

Sonoma County Fair
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Tuesday, April 28, 2020 5:45 p.m.

In accordance with Executive Order N-29-20 the April 28, 2020 Sonoma County Fair Board meeting was held virtually.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Max Mickelsen, President; Marcia Mickelson, Vice President; Teejay Lowe, Treasurer; Wanda Tapia, Secretary; Cindy Crane, Tony Gerald, Marilyn Herzog, Kevin Howe, Ross Liscum, Annette O'Kelley, Kanani Reynolds, Bev Palm, Neysa Hinton, Lisa Wittke Schaffner

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Rob Muelrath, Past President

OTHERS PRESENT: Becky Bartling, Michael Margetts, Kaitlyn Findley-Thorn, Heather Borck, Cliff Sanders, Lorna Fox, Paulette Swallow, Jane Engdahl, Paulette Swallow, Greg Duncan, Lisa Piehl, C Parlato-Butler, Caroline Titus, Chantel Lee

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: 5:45PM

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Director Wittke Schaffner moved to approve the agenda with the change in order moving Item 9, Fair Operations before Item 8, Competitive Exhibits; Director Herzog seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Ayes: Marcia Mickelson, Teejay Lowe, Wanda Tapia, Tony Gerald, Marilyn Herzog, Kevin Howe, Ross Liscum, Kanani Reynolds, Bev Palm, Neysa Hinton, Lisa Wittke Schaffner; **Noes: 0; Absent: 3**

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – Items 1-4:

Director Liscum moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Director Tapia seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Ayes: Marcia Mickelson, Teejay Lowe, Wanda Tapia, Tony Gerald, Marilyn Herzog, Cindy Crane, Kevin Howe, Ross Liscum, Kanani Reynolds, Bev Palm, Neysa Hinton, Lisa Wittke Schaffner; **Noes: 0; Absent: 2**

PRESIDENT COMMENTS:

President Mickelsen stated he was asking the Board to authorize him to execute the first amendment to the Personal Services Agreement with Rebecca Bartling as the Fair's Chief Executive Officer/Fair Manager to temporarily reduce her salary to the "A" step from May 1st through August 30th, 2020 as volunteered by the CEO/Fair Manager to support the Fair in weathering the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Director Lowe moved to approve the first amendment to the Personal Services Agreement with Rebecca Bartling to temporarily reduce her salary to the "A" step from May 1 through August 30, 2020 as volunteered by the CEO/Fair Manager; Director Liscum seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Ayes:** Marcia Mickelson, Teejay Lowe, Wanda Tapia, Tony Gerald, Marilyn Herzog, Cindy Crane, Kevin Howe, Ross Liscum, Annette O'Kelley, Kanani Reynolds, Bev Palm, Neysa Hinton, Lisa Wittke Schaffner; **Noes: 0; Absent: 1**

President Mickelsen assigned Directors Herzog, Crane and O'Kelley to meet to discuss what should happen in regards to the Ag Scholarships for 2020 and to report back to the Ag Committee and the Full Board.

CEO AND STAFF REPORTS:

CEO Bartling reviewed the Interim Event Schedule and the Interim Financials. She stated the deadline for Form 700 is extended until June 1, 2020

Fair Operations:

- **Director Wittke Schaffner moved to award a contract to Poncia Fertilizer, Inc. for \$75,000 for the period of April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2022; Director Lowe seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Ayes:** Marcia Mickelson, Teejay Lowe, Wanda Tapia, Tony Geraldi, Marilyn Herzog, Cindy Crane, Kevin Howe, Ross Liscum, Annette O'Kelley, Kanani Reynolds, Bev Palm, Neysa Hinton, Lisa Wittke Schaffner; Noes: 0; Absent: 1
- **Discussion and possible action regarding the 2020 Sonoma County Fair: Director Liscum moved that per the direction from the County Public Health Officer that there will be no large gatherings prior to Labor Day, the 2020 Sonoma County Fair will be cancelled; Director Herzog seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Ayes:** Marcia Mickelson, Teejay Lowe, Wanda Tapia, Tony Geraldi, Marilyn Herzog, Cindy Crane, Kevin Howe, Ross Liscum, Annette O'Kelley, Kanani Reynolds, Bev Palm, Neysa Hinton, Lisa Wittke Schaffner; Noes: 0; Absent: 1

Competitive Exhibits, Ag & Educational Exhibits – Director Howe

Director Howe moved that due to the cancellation of the 2020 Fair, the 2020 Hall of Flowers will also be cancelled and that the theme from 2020 will stay the same for 2021; Director Liscum seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Ayes: Marcia Mickelson, Teejay Lowe, Wanda Tapia, Tony Geraldi, Marilyn Herzog, Cindy Crane, Kevin Howe, Ross Liscum, Annette O'Kelley, Kanani Reynolds, Bev Palm, Neysa Hinton, Lisa Wittke Schaffner; Noes: 0; Absent: 1

Discussion and Possible Action: 2020 Junior Market Livestock Contingency Plan

Exhibits Coordination Borck stated that the Competitive Exhibits Committee will meet in May to discuss options. It was stated that there will be some means for exhibitors to process animals. No action taken.

President Mickelsen gave kudos to the Ag Committee and staff for their efforts during this difficult time.

Buildings & Grounds – Director Liscum

CEO Bartling gave an update on the 10 trailers in the D Lot for homeless citizens.

Superintendent Sanders gave an update on the carnival lot irrigation status. He said we are moving ahead and that he had a meeting scheduled with the contractor and work should begin next Monday.

Racing – Director Lowe

Discussion and possible action regarding the 2020 Live Horse Race Meet at the Sonoma County Fair

CEO Bartling led a discussion regarding what other race tracks are doing during the COVID-19 pandemic. She stated she would not advise cancelling the meet until we see what other tracks will be doing. No action taken.

Budget & Finance – Director Lowe

Director Lowe gave a report of the April 28, 2020 Budget & Finance Committee meeting.

Director Lowe moved to approve the draft financial statement through March 2020 as presented; Director Gerald seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Ayes: Marcia Mickelson, Teejay Lowe, Wanda Tapia, Tony Gerald, Marilyn Herzog, Cindy Crane, Kevin Howe, Ross Liscum, Annette O’Kelley, Kanani Reynolds, Bev Palm, Neysa Hinton, Lisa Wittke Schaffner; Noes: 0; Absent: 1

CLOSED SESSION: The Fair Board of Directors considered the following in closed session at 6:35pm: Conference with Labor Negotiators (Government Code section 54957.6)

Fair Negotiator: Fair Manager/Chief Executive Officer Rebecca Bartling
Employee Organizations: SEIU and Local 39

Upon return from closed session, President Mickelsen stated that direction was given to the Fair’s negotiator.

REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (non-discussion item)

- None

ADJOURN

Director O’Kelley stated that Honorary Director Debbie Sterling was in poor health, and she asked Board members to be thinking of her and recognize her support over the years to the Sonoma County Fair.

A motion was made by Director Lowe to adjourn the meeting at 7:38; Director Palm seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. President Mickelsen said they will adjourn the meeting with the words of Arnold Schwarzenegger, “We will be back.”

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from the April 3, 2020 Special Board Meeting
2. Approval of Minutes from the April 13, 2020 Special Board Meeting
3. Approval of Minutes from the April 15, 2020 Special Board Meeting
4. **Aq & Exhibits Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the April 3, 2020 Special Committee Meeting