

Sonoma County Fair  
**APPROVED Minutes of the  
Competitive Exhibits, Agriculture and Educational Exhibits Committee Meeting**  
Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.  
Administration Building, Board Room

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Chair, Kevin Howe; Vice-Chair, Annette O'Kelley , Cindy Crane, Marilyn Herzog, Bev Palm

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Marcia Mickelson

**OTHER DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Max Mickelsen, Tony Gerald

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Heather Borck, Paulette Swallow, Kaitlyn Findley-Thorn, Brian Mills, Dan Simpson, Laura Company, Jennifer Beretta, Luke Stevens, Bella Hayes

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kevin Howe at 5:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Director Herzog moved to approve the agenda; Director Palm seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

President Mickelsen reminded everyone that the real work is done in the committees and that it is extremely important for members to attend meetings.

**2020 FAIR UPDATE**

Exhibits Coordinator Borck explained that a proposal has been submitted by the California Authority of Racing Fairs (CARF) that would push the Sonoma County Fair to the second and third weeks of August. 4-H Leaders and FFA Advisors were contacted asking them to write letters to the California Horse Racing Board (CHRB) indicating the negative impact this move would have on the livestock program, racing and the fair. The CHRB will make a decision at their next meeting on October 24.

**LIVESTOCK ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Livestock committee members attended the meeting and each read a report for the following species.

**Beef:** Bella Hayes presented on behalf of Kathy Reese, **Dairy:** Jennifer Beretta; **Sheep** Heather Borck presented on behalf of Brian Gilardi; **Swine:** Dan Simpson; **Horse:** No Report; **Small Animal Brain Mills**

- See attached notes for each specie report

Those in attendance were asked to share their thoughts on the current DNA and Drug testing policies. The discussion resulted in a consensus that DNA testing is unnecessary as it is those that make an innocent mistake that get caught up in the rule and that those that are trying to cheat know how to do so.

**2019 JUNIOR LIVESTOCK AUCTION RECEIVABLE UPDATE:**

Exhibits Coordinator Borck reported that there is \$41,000 left to collect.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING AGRICULTURAL EXHIBIT IN THE SARALEE & RICHARD'S BARN DURING FAIR**

COO Findley-Thorn explained that the Sonoma County Farm Bureau is working on an agricultural education exhibit and that they have expressed an interest in having the exhibit on display in the Saralee and Richard's barn during the fair. Staff was directed to continue conversations regarding the use of the exhibit in the barn. It was also suggested that it be investigated to see if an educational path could be added to Clover Sonoma ice cream line, the building focus on a commodity a year, or that hands on trades be included. Director Gerald inquired if there had been a conversation regarding bringing back Sweet Lil's. Exhibits Coordinator Borck explained that Sweet Lil's mission was to educate the public about agriculture. The exhibits that are being discussed would fall into this mission. The name of the exhibit has yet to be decided. She also explained that if the question was specifically regarding putting animals in the building that there are complications with putting animals in the building. Borck also expressed that staffing considerations must be taken into account. Individuals to monitor the building can be found, however, individuals that are capable of engaging with the public regarding agriculture must be selected carefully and that it's currently difficult to staff the livestock office.

**REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

JLA budget account  
Hall of Flowers Preview Report  
DNA and Drug Testing Policies  
Hat Day

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Director Palm moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:32p.m., seconded by Director O'Kelley, motion passed unanimously.**