

Sonoma County Fair & Exposition, Inc.
**APPROVED Minutes of the
Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting**
Thursday, September 10, 2020

In accordance with Executive Order N-29-20 the September 10, 2020 the Special Meeting of Sonoma County Fair Competitive Exhibits & Education Exhibits Committee meeting was held virtually. All actions were voted on by roll call.

VOTING-DIRECTORS PRESENT: Ross Liscum, Chair; Rob Muelrath, Vice Chair; Teejay Lowe, Marilyn Herzog, Annette O’Kelley

VOTING-DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

NON-VOTING DIRECTORS PRESENT: Tony Geraldi, Marcia Mickelson, Bev Palm

OTHERS PRESENT: Becky Bartling, Kaitlyn Findley-Thorn, Heather Borck, Michael Margetts, Cliff Sanders, Debbie Townsend, Sergeant Chris Mahurin, Tracy Cunha

The meeting was called to order by Chair Liscum at 4:30PM

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Director Muelrath moved to approve an amended agenda, moving item #8 to #4 and item #9 to #5; Director Herzog seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (not related to the agenda): None

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING RENT CONSIDERATION REQUEST FROM SRPD FOR USE OF BROOKWOOD LOT FOR A “TRUNK N TREAT” ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020:

Sergeant Mahurin explained that with the challenges due to COVID-19, the SRPD is looking for a way to offer a free event for our youth, while preventing the spread of COVID-19. In 2019 they held a Trunk n Treat event in downtown Santa Rosa with an attendance of nearly 3,000. They have modified the event to be drive-thru with health & safety protocols in place. Since they do not receive any funding, they are requesting that the \$900 rental fee be waived. CEO Bartling noted that the SRPD has been great partners with the Fair and COO Findley-Thorn stated the staff recommendation was to waive the rental fee, with any equipment and labor to be reimbursed. **Director O’Kelley moved to accept the staff recommendation to waive the rental fee, with equipment labor fees to be reimbursed; Director Herzog seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

UPDATE ON BOARD OF SUPERVISORS’ USE OF ASTON BARN:

CEO Bartling stated that there has been no action on the Aston Barns for an indoor/outdoor shelter. Bartling reported that there are currently 14 trailers in the D-Lot housing COVID at risk homeless, and that the Department of Health Services wants to place 20 more trailers in the Ball Park. She expressed concern that a mitigation plan is needed to address security, safety, assignment of a point person, etc., and is not comfortable moving forward until the neighbors are contacted. Tracy Cunha, aide to Supervisor Zane, reported Zane’s position on the matter. She stated there is an ongoing debate between health services and the CDC, and that the matter would be addressed further next Monday or Tuesday. No action taken.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING AUGUST 2020 INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORTS:

August Interim financials were presented. No action taken.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020 INTERIM EVENTS:

September/October Interim events were discussed. CEO Bartling reported that the recent revision to the health order allows booking of some consumer shows, and that she is working on getting approval for dog agility trials. She added that the popular Rebel Junk event will take place in October as an outdoor event. No action taken.

UPDATE ON FAIR FOOD FRENZY:

CEO Bartling stated that Kaitlyn Findley-Thorn and Phil Delahoyde did an excellent job organizing this event, and the \$31K in revenue was more than expected. COO Findley-Thorn reported that there were approximately 1,000 cars a day, and that the event received good media coverage which included KTVU2. She added that it was very helpful to have Tony Gerald handing out menus and her husband, Taylor Thorn volunteering to direct traffic. No action taken.

UPDATE ON USE OF FAIRGROUNDS DURING EMERGENCY EVACUATIONS DURING LNV LIGHTNING COMPLEX FIRES:

CEO Bartling reported that due to COVID-19 safety concerns, there were limited congregate shelters. The County implemented temporary evacuation points (TEPs), where evacuees could meet in parking lots to be assessed and directed to hotels, campgrounds, etc. There were approximately 150 evacuees housed at the fairgrounds, which were mostly pre-fire homeless. This was in vast contrast to previous evacuations where 1,000+ were sheltered at the Vets and fairgrounds. Heather Borck, in coordination with Community Animal Rescue (CART), once again did an outstanding job handling the animal evacuations. As the animal owners were allowed back onto their properties, the shelter closed, only to be reopened briefly when the Walbridge fire sparked up. Cal-Fire continues to occupy the fairgrounds, however some resources have begun departing to other fires. There are currently 10 fairgrounds in the State activated as staging areas. No action taken.

UPDATE ON CARNIVAL LOT:

CEO Bartling reported that staff is doing their best to water wherever area Cal-Fire is not using. No action taken.

REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (NON-DISCUSSION ITEMS): None

There being no further business, Director Herzog moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:15p.m., seconded by Director Lowe; the motion passed unanimously.