyone's rights as best we can. It doesn't mean we don't care about the safety issues because those can be addressed. She also believes the fairgrounds are safe, as well as the gun shows, and therefore the board has no right to discriminate against a vendor. It makes her very nervous to discuss placing higher limits of restrictions on a business because we disagree with them. That is a clear violation of the 14th amendment; we can't be in the business of discriminating. Everyone should read the opinion on the Del Mar judgment because it is clear an addresses some of the issues we are facing here. She read a couple sections from the judgment to support her comments and explained that it validates the recommendation from the Ad Hoc Committee to carry on with gun shows and recognizing that we can make them safer by adding additional restrictions and making sur everyone is in compliance and protected when they are on the fairgrounds which is the Board's area of operation. She never thought she would have to protect people's constitutional rights as a Director but that is what is being put in front of us and she will defend the right of the gun shows.

President Cornejo explained that Secretary Ross had called her and followed up with a letter which she read and discussed. She stated that the question now was whether or not the Board would delay this vote further.

Director Cuevas stated that she would ask for more time because she was able to read the entire opinion.

Director Bradbury stated that the Board should move forward because the due diligence has been done and the Board has all the information needed.

Director Long stated that he appreciates Secretary Ross' letter and this Board has already voted to have the rest of the gun shows through this year and everybody wants to have this finished but thinks that the Board should do their due diligence and see what more Secretary Ross has in mind and what more legal counsel might be sending forward. He explained that the judgement on Del Mar only came out this week. He feels the Board should take the time and come back after the Fair and look at this one last time before moving forward with the policy today.

Director Atmore agrees with Director Bradbury. It has been a year and she would like to move on with the issues and the observations of the constitution are not going to change. She would make the recommendation to make a motion and call for a vote and discussion.

President Cornejo stated that the choice to be would be to proceed at this point and go ahead with a decision.

VI. Policy to Hold or Prohibit Gun Shows on the Fairgrounds

The Board moved forward and Director Atmore made a motion to recommend to go with the Ad Hoc Committee that the Board adopt a policy to hold gun shows at the Fairgrounds. She wants to ensure that while creating the motion we take into consideration the community solutions to provide an even safer show including contracting procedures, contract template and that security procedures all be reviewed.

Discussion ensued.

Director Morgan-Durisseau stated that education is key to anything that we do. She asked if it would be possible to ask for more education at the gun shows; a requirement for an additional educational component.

President Cornejo stated yes that could certainly be added. She wanted to make sure that at this point the Board doesn't go into specifics with the contract, but include that as the Board works into the policy and the new template for those contracts.

Director Cuevas stated that as she understands it the policy being discussion only speaks to allowing gun shows on the fairgrounds, it doesn't speak to the contractual issues involved in holding those gun shows and any recommendation for enhancements, added safety measures be included in those gun shows moving forward from this point forward. If in fact the Board is voting on just the issue of holding gun shows that is one thing but if the Board is voting on holding gun shows and also looking at contractually what the Fairgrounds will require from the vendor at those gun shows and/or the participants that is a different matter and the Board hasn't had the time to flush out those items.

President Cornejo stated that it can be added in the motion today or voted on at the next meeting.

Director Cuevas stated that Director Atmore's motion included contractual issues and the Board hasn't had the time to discuss what those contractual recommendations are.

Vice President Lacayo stated that policy could be changed and amended at any time and this is a recommendation to adopt as is. Director Atmore's motion did include some of those items that Director Cuevas wanted to address and after a vote is taken Director Cuevas can make another motion that would address those specific items.

Director Long stated that there are committee findings in the report on page 25 that are very thorough. He would like to bring the policy back to the Board to discuss a recommendation of not contracting all gun shows through the entire next year to give the CEO the opportunity to find other vendors that might bring in more money to the fairgrounds.

CEO Quaid addressed Director Cuevas' comment and stated that the Board approved three gun shows two meetings ago and at the last meeting they approved the contracts with the

contract numbers on the consent list. The Board is looking at the addition of contract language today.

Director Cuevas stated she understood that the last vote was based on any new policy changes that would be put into effect would affect those shows going forward this year, not next year.

President Cornejo stated that Director Cuevas' comment was correct.

Vice President Lacayo stated that the Board should not treat Crossroads of the West or gun shows any differently than we are treating any other vendor because everybody has those constitutional rights.

Director Long stated that he looks at it whether or not the fairgrounds has had a contract or not, if something is not working out as well as the board has hoped, and he isn't just talking about the gun shows, then we will not ask them back. There might be something that would do us better as far as bringing in cash to this fairgrounds. He just wants to look at all possibilities, not singling out gun shows, but looking at bringing in more revenue.

Director Cuevas asked if Director Atmore's motion included recommendations made on the report for the shows moving forward.

Director Atmore stated that no she did not make those specific recommendations. She made it broader because she wanted to be able to come back as a Board to work collectively with the community on what the additional policy may be while staying constitutional and legal and she can't make that evaluation at this time on those recommendations that are in there.

Vice President Lacayo called for the question.

MOTION: To recommend to go with the Ad Hoc Committee, that the Board adopt a policy to hold gun shows at the Fair. She wants to ensure that while creating the motion we take into consideration the community solutions to provide an even safer show including contracting procedures, contract template and that security procedures all be reviewed.

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

President Cornejo stated that the motion fails for a lack of a majority.

Director Cuevas made a new motion to take the committee's findings along with the committee recommendations for the existing gun show contracts that allow for the following terms and conditions to be included as noted here and that the policy continue to be evaluated for additional and/or required safety matters or issues that would address community safety and concerns.

Director Morgan-Durisseau asked if Director Cuevas would make an amendment to add education.

Director Cuevas stated yes.

President Cornejo recapped where things were. The Board has voted already for three gun shows which will continue without any changes because there is no amendments or changes at this point.

Director Cuevas stated that her motion would affect those contracts going forward today with additional recommendations stated on page 25 of the report.

Director Bradbury asked to expand and thinks the contract needs to be completely redrafted.

Director Cuevas agreed. As a base for her vote today, to be constitutional to the Board's contractual obligation today, she would be supportive of moving forward with the policy and allowing gun shows with the report's specific recommendations and further flushing out the additional requirements and/or safety measures and that the Board works with the community to come to a consensus as the Board moves forward, but these immediately be implemented with the gun shows that we already agreed to contract with.

Director Morgan-Durisseau seconded the motion.

President Cornejo stated that if we vote on these changes and they are not constitutional, what is the Board's opinion on what happens next.

Director Cuevas asked if the Ad Hoc Committee could provide recommendations that were not flushed out constitutionally.

President Cornejo stated that the report said they would explore the feasibility, they did not say those should be implemented. She explained the two recommendations were the firearms should be in a locked showcase or attached to a security chord and no alcohol for vendors. The committee was concerned that they did not have enough knowledge to be able to implement those legally.

Director Cuevas further amended her motion to not include those until verified from counsel that we can actually implement those additional measures noted in the report and the current contracts include the two recommendations that firearms on display either be attached to security chords or in a showcase and no vendors and/or employees shall possess alcohol at the gun show. She also wanted to add that there should be no alcohol served at the gun show at all for patrons and/or vendors.

President Cornejo stated that some of these may be budget issues as well as policy issues. This would be something that we would be putting on ourselves not the vendor.

Vice president Lacayo stated she was having trouble discerning between the two motions.

President Cornejo asked Director Cuevas to restate her motion for clarity.

Director Cuevas made a motion to take the committee findings and recommendations to the Board to effect the current shows under contract for this calendar year and only include those provisions of the two bullet points no vendor or employees shall possess or consume alcohol at the gun show and that all firearms on display be secured either by a lock, in a locked showcase or attached by a security chord. She's looking to strengthening that whether in a case or not in a case, that all weapons be secured by chords which is a slight change to the recommendation. She will be further recommending in a later motion and session the evaluation of what the consumption of alcohol is in terms of how it effects our budget.

President Cornejo stated that we also need to make sure that we are looking at that for all shows to make sure we are fair with all vendors.

Director Cuevas also added that the requirement of gun safety education be offered at the show.

CEO Quaid added they do have educational programs currently.

Director Atmore wanted it clarified that the motion on the floor is to adopt the policy to hold gun shows at the fairgrounds or adopt a policy to hold just the remainder of the contracted shows at the fairgrounds.

Director Cuevas stated it was only for the remainder of the contracted shows.

Director Atmore stated that she can't support that.

President Cornejo stated that if Director Cuevas is adding restrictions to the existing contract, some of those things were already included in the previous motion by Director Atmore including contracting procedures, contract template and procedures. She believes some of these are not dangerous to us to approve and is wondering if Director Cuevas and Director Atmore could come to an agreement to recommend from the beginning to that point and then adding the education.

Director Salzer stated that we already have a contract for the gun shows and asked if we are changing the rules on them now.

President Cornejo clarified that the contract was entered into by Crossroads knowing that there could be changes. Whatever is decided today will go back to the vendor.

Director Bradbury asked if instead of delineating respective changes in a motion if that can be delegated to the Ad Hoc Committee and the Board can submit their thoughts on how that should be revised.

President Cornejo suggested that it not be done through the Ad Hoc Committee anymore because they had one purpose, which was the study the gun shows, and at this point it should go to the Executive Committee because it is dealing with policy changes. Today's recommendations were to only go so far and then to explore the feasibility of other recommendations later. What is decided today will be imposed on the contracts for the rest of the year on gun shows.

Director Cuevas is in favor of working with all of the Directors to come up with what would work. She is also open today to follow the committee's recommendation and only asking that we strengthen the issue with respect to any firearm display has to be locked and cabled and going forward to not allow any vendor or employee to consume alcohol. The Board can decide later the availability of alcohol at future shows, not effecting the shows in this calendar year.

President Cornejo stated that it is almost a joint motion between Director Cuevas and Director Atmore from the top down to the second bullet point and adding a third bullet point to making sure the shows include education. She knows that the show has education but isn't sure if that is a requirement, so that is something to look into.

Director Atmore stated the two recommendations won't get us in trouble constitutionally, it's just the Board policy to adopt gun shows at the fairgrounds, and she doesn't like the sunset on that. The way it may be perceived by the vendor from a legal lens is that we are only saying the Board is going to do three more shows and it is put in the motion which could imply that we may not renew contracts or move the gun shows forward and that is her concern.

President Cornejo stated that the recommendation from the committee does not and if it is taken verbatim and the additional bullet point requiring gun education is added and not putting a restriction on a date, asked Director Atmore if that is a motion she could support.

Director Atmore stated yes.

Ms. Vana asked if the motion could be restated for the record so that it is clear to everyone.

President Cornejo stated that the motion is on page 25 of the committee's report, committee findings and recommendations to the Board. The motion is to approve the committee's recommendation: The Committee has not found any evidence of gun violence or illegal activity that would justify a ban of gun shows or sales at the Fairgrounds, such as a direct link between a firearm sale at the Fairgrounds and an incident of gun violence in the Ventura community. The Committee therefore recommends that the Board adopt a policy to hold gun shows at the Fairgrounds. However, the Committee finds that more specificity is required in the contract that reflects how the Fairgrounds, gun show promoter and its vendors will comply with state law and that establishes checks and balances to ensure compliance. Should the Board decide to hold gun shows at the Fairgrounds, the Committee recommends that as part of that policy, the following be included: Contracting procedures, contract template, and event security measures and procedures. Restrictions that are not found in law are

recommended to be included in the gun show contract. While the incident occurring at the August 25, 2018 Crossroads of the West Gun Show was unsubstantiated by law enforcement, it may be used to inform the Board of necessary precautions that may be implemented to prevent a similar incident. For instance, the Committee recommends that as part of the Fairgrounds' gun show contract, the following terms and conditions be included: All firearms on display shall be attached to a surface by security chords, No vendor or its employees shall possess or consume alcohol at the gun show. Doing so shall result in immediate ejection from the event. Thirdly, a gun show safety education program or education offering be required at all gun shows.

There was further discussion regarding the motion and it was clarified that the motion is for policy for any gun show vendor. The policy would affect the three gun shows that were already approved to be contracted for.

Director Cuevas called for the question.

President Cornejo stated that the motion is what Director Cuevas read, but with the addition that firearms also be attached to a surface by a security chords and requiring gun show education at the shows.

MOTION: To approve the committee's recommendation: The Committee has not found any evidence of gun violence or illegal activity that would justify a ban of gun shows or sales at the Fairgrounds, such as a direct link between a firearm sale at the Fairgrounds and an incident of gun violence in the Ventura community. The Committee therefore recommends that the Board adopt a policy to hold gun shows at the Fairgrounds. However, the Committee finds that more specificity is required in the contract that reflects how the Fairgrounds, gun show promoter and its vendors will comply with state law and that establishes checks and balances to ensure compliance. Should the Board decide to hold gun shows at the Fairgrounds, the Committee recommends that as part of that policy, the following be included: Contracting procedures, contract template, and event security measures and procedures. Restrictions that are not found in law are recommended to be included in the gun show contract. While the incident occurring at the August 25, 2018 Crossroads of the West Gun Show was unsubstantiated by law enforcement, it may be used to inform the Board of necessary precautions that may be implemented to prevent a similar incident. For instance, the Committee recommends that as part of the Fairgrounds' gun show contract, the following terms and conditions be included: All firearms on display shall be attached to a surface by security chords, No vendor or its employees shall possess or consume alcohol at the gun show. Doing so shall result in immediate ejection from the event. Thirdly, a gun show safety education program or education offering be required at all gun shows.

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

MOTION: To refer this to the Executive Committee to continue work on the gun show policy with full input by the Board.

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

VII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Submitted by: _____
Heidi Ortiz, Executive Secretary

Approved by: _____
Barbara Quaid, CEO Ventura Fairgrounds

Approved by: _____
Leslie Cornejo, Board President