

# 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

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019

## I. Call to Order

### Roll Call

### Declaration of Recusal or Conflict of Interest

The meeting convened at 9:03 a.m., and called to order by President Cornejo.

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

**Absent:** M. Cecilia Cuevas.

**Staff present:** Barbara Quaid, CEO, James Lockwood, Publicity and Marketing Manager, Kim Leach, Exhibits Supervisor, Cristian Yopez, Accounting Trainee, Luis Juarez, Maintenance Supervisor and Heidi Ortiz, Executive Secretary.

**Guests Present:** Sarah Pelle, Troy Corley, Kathy Long, Edy Santangelo, Terri Lisagor, Steve Nash, Karen Peters, Marty Robinson, Jerry Clifford, Suz Montgomery and Carmen Ramirez.

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)

Sarah Pelle, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Fairs and Expositions.

## 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.

## V. Presentations - None

## VI. Approval of Minutes

A. October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 Board Meeting

**MOTION:** To approve the minutes from the October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 Board Meeting with the addition of Director Morgan-Durisseau's comment regarding contacting legal to get their opinion on the impact of the recent legislation of AB1669 and AB893.

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

## VII. Financial Report

A. Financials ending October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Mr. Yopez gave a report on the financials.

## VIII. New Business

A. Election of Officers for 2020-2021 Board of Directors

(CEO presides over elections of Board Officers)

1. President

CEO Quaid opened the floor for nominations.

Director Long nominated Director Cornejo to continue as President for another term.

**MOTION:** To approve Director Cornejo as the 2020-2021 Board President.

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

2. Vice President

CEO Quaid opened the floor for nominations.

Director Atmore nominated Director Lacayo to continue as Vice President for another term.

**MOTION:** To approve Director Lacayo as the 2020-2021 Board Vice President.

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

**B. Annual Appointments by the Board**

**1. Secretary/Treasurer-Manager**

This motion was included in the delegation of authority motion.

**C. Secretary/Treasurer-Manager Annual Delegation of Authority**

**MOTION:** To approve the reappointment of CEO Quaid as the Secretary/Treasurer-Manager and authorize CEO Quaid to execute Rental Agreements up to \$75,000.00, Standard 2 Agreements up to \$75,000.00 and Grandstand Contracts up to \$150,000.00 without further authorization from the Board of Directors.

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

**IX. Old Business - None**

**X. Committee Reports**

**A. Operations Committee Meeting November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Mike Bradbury, Chair**

**1. Discussion and possible action regarding Surfer’s Point project.**

- The Ad Hoc Committee has been collaborating with the City and other groups on the Managed Retreat Project to finish Phase I and to agree on a plan and begin Phase II.
- The Ad Hoc Committee conducted a power point presentation that was put together by the City and they explained the proposal that was agreed upon by everyone in the Working Group.
- The Ad Hoc Committee would like to move forward with the project so the City of Ventura can continue with the timeline and be able to apply for funding. The committee is asking for the Board to approve CEO Quaid to draft a letter on behalf of the Board to direct the project to move forward with some stipulations. CEO Quaid would work with Director Bradbury and President Cornejo on the legalities and details of the letter.
- There was a discussion regarding the costs to maintain the project once it is completed. The Board would like to include that as part of the overall plan some sort of cost-share or that the City gets some type of an endowment fund to cover some if not all of the maintenance costs. This was asked to be part of the letter that CEO Quaid will draft.

**MOTION:** To approve CEO Quaid drafting a letter on behalf of the Board to direct the project to move forward with some stipulations.

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

Director Salzer	X		
Vice President Lacayo (Second)	X		
President Cornejo	X		

- CEO Quaid explained that the representatives from the X-Games will be on grounds today to do a site visit which her and staff will accompany them to answer any questions.
- The X-Games should be announcing the City they are picking early December.

**B. Livestock Committee Meeting November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Bonnie Atmore, Chair**

- Director Atmore reiterated that she loves the support and participation from the livestock community and the input that they give.
- The biggest thing to note is the DNA testing instead of onsite tagging. We continue to try and get better and to use technology and the exhibitors and parents are right there with us.
- Director Atmore thanked CEO Quaid, Ms. Leach and the rest of staff for everything and their efforts in finding solutions.
- Director Bradbury commented that this could be an opportunity to teach the science of DNA testing to the exhibitors and Director Atmore agreed and suggested that it could be something that is tied into the STEM program in the Agriculture Building.

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

All board correspondence came after the agenda was posted. There was a letter from the Surfrider Foundation regarding the fireworks and all other correspondence was gun show related.

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

**A. Agreements**

1. Rental Agreements - Interim

**B. Travel Claims**

Director Atmore asked that the Board pull from the rental agreements – interim consent list contract #20-048, Crossroads of the West.

The pleasure of the Board was to vote on the whole consent list with the exception of the Crossroads of the West gun shows.

**MOTION:** To approve the consent agenda with items A, 1, and B with the exception of the Crossroads of the West gun shows.

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

Director Salzer	X		
Vice President Lacayo (Second)	X		
President Cornejo	X		

The President opened up the floor for public comments and allowed three minutes per speaker.

Troy Corley: She represents Never Again California of Ventura County that is an anti-gun violence organization who is also opposed to the sale of guns and ammunition on state owned property, which includes the fairgrounds. She commented on the three recent mass shootings and stated that it is their position that promoting guns and gun culture on state fairgrounds is part of the problem and eliminating it can be part of the solution. She was glad to see someone pull the Crossroads of the West contract because it is not a routine matter.

Kathy Long: She thanked the Board for pulling the gun shows off the consent agenda for separate consideration. She understands there are financial challenges and commented on the proposed events list and mentioned that the Citizens Advisory Committee is willing to participate with that. She continued to make comments on the gun show contract and mentioned the Assembly Bill that impacted the Del Mar Fairgrounds. Lastly, she ended by asking the Board to consider that the gun shows are a public health crisis and they do not need to renew the gun show contract.

Edy Santangelo: She appreciates Director Atmore pulling the gun show contracts from the consent agenda for separate consideration. She explained any vote to accept the consent agenda without discussion of the gun shows would reflect an insensitivity to the public health crisis that exists within the county. She doesn't feel that stopping the gun shows would stop gun violence but it would be a step in the right direction. She commented on the Saugus shooting and asked the board to seriously consider their vote.

Terri Lisagor: Thanked Director Atmore for separating out the gun shows because it is an important decision and needs further board discussion. She commented on the Saugus shooting. She gave her opinion on the gun shows and what they do for the community. She discussed an article written by the US Department of Justice regarding mass shootings and some of the details. She wants each Director to go on record on how they vote for gun shows in 2020 and encourages the support of a Citizens Advisory Committee.

Steve Nash: Thanked Director Atmore. He read off a list of recent mass shootings and explained how he felt about them and having to continue to show up for the board meetings to speak out and ask that gun shows be stopped. He wants to break this culture of violence.

Karen Peters: She urged the board to stop contributing to the gun culture in our communities and vote no on scheduling more gun shows at the fairgrounds. She understands they keep repeating the statistics and how they feel, but they will continue to do so. She gave her opinion on what she thinks the board feels is more important than the lives of people in the community. She brought up the Citizens Advisory Committee and requested that it be put on the agenda.

Marty Robinson: Thanked the board for their service and explained the importance of it. She also thanked the board for pulling the gun shows to be discussed and is opposed to having them. She commented on the recent mass shootings and the culture we live in today. She hopes the board takes the advice of the public and votes no on gun shows. She is willing to volunteer on the Citizens Advisory Committee and supports moving forward on some of the alternatives that have been brought up.

Suz Montgomery: She is very encouraged to see any movement on the gun shows and thanked Director Atmore for separating out the gun shows from the consent agenda. She explained that it is about accessibility and community safety for the families and children. She feels it is the wrong message if gun shows continue on fairgrounds property and there are other alternatives. She offered her time to sit on the Citizen Advisory Committee for further discussion and feels that there needs to be more public weighing in on this.

Jerry Clifford: He explained his understanding of the direction of the board up to this point. He feels the logic is wrong in the sense that the board is putting money ahead of morals and values. He asked that the board defer the gun show issue to a meeting where it is put on the agenda for a full discussion.

Carmen Ramirez: She is not in attendance representing the Oxnard City Council, but attending the meeting for herself. She did recall that the Oxnard City Council asked the Fair Board to consider not contracting for gun shows in the future. She explained there is a lot of sadness with all the mass shootings and encouraged everyone to think about that. There are legitimate places to buy guns, but for state property to participate in holding gun shows, it is not a good look for our state, board or Ventura County. She asked the board to not engage with Crossroads of the West and enter into any more contracts.

Public comments were closed.

CEO Quaid stated that many people alluded to the fact that the contract was buried in the consent agenda, she read part of the statement on the agenda that explained that any item could be pulled for separate consideration. She had asked Director Atmore yesterday to pull the gun show contracts for discussion. It is fairgrounds procedure to bring contracts to the board under the consent agenda and anything may be pulled for a discussion.

Vice President Lacayo made the motion to approve gun shows for 2020 and Director Atmore seconded. President Cornejo stated that she wanted to make clear that the board is not voting on policy so it cannot be discussed. The board is only to discuss approving the contract dates. She opened the floor for discussion.

Director Morgan-Durisseau stated that she already went on record not in support of moving forward with another contract in a previous discussion. The issues that have been brought to the Executive Committee have not been addressed and brought back to the full board, which she explained, and therefore, she feels uncomfortable moving forward until the board gets answers and feedback in terms of where we are.

President Cornejo stated that this is a vote for calendaring gun shows in 2020. The board has an approved policy to include education, which by discussion with CEO Quaid and another member of this board, they believe that not only education but gun safety be a part

of the contract including other provisions that were voted on. The contract is not written yet and finalized. If the board moves forward with the calendar with these gun shows, that contract is public and will be available to all board members with everything that has been voted on as policy. There are a few items that are pending with legal counsel that are waiting to be addressed.

Director Long addressed the public and asked that any correspondence be sent to CEO Quaid and she could redirect any correspondence to the full board which would be in line with following Bagley-Keene. He stated he did not want to support gun shows for the entire year, he would rather take a few because he feels there are other alternatives to get funding.

Director Atmore stated that it is important to share with everyone that the decision to renew a rental agreement is part of the board's regular duties and this is a special agenda; it is a very special issue for the community. She stated how much this topic keeps her and probably most of the board awake at night. The board does not make this decision lightly. She requested that the public take their passion, commitment and focus to go out and do something with this issue of gun violence in California and throughout the country. There is a mode and platform to do that and it is with our legislators. She asks that the public find the right pathway to create real change if this is what we want to do as a community. It is with heavy hearts that they make these decisions but the board is called to look at what their job is and what the board is assigned to and to look at discrimination, tolerance and inclusivity from a legal lens. There is a way to change this and she offered for the public to take that right pathway and use that energy to mobilize and to move this forward. She hears the concerns of everyone but felt it was important for her to say that message.

Director Bradbury stated that Director Atmore expressed his views. He explained that the last time this issue was discussed he has concerns about the contract and that there would be additional safeguards. He is pleased with those safeguards that are now included which he appreciates and will support the motion.

President Cornejo mentioned that we often use Del Mar as our standard and watching them they did not listen to the public, they didn't hold public hearings, etc. They stopped the gun shows and were sued with a debilitating law suit, which they lost, and their local legislators were the ones who brought forward legislation that made the change. She personally believes that is the proper channel because the board are not lawmakers; the board follows the law and it is their own duty to follow in their own judgement what they see is proper, legal and protects the fairgrounds. Earlier this year she spoke to Assemblywoman Monique Limon who was working on gun show legislation and said she needed to get it ready and in the hopper by April for it to have any effect in this year's legislative calendar, but we saw nothing. There are means that can change laws and policy so the board does not have to take votes where sometimes there is a fine line between knowing if it is legal or not.

Director Long asked Ms. Pelle her opinion if the contracts are approved today and legislation happens whether the legislation covers the fairgrounds if we end up stopping the gun shows.

Ms. Pelle answered yes. Most of the contracts have a standard thirty day outlay language. Any contract potentially, if legislation was to occur, could be cancelled thirty days out. Legal would be able to write the fairgrounds an out.

**MOTION:** To approve gun shows for 2020.

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

### XIII. Director's Comments

Bonnie Atmore

- Thanked everyone that came to be heard and working to grow as a community and continue to advance what matters most to our community, it really does matter to her and respects everyone.
- To her fellow directors, she is aware of the difficult decisions being made and appreciates that they have the ability to be supportive and represent what they are trying to do for the fairgrounds.

Shanté Morgan-Durisseau

- Thanked the public and explained that she appreciates all the time everyone has put in to be heard and to hear what the board has to say.
- Congratulated the reappointed officers. She has appreciated the leadership from both President Cornejo and Vice President Lacayo and looks forward to working with them next year.

Dan Long

- He echoed Director Morgan-Durisseau's comments about President Cornejo and Vice President Lacayo.
- He asked CEO Quaid if she could see about the upcoming races that are on Thanksgiving Day not starting until 9 a.m.

Director Bradbury

- He congratulated President Cornejo and Vice President Lacayo on their reappointment.
- He also thanked CEO Quaid and the rest of staff because it has been a really challenging year and there have been a lot of issues that have been dealt with grace and professionalism.

Vice President

- Thanked the board for re-electing President Cornejo and herself. She feels they make a good team and everyone is collegial and congenial. She especially thanked President Cornejo for her leadership and commented that she has been a dream to work with.



- Thanked CEO Quaid and staff as well and looks forward to another couple successful years.

**XIV. CEO Report**

- CEO Quaid requested that the Fair dates be changed to August 5<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> based on the information she included in her CEO report.

**XV. President's Comments**

- She appreciates the fact that everyone respects each other, especially since there have been some difficult decisions. She is happy that everyone has a voice and is heard and the board can make these difficult decisions with their best judgement.

**XVI. Future Agenda Items**

1. Surfer's Point
2. X-Games
3. New Revenue – Additional Events
4. Citizen's Advisory Committee

CEO Quaid mentioned that WFA Convention is coming up in January and it will be in Reno again. She has not sent anyone the past couple years due to budget constraints, but would like to send a few staff members this year. She asked that if any directors were interested in going, if she could bring the information back to them to save costs.

A brief discussion ensued regarding Director attendance at Convention when our budget is tight. Ms. Pelle and CEO Quaid discussed her coming to Ventura to do training.

**XVII. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Submitted by: Heidi Ortiz  
Heidi Ortiz, Executive Secretary

Approved by: Barbara Quaid  
Barbara Quaid, CEO Ventura Fairgrounds

Approved by: Leslie Cornejo  
Leslie Cornejo, Board President

