

# 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

September 24<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, Bonnie Atmore, Michael Bradbury, M. Cecilia Cuevas, Daniel Long, Shanté Morgan-Durisseau and Jim Salzer.

**Absent:** Vice President, Leah Lacayo.

**Staff present:** Barbara Quaid, CEO, James Lockwood, Publicity and Marketing Manager, Jason Amelio, Sales Manager/Assistant Satellite Facility Manager, Vickie Taylor, Retired Accounting Manager, Luis Juarez, Maintenance Supervisor and Heidi Ortiz, Executive Secretary.

**Guests Present:** Mayor Matt LaVere, Beth Mansfield, Steve Nash, Karen Peters, Lou Cunningham, Kathy Wertheim, Janet Eckhouse, Michael Cervantes, Marian Walluks, Sheila Smith and Bruce Gregory.

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

## II. Pledge of Allegiance

Director Salzer 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.

Mayor Matt LaVere – Provided an update on the X Games. He explained that it would be a financial lifeline that would benefit all entities involved and asked the Fair Board and CEO Quaid to be flexible with the dates because it was an opportunity we did not want to lose. The City would help in any way that they could to make this event happen.

Director Salzer left the meeting.

Item XII, CEO Report, was taken out of order to be discussed.

CEO Quaid explained that she had started discussions in July with the X Games and has been in constant contact since then. The dates that they really want only leaves two weeks to prepare for the Fair which would be extremely difficult. The fairgrounds is looking at how to logistically make this work because it is such a fantastic opportunity. She explained that she spoke to her contact yesterday and he was going to check to see if July 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> worked.

A discussion ensued regarding the X Games. Any questions, such as what capital improvements need to be made etc. and suggestions will be referred to and discussed with CEO Quaid and the Operations Committee.

The meeting continued with public comments.

Karen Peters: Anti-Gun Show – She attended the August 25<sup>th</sup> Gun Show and took some pictures that ended up in an article put out by the VC Star. She explained the article also included photos from Mr. Templeton that didn't appear to be from the Ventura show. She commented on her experience at the Gun Show. She explained some flaws with the contract and feels it needs to be flushed out.

Michael Cervantes: Anti-Gun Show – He is a Vietnam War Veteran who belongs to the Chapter of Veterans for Peace in Ventura and he would like to have gun shows removed from the fairgrounds. He will be sending a letter to Governor Gavin Newsom on behalf of the chapter and he will see how everything plays out.

Marian Walluks: Pro-Gun Show – Explained that she is part of a vendor team that sells at all the Gun Shows in Ventura as well as other gun shows and shared her thoughts on them. She would like to see all materials posted online even if it has already been passed out. She hopes that this issue has been settled and she won't have to attend future meetings.

Sheila Smith: Anti-Gun Show – She explained that she hopes the fairgrounds doesn't wait for a tragedy to occur in the area before the gun shows are stopped. She gave some gun statistics and incidences from the area.

Beth Mansfield: Anti-Gun Show – She discussed the August 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> gun show. She explained her meeting with CEO Quaid and head of security. She explained that she did a Public Records Request for the gun show contract and commented on some of its details. Her concern is that the Board is not enforcing the contract and would like some response.

Steve Nash: Anti-Gun Show – He explained it is depressing having to come to discuss death and destruction in the gun culture so he expressed his appreciation to Mayor LaVere for trying to get the fairgrounds to move forward with the X Games. He gave his thoughts and opinions on the gun show and contract. He explained he will be here at every meeting to discuss the gun shows and encouraged the board not to enter into any more contracts with Crossroads of the West or if the Board is going to do it then do it show by show.

Janet Eckhouse: Anti-Gun Show – She is the leader for the Brady United Group in Ventura County and agreed that the X Games would provide an excellent source of revenue at the fairgrounds and supports that. She is not in support of continuing gun shows at the

fairgrounds and gave her opinion. She will be attending the meetings as long as it takes to end gun shows at the fairgrounds.

Kathy Wertheim: Anti-Gun Show – She did a comparison of alcohol and gun shows and explained that it is distasteful. She stated that the Ventura Fairgrounds is one of the last fairgrounds that holds gun shows and it would be embarrassing because it would make national news. She knows it is a legal show but it would be better to stop the gun shows sooner rather than later.

Bruce Gregory: Gun Show – He clarified that at the last gun show, it was made very clear that the tables at the fairgrounds could not be changed to attach the firearms to the tables; therefore there would be damage to the tables which is fairground's property. It was brought up at the meeting that that would not be a feasible option because the tables could not be modified to attach them to the tables.

#### V. Presentations - None

#### VI. Approval of Minutes

A. July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 Board Meeting

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes from the July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 Board Meeting with the correction made from Director Morgan-Durisseau.

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		
Director Morgan-Durisseau	X		
President Cornejo	X		

#### VII. Financial Report

A. Financials ending July 31<sup>st</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Ms. Taylor reviewed the financials. She explained there will be a true reflection of auction in September because exhibitor checks were in September.

#### VIII. Old Business – None

A. Discussion on the Michel and Associates Memo

At the July Board Meeting Director Cuevas asked for this letter to be put on the agenda for discussion.

Director Cuevas stated that in the report done by the Ad Hoc Committee on the gun show policy states that we have no private sellers at our gun shows and the Michel & Associates letter states that State policy, which we aren't bound to follow, that private parties sales are exempt from the 10-day waiting period and background checks and we sell privately at our gun shows. There was a point made at the last meeting that those are not conducted at our gun shows when in fact they are because our own report says so.

There was a discussion regarding the gun show policy report and some of the details in it compared to the Michel & Associates letter. The Executive Committee will look into some of the items discussed such as private sales, long guns and education and consult with our legal counsel to make sure we are in full compliance with the policy.

Director Morgan-Durisseau read a letter she wrote in response to the Michel & Associates that she wanted included in the record. "I find it disturbing that Crossroads and the California Rifle and Pistol Association do not want to discuss gun education. This contradicts what representatives of Crossroads and the CRPA have promoted during testimony before this board and in their literature. On Crossroads' website in an article titled "CRPA Safety Classes and Education, organization writes, "Today in our world, it is very important to feel and be competent in your ability to protect yourself and survive by those you love. More so, it is important to know what to do when a state of emergency presents itself rather than being stuck in panic mode, unable to help yourself or anyone else." The article ends with the author writing, "CRPA provides educational safety classes that can better help you analyze the best ways to be prepared and offer resources to more training opportunities in your area." In addition, under a section titled Firearm Safety Program on the Crossroads' website, the company includes links to: Safe Storage Practices, NRA Eddie Eagle Safety Program and NSSF Project Childsafe. The Fair Board's report also notes that the ATF offers educational displays at gun shows, distributes materials covering gun laws and purchase procedures. According to a letter in support of gun shows (attached to 6/12/19 BOD Committee Report on gun shows), signed by 1,250 signatures, the author writes: As such, we respectfully ask you to vote in favor of the continuation of Crossroads of the West... Preventing them from using these facilities for their events would eliminate a critical source of gun safety programs, materials and training opportunities in the coastal California area...As for Crossroads and CRPA concern about who will determine "What education" means for the Fair Board, the objective is for the Fair Board to work with Crossroads and CRPA to develop the education component. I'm suspicious of any organization that's not willing to educate its community and compromise. It's short sighted for Crossroads and CRPA not to support mandating education and perhaps alleviating some of the fears expressed by opponents of gun shows."

President Cornejo commented that her understanding of the vote was that in good faith our Board wants to make sure there is good gun education at the gun shows. What the fairgrounds needs to do is do a checklist of everything and make sure to follow up on what type of education is being provided at our gun show and if it is sufficient to the Board's intent. This also needs to be run by the fairground's attorney. We don't want to put the fairgrounds in jeopardy by insisting on things that are not legal, but this is certainly something that can be discussed with our attorney. We have to make sure we are protecting the fairgrounds because there have been many legal challenges out there to this issue especially with other Fairs.

CEO Quaid mentioned that this is a discussion the attorney needs to be present for because we need to make sure we are not singling out a particular show and we are doing things legally. The judge ordered the Del Mar Fairgrounds to reinstate gun shows so they will have two in 2019 and will schedule them in 2020 as well. There are also gun shows still at the Orange County Fairgrounds as well.

President Cornejo stated that we need to protect the fairgrounds and any questions needs to be sent to CEO Quaid for a discussion at the Executive Committee and to be brought to the full board. Staff is aware of the actions and are not 100% met but full compliance of the policy is the intent. The Board voted on the policy and we want to see it implemented and to be in full compliance.

## **IX. Committee Reports**

- A. Operations Committee Meeting September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Mike Bradbury, Chair
- The committee reviewed the maintenance needs which are always ongoing and we try to stay on top of.
  - Revenue generating is going to be on all agendas and will be discussed on a continuous basis. CEO Quaid mentioned additional potential revenue sources in her report such as the X Games, an antique show, etc. Staff continuously looks for other events to bring to the fairgrounds.
- B. Marketing Committee Meeting September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Shanté Morgan-Durisseau, Vice-Chair
- The committee received a portion of the survey results and discussed some of the highlights from the report. The snapshot gave some insight as to what the public thought about the Fair.
  - Signage was a concern and needs improvement to attract more people to the booths.
  - The committee thought having an incentive prize was good and helps draw people in.
  - There will be more to come after a full review of the survey results have been done.
  - Recapped sponsorships - \$474,300 which is slightly up from last year.
  - Mr. Lockwood gave an extremely comprehensive report and Director Morgan-Durisseau applauded him for a job well done and is pleased with the way we are going and looking into new ways of communication.
  - The committee recommended the 2020 Fair dates to be July 29<sup>th</sup> through August 9<sup>th</sup>.

**MOTION:** To approve the 2020 Fair dates to be July 29<sup>th</sup> through August 9<sup>th</sup>.

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 (Motion)	X		
President Cornejo	X		

- C. Livestock Committee Meeting September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Bonnie Atmore, Chair
- The minutes are before everyone but the overall observation and takeaway is that each year our livestock and equestrian community continue to volunteer to help more. They work so hard in presenting an experience for the community.
  - There is great education and opportunity for people to learn about agriculture and livestock.
  - The Foundation Hog was a new fundraising idea for the Foundation which was bought about by the auction committee and it raised \$70,965.00. They surpassed their goal and everyone was very pleased for the first year.

- President Cornejo stated that she spoke to several people who are regulars at the auction and they said that there was a special atmosphere this year so she would like that passed onto the committee as well as her thanks.

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

- Memo from John Quiroz at California Dept. of Food and Agriculture, Fairs and Expositions: 2019 Fairgrounds Shelter Assessment
- Memo from John Quiroz at California Dept. of Food and Agriculture, Fairs and Expositions: 2019 State Rules Advisory Committee Meeting
- Thank you letter from Open Sheep Show participants
- Gun Show Correspondence

**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, 1-4, are approved by the vote that approves the Consent Agenda, unless an item is pulled for separate consideration.**

- Agreements
  - Standard Agreements
  - Rental Agreements - Interim
  - Rental Agreements – Fair
  - Judging Agreements

**MOTION:** To approve the consent agenda with items A, 1-4.

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

**XII. CEO Report**

- Explained that she was given a letter from Governor Gavin Newsom saying that horse racing in California needs reform. There has been a number of deaths in the horse racing industry so that is something they are going to look at. We are barely hanging on as far as horse racing but we want to hang on in hopes that sports betting goes through. As more comes out about this she will let the board know.
- There is going to be a CBD event in the beginning of November, which is put on by Adam Casillas who does the Latino Business Expo.

**XIII. President's Comments**

- Thanked the staff and Fair Board for a wonderful Fair.

**XIV. Future Agenda Items**

- Discussion regarding certain items in gun show report
- X Games

**XV. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

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

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

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