

Sonoma County Fair
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Tuesday, February 23, 2021 5:15 p.m.

In accordance with Executive Order N-29-20 the February 23, 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, Sharon Wright Neysa Hinton, Carole Quandt, Hugo Mata

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Becky Bartling, Michael Margetts, Kaitlyn Findley-Thorn, Heather Borck, Debbie Townsend, Cindy Crane, Jennifer Crane, Greg Duncan, Jane Engdahl, Paulette Swallow, Eric Sagervasi, Caroline Titus, Tag Wotherspoon

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order by President Mickelson and roll call was taken at 5:16 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA:

Director Lowe moved to approve the agenda, with a correction of the wording for item 13 (“gave” s/b “will give”); Director Mata seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – Items 1-6:

Director Witte Schaffner moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Director Muelrath seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT COMMENTS:

President Mickelson reported that the Ad Hoc committee’s update to the Mission Statement will focus on placing emphasis on being an event center and emergency services site vs. a fairgrounds. Mickelson stated a proposed update will be presented at the March full board meeting.

President Mickelson announced that past director, Cindy Crane has been appointed as an honorary director. Mickelson made a virtual presentation of a plaque commemorating her 12 years of service on the Fair board, her term as president in 2015, her 7 years of service on the Harvest Fair board and her commitment as an ag supporter.

CEO’S REPORT:

CEO Bartling reviewed the January Interim Financials and the February-March 2021 Interim event schedule. **No actions taken.**

CEO Bartling gave an update on the COVID trailers in the Ballpark, stating that notification from DEMA that 7 trailers will be added in March.

CEO Bartling gave an update on the CFA committee’s efforts to ensure that the \$53K in the State’s budget includes all Fairs, not just DAAs. Bartling added that Senator McGuire would be addressing the issue at the budget hearing in the Senate today, and that it is looking positive that we will receive some of the funds.

CEO Bartling gave an update on the efforts of the fairgrounds team providing greeters/parking staff for the vaccination site in Grace Pavilion. Bartling gave kudos to Heather Borck, Kaitlyn Findley-Thorn and Stacey Lapham for the great job they are doing overseeing this operation.

FAIR OPERATIONS – Director Wittke Schaffner

Director Wittke Schaffner gave a report on the February 9, 2021 committee meeting.

Director Wittke Schaffner moved to approve committee recommendation to cancel the 2021 Hall of Flowers Professional & Amateur Gardens; Director Hinton seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

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

Director O’Kelley gave a report on the February 9, 2021 committee meeting.

Director O’Kelley moved to approve committee recommendation to hold a 2021 Junior Livestock Auction and that if a 2021 Sonoma County Fair is not held, a junior livestock market grading should be offered; Director Reynolds seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Director O’Kelley moved to approve committee recommendation that forms for junior market livestock grading pledge funds should be due June 1; Director Herzog seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Director O’Kelley moved to approve committee recommendation that alternate dates should be July 29-August 1, 2021 for the junior market livestock grading & livestock auction in the event there is not a Sonoma County Fair; Director Palm seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – Director Muelrath

Director Muelrath gave a report on the February 11, 2021 committee meeting.

Director Muelrath moved to approve committee recommendation for staff to proceed with the booking of the 2021 Redwood Gospel Mission’s Great Thanksgiving Feast, at the 2020 approved facility rental fee of \$2,700.00, with all equipment/labor fees to be reimbursed at the current rates; Director O’Kelley seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

CEO Bartling and Maintenance Superintendent Sanders gave an update, stating that they are researching options and obtaining quotes for the replacement of the roofs on Dairy Barns 1 & 2, and will bring findings back to the committee in March.

RACING – Director Lowe

Director Lowe gave a report on the February 11, 2021 committee meeting. **No action taken.**

BUDGET & FINANCE – Director Muelrath

Director Muelrath gave a report on the February 23, 2021 committee meeting.

CFO Margetts reported that beginning in March, the financial statements will include a 3 year comparison (2019/2020/2021).

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

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

CFO Margetts reviewed the January 2021 Harvest Fair financial statements, noting that there were \$321 in expensed, and that there is a better cash balance than in past years. **No action taken.**

HARVEST FAIR – Director Lowe

Director Lowe gave a report on the Harvest Fair Board meeting held on February 10, 2021, stating that new president, Pat Emery, is engaging in discussions with focus on what works vs. what doesn't to revamp the Harvest Fair. **No action taken.**

REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Director Lowe to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 p.m.; Director Witte Schaffner seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Full Board Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the January 26, 2021 Meeting
2. **Fair Ops Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the February 9, 2021 Committee Meeting
3. **Ag & Exhibits Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the February 9, 2021 Committee Meeting
4. **Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the February 11, 2021 Committee Meeting
5. **Racing Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the February 11, 2021 Committee Meeting
6. **Budget & Finance Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the January 26, 2021 Committee Meeting