

# 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

Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/4834214737?pwd=d0FrRzVFQUIUNG9OeUxFM0FuUG5qQT09>

Join Via the phone:

1-669-900-9128

Meeting ID: 483 421 4737

Passcode: 575554

This virtual board meeting is called in accordance with Governor Gavin Newsom's proclaiming a State of Emergency to exist on March 4, 2020 as a result of the threat of COVID-19 and the March 12, 2020 Executive Order N-25-20. Board Directors and staff of the California Department of Food and Agriculture may attend this meeting telephonically without notice of or access to their teleconference location. Members of the public may attend the meeting and provide comment at the meeting location noticed above. Any item not so noticed on this agenda will not be considered or discussed.

## I. Call to Order

### Roll Call

### Declaration of Recusal or Conflict of Interest

The meeting convened at 9:05 a.m. and called to order by President Cornejo.

**Directors present:** President, Leslie Cornejo, Vice President, Leah Lacayo, M. Cecilia Cuevas, Daniel Long, Armando Lopez, Shanté Morgan-Durisseau and Bonnie Weigel.

**Absent:** Michael Bradbury.

**Staff present:** Barbara Quaid, CEO, James Lockwood, Publicity and Marketing Manager, Jason Amelio, Sales Manager/Assistant Satellite Supervisor, Cristian Yepez, Accounting Dept. and Heidi Ortiz, Executive Secretary.

**Guests Present:** Sarah Pelle, Fairs & Expositions; Megan Hook, 805AgKids; Scott Toland, 805AgKids.

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

## II. Pledge of Allegiance

Director Weigel 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.

### **V. Presentations - None**

### **VI. Approval of Minutes**

A. April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Board Meeting

**MOTION:** To approve the April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Board Meeting minutes.

<b>Board Member Name</b>	<b>Approved (Yes Vote)</b>	<b>Not Approved (No Vote)</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Director Cuevas			X
Director Long	X		
Director Lopez (Not Present Yet)			
Director Morgan-Durisseau			X
Director Weigel (Second)	X		
Vice President Lacayo (Motion)	X		
President Cornejo	X		

President Cornejo clarified for the record that Director Cuevas and Director Morgan-Durisseau abstained from the vote due to their absence at the April meeting.

### **VII. Financial Report**

A. Financials ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Mr. Yepez gave a report on the financials ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

### **VIII. Old Business - None**

### **IX. Committee Reports**

A. Livestock Committee Meeting May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Bonnie Weigel, Chair

- It was a good meeting to gather the livestock community and check in to see how everyone was doing and what was going on with our industry.
- Mr. Flores and Mr. Lopez gave some feedback. Mr. Flores emailed CEO Quaid and some committee members suggestions for Fair 2022 that he would like shared with the board and stakeholders. Director Weigel explained that CEO Quaid made the request to the community that if anyone has ideas or suggestions as we think about Fair to provide those to us.
- Director Weigel explained that her takeaway was that they were grateful to have an organization step in and help the kids, while there were not as many participants as before, there is a mechanism, organization and support system.

- CEO Quaid emailed Mr. Flores back and asked him to come to the office to discuss his suggestions, so she is waiting for dates.
- President Cornejo explained that she spoke to Mr. Flores as well about his suggestions and asked to be at that meeting to go through point by point each of his suggestions because this is a good time for strategic planning and brain storming. She explained that anyone is always welcome to come in and speak with them about their ideas or suggestions.

## **X. Board Correspondence**

A. Memo from Mike Francesconi at California Dept. of Food and Agriculture, Fairs & Expositions: Guidance for Fair Events and Livestock Events

CEO Quaid explained that we received another memo from F&E, Mr. Francesconi.

Director Weigel clarified with CEO Quaid that the fairgrounds will be the landlord with the 805AgKids event.

There was a discussion regarding some of the specifics of the memo as far as host and landlord. Ms. Pelle explained that she is not the author of the letter but stated that the memo applies to all livestock and Fair events that are on state grounds; any event that takes place on grounds must abide by these guidelines.

President Cornejo explained that if there is anything that needs to be clarified it will be done directly with the source.

Director Lopez joined the meeting.

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

A. Agreements

1. Rental Agreements – Interim

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

<b>Board Member Name</b>	<b>Approved (Yes Vote)</b>	<b>Not Approved (No Vote)</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Director Cuevas	X		
Director Long (Second)	X		
Director Lopez	X		
Director Morgan-Durisseau	X		
Director Weigel (Motion)	X		
Vice President Lacayo	X		
President Cornejo	X		

## **XII. CEO Report**

- Met with the company that will be renting the Derby Club to hammer out some of the details of the contract. Mr. Reinwald was included in the meeting and was able to discuss the transition of one concessionaire to another. Some things came up that were not in their proposal, so she is going to work out the details.
- She has been working with Mr. Giammanco on what he needs to do to open Surfer's Pint and she gave him three entities of the state that he needs to contact.
- Met with the architect from Sacramento on the roof project. When the request was put in originally Mr. Murphy received one or two bids that came out to \$450K and it increased significantly and is now closer to \$900k, so she has put a request in to Sacramento to see if that can be covered. DGS is very backed up so it probably will not be completed until the end of December.
- We are making do with the employees that have been kept but we will have to slowly hire employees as we start having more events so we can provide the same service that we have always been able to provide.

CEO Quaid received a message that F&E will cover the overages of the roof project and no DAA dollars will be required. Ms. Pelle explained there are several projects with overages, and they will all be pulled from future years' projects; therefore, they will fund less projects because the projects are costing more than anticipated.

President Cornejo asked for an update on the strategic planning. CEO Quaid explained that she is waiting to give Ms. Bailey-Findley a date, to decide whether the board wants to do it in one or two parts and whether to do it via zoom or in-person. CEO Quaid stated she will send something out after Memorial Day weekend.

## **XIII. President's Comments**

- She explained she had a lot of comments last month and wanted to ditto those this month.
- She explained that Mr. Flores' comments were not just related to livestock but largely related to strategic planning and would meet with him and CEO Quaid only to discuss those. If there were suggestions related specifically to one thing, such as livestock, then she would refer that to the committee to discuss because she doesn't want to exclude anyone from those discussions. Any suggestions, as the board moves into strategic planning, will be considered. The board will look at what we keep and what we change both financially and how we reinvent ourselves but still keep the tradition of the Ventura County Fair as we move into this next phase of enriching and entertaining our community.
- She asked that any suggestions be funneled to CEO Quaid so that everyone has the best ideas to consider as the board comes out of the strategic planning.

#### **XIV. Director's Comments**

##### **Director Long**

- Thinks we are on the right track, doing everything we can and appreciates everybody out there that is trying to help in any way they can.
- Looks forward to seeing everyone in person before long.

##### **Director Lacayo**

- Reminded the board that they do speak with one voice; being out in the community everyone has to be careful not to answer questions that they don't know the answer to.
- Reminded everyone that when we usually have the Fair in August and July, the planning immediately starts for next years Fair right away. People have asked her why we can't just go ahead and have a Fair, but we do not have staff and the fairgrounds is in use etc.
- Wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day.

##### **Director Weigel**

- In regards to strategic planning, she had been talking about it for a couple years and her fellow directors know she loves doing collective impact work and this is one of the things she has been trained in and has practiced for a couple of decades. She would like to be a part of the strategic planning process. Her and CEO Quaid from day one have always worked great together in strategic work and she has helped CEO Quaid behind the scenes for the last couple of years starting the year she was President. This work is so vital and she wants to make sure the process we are taking is the best one possible and she wants to be utilized and leveraged in that work from the onset. How we engage our stakeholders is a big part of the process, but its that initial heavy lifting planning that the board started to talk about last year before the Fair was cancelled. She is grateful this is being picked up because there is a tremendous amount of work that needs to be done, but it will be done in a different way with a private-public sort of partnership in order for us to remain viable. She asked the board to utilize her skill set and also commented that Director Morgan-Durisseau does some of that work as well and too would be helpful in that area.

##### **Director Morgan-Durisseau**

- Thanked Director Weigel for her comments and added that some of this work has been done prior to COVID and she hopes we bring all of that to the table so the board can have a very efficient discussion.
- She recently married and is now Mrs. Shanté Morgan-Carter; she will officially change her name, but wanted to share that with her fellow board members.
- She will also be an empty nester soon because her son Thomas will be graduating from high school Thursday and moving out of state to go to college. Many board members have experienced this already and welcomed any advice because she has mixed emotions about it all.

##### **Director Cuevas**

- Commented that knowing Thomas personally and knowing what kind of young man he is, he has a good soul and heart; he is intelligent, quick, witty and he will be just fine wherever he is and will Director Morgan-Durisseau very proud that she raised a wonderful young man. She looks forward to all of the good things she will tell us that he is doing out there at Alabama A&M.

Director Lopez

- Congratulated Director Morgan-Durisseau on her recent marriage.
- He stated he is very interested in the strategic planning; he has been with this organization for the past 16 years and he looks back on the number of times these have been done and wants to know what the outcome will be. Our mission has been to put on a classic Fair, which we have done repeatedly and have been successful. Also, we have been successful in the interim with the rentals. He does not want to spend eight hours with a document that may or may not meet the specific needs of our organization. He would like to know from Ms. Bailey-Findley would the outcomes that have come about with other Fairs that have done strategic planning sessions. He does not want to sound negative, but he is very concerned about that. He wants to determine the outcome and what the plan will be for implementation.

President Cornejo commented that if any directors have comments in regards to the strategic planning to channel them to CEO Quaid, herself or Ms. Bailey-Findley so we can have something productive and serve the community and the district.

There was a brief discussion regarding the strategic planning details.

#### **XV. Future Agenda Items - None**

#### **XVI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned in memory of Ken Hess at 10:00 a.m.

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

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

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