

Sonoma County Fair
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Tuesday, April 27, 2021 5:15 p.m.

In accordance with Executive Order N-29-20 the April 27, 2021 Sonoma County Fair Board meeting was held virtually.
All actions were voted on by roll call.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Marcia Mickelson, President; Teejay Lowe, Vice President; Kevin Howe, Secretary; Max Mickelsen, Past President; Rob Muelrath, Tony Gerald, Marilyn Herzog, Kanani Reynolds, Bev Palm, Lisa Wittke Schaffner, Annette O'Kelley, Neysa Hinton, Carole Quandt, Hugo Mata

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Sharon Wright

OTHERS PRESENT: Becky Bartling, Michael Margetts, Kaitlyn Findley-Thorn, Debbie Townsend, Cliff Sanders Greg Duncan, Jane Engdahl, Pat Emery, Brenda Ficco, Caroline Titus, Kelly Secord, Kristin Andersen

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order by President Mickelson and roll call was taken at 5:15 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: President Mickelson asked Director Gerald to lead the pledge of allegiance.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA:

Director Gerald moved to approve the agenda; Director Lowe seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – Items 1-7:

Director Wittke Schaffner moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Director Lowe seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT COMMENTS:

President Mickelson stated she was happy to report that Director Herzog's recovery was coming along and that she was present on the Zoom meeting, however she would be abstaining from voting on any motions. Mickelson also reported that there was 100% support for donations by the Board for the market grading activity!

CEO'S REPORT:

CEO Bartling reviewed the March 2021 Interim Financials and the April-May 2021 Interim event schedule.

CEO Bartling gave the following updates:

- With an expected hot summer and no more rain in the forecast, the Coastal Regional fire season is not looking great
- The Ag Fairs Rescue Act will provide \$500 million in grants for agricultural fairs
- ADA upgrades will be done on the facility over the next several months and will include restrooms and egresses

No actions taken.

HARVEST FAIR – Director Lowe

Director Lowe gave a report for the April 14, 2021 committee meeting.

Director Lowe moved to approve a contract between the Sonoma County Fair and the Sonoma County Harvest Fair, allowing the Harvest Fair to keep 50% of the profit; Director Howe seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Harvest Fair President Emery reported that the board is currently prepping and not spending, with focus on developing a premier sponsorships package. **No actions taken.**

PRESENTATION TO SONOMA COUNTY FAIR BOARD BY SONOMA COUNTY FAIR FOUNDATION PRESIDENT PAT EMERY

President Emery gave a history of the Foundation, and the efforts in raising \$3 million to build the Saralee & Richard's Barn. Emery reported that the Foundation currently has funds to help the Fair with special projects or physical improvements that are visible and fit the Foundation's Mission Statement. Two projects that have been proposed are to improve the front of the Grace Pavilion, which is a main entrance to the Fair; the other project was bingo, which has been put on hold. The Foundation would like to move forward with the Grace Pavilion project and will bring a detailed proposal to either the Executive committee or Buildings & Grounds committee for consideration. **No actions taken.**

FAIR OPERATIONS – Director Wittke Schaffner

Director Wittke Schaffner gave a report on the April 13, 2021 committee meeting.

Director Wittke Schaffner moved to approve committee recommendation to hold a Carnival/Fair Food Festival, instead of the traditional Fair; Director O'Kelley seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS, AG & EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS – Director O'Kelley

Director O'Kelley gave a report on the April 13, 2021 committee meeting.

Director O'Kelley moved to approve committee recommendation to approve Version 1 of the Livestock Schedule for the Market Grading Activity/Auction, with recommended changes from Kelly Secord, temporary Livestock Superintendent; Director Palm seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Director O'Kelley moved to approve committee recommendation to for Market Grading Activity to use expert showmanship format and will not include born/bred classes; Director Reynolds seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Director O'Kelley moved to approve committee recommendation to allow staff to research prices for Market Grading awards to provide banners to Supreme & Reserve Champions, ribbons for 10 places for Showmanship and smaller banners for each breed to Grand Champions/Reserve Champions; Director Muelrath seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Director O'Kelley moved to approve committee recommendation to hold a Hybrid (virtual/live) Auction, allowing for bidding in-person or online, and preview of animals, if allowed by the Health Department; Director Palm seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Director O'Kelley moved to approve committee recommendation to allow using NTE \$50K of funds from the \$120K currently in the JLA account, if needed; Director Palm seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Director Muelrath

Director Muelrath gave a report for the x, 2021 committee meeting.

Director Muelrath moved to approve committee recommendation to approve reduction of the Saralee & Richard's Barn rental fee to \$500/day for Sonoma County Grape Growers Foundation for Wildfire Zone Safety Awareness Training and Access Certification Classes to vineyard owners, foreman, maintenance supervisors and farmworkers, etc. on April 28-30 & May 11-13, 2021; with full reimbursement for direct costs, including equipment and labor fees; Director Lowe seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously; with Director Wittke Schaffner recused/obstained from the vote.

Director Muelrath moved to approve committee recommendation to approve waiving of the facility rental fee for Sonoma CART for Volunteer Disaster Training for Animals on April 24, May 15 & June 12, 2021; with full reimbursement for direct costs, including equipment and labor fees; Director Mickelsen seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Director Muelrath moved to approve committee recommendation to approve exercising a 1-year option (2021-2022) for Extreme Food & Beverage, Inc. to provide food/beverage service in the Chris Beck Arena; Director Gerald seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

RACING – Director Lowe

Director Lowe gave a report for the April 15, 2021 committee meeting.

Director Lowe moved to approve committee recommendation to allow staff to negotiate terms with Golden Gate Fields to run our 2021 Race Meet dates; Director Mata seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET & FINANCE – Director Muelrath

Director Muelrath gave a report for the March 23, 2021 committee meeting.

Director Muelrath moved to approve the draft financial statement through March 2021 as presented; Director Hinton seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

CFO Margetts reviewed detail of US Bank credit card charges paid through February 2021. **No action taken.**

CFO Margetts reviewed March 2021 Harvest Fair financial statements. **No action taken.**

EXECUTIVE/PERSONNEL – President Mickelson

No meeting held in April.

REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (non-discussion item)

- Foundation Project, assignment of special committee, chaired by Director Muelrath
- Return to In-person meetings

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Director Lowe to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.; Director Mata seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Full Board Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the March 23, 2021 Meeting
2. **Fair Ops Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the March 9, 2021 Committee Meeting
Approval of Minutes from the April 13, 2021 Committee Meeting
3. **Aq & Exhibits Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the April 13, 2021 Committee Meeting
4. **Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the April 15, 2021 Committee Meeting
5. **Racing Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the April 15, 2021 Committee Meeting
6. **Budget & Finance Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the March 23, 2021 Committee Meeting
7. **Executive/Personnel Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the March 23, 2021 Committee Meeting