

Sonoma County Fair
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Tuesday, September 24 2019 5:15 p.m.
1350 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa, CA

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Rob Muelrath, President; Max Mickelsen, Vice President; Marcia Mickelson, Treasurer; Teejay Lowe, Secretary; Marilyn Herzog, Past President; Doug Beretta, Lisa Carreño, Cindy Crane Tony Gerald, Kevin Howe, Ross Liscum, Annette O'Kelley, Bev Palm, Wanda Tapia, Lisa Wittke Schaffner

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Becky Bartling, Kaitlyn Findley-Thorn, Lorna Fox, Heather Borck, Jane Engdahl, Stacy Lapham, Michael Margetts

CALL TO ORDER: 5:25PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Director Liscum

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Heather Payne, John Payne, Angela Fernandez, Jacob Ward, Anthony Fernandez of Bowls to Burgers

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Heather Payne of Bowls to Burgers addressed the Board regarding the termination of her contract for food services at the Director Patio during the 2019 Fair. She requested to be reimbursed for the remainder of the contract as she stated she already incurred expenses that she could not recover.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Director Liscum moved to approve the agenda with the change to strike out the second bullet item under Fair Operations regarding discussion of the Saralee & Richard's Barn for use of the Harvest Fair during the 2020 Fair; Director Wittke Schaffner seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – Items 1-6:

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

PRESIDENT COMMENTS:

President Muelrath stated that it has been an honor to serve and thanked the support he received from the board members. He says he looks forward to supporting the new president.

CEO AND STAFF REPORTS:

The Correspondence Binder was circulated and CEO Bartling distributed the upcoming Interim Event Schedule and the August Interim Financials.

CEO Bartling stated that from the monies requested of the Board of Supervisors, we have received \$5,000 from Supervisor Rabbitt and \$1,000 from Supervisor Gorin.

Heather Borck reported that since we are requesting 4 bottles of Harvest Fair wine, instead of the previous year's 6 bottles from each winery, wine donations to nonprofits will no longer take place, as we will need to use any surplus wine for fair events.

Fair Operations – Director Wittke Schaffner

Director Wittke Schaffner gave a report of the September 10, 2019 Fair Operations Committee meeting.

CEO Bartling stated that she would like to issue a RFP for a sponsorship contractor to pursue corporate sponsors. This topic will continue at the Fair Operations Committee – no action taken.

Competitive Exhibits, Ag & Educational Exhibits – Director O'Kelley

Director O'Kelley gave a report of the September 10, 2019 Competitive Exhibits & Ag Committee meeting. She stated that 95% of the JLA monies have been collected and recognized Heather Borck and the Exhibits staff for their efforts. She also stated that 75% of the steers were Choice grade.

Buildings & Grounds – Director Liscum

Director Liscum gave a report of the September 12, 2019 Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting. He reported that the Sonoma County Hot Air Balloon Classic staff are still in discussions with neighbors regarding the 2020 event. There will need to be an adjustment to the sound ordinance to comply with the times that the event will be held.

Director Liscum stated that the pump at the golf course went out and will need to be replaced. The south end of the carnival lot has been reseeded and irrigation systems are being researched.

Racing – Director Mickelsen

Director Mickelsen gave a report of the September 12, 2019 Racing Committee meeting. He reported that the Committee had directed CEO Bartling to present to the CHRB the same racing dates as 2019 plus a third week of racing without the fair. CEO Bartling said that the proposal for the same dates had been refused by the CARF and the Fair and CARF had been instructed by the CHRB to negotiate. The discussions are still in progress. No action taken.

Budget & Finance – Director Mickelson

Director Mickelson gave a report of the September 24, 2019 Budget & Finance Committee meeting. **Director Mickelson recommended to approve the draft financial statement through August 2019; Director Liscum seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Committee – President Muelrath

President Muelrath gave a report of the September 24, 2019 Executive Committee meeting. He and CEO Bartling led discussions regarding the 2020 Racing and Fair dates. CEO Bartling was directed to work with CFO Margetts to look at the financial ramifications of conducting a fair with and without racing and to report at the next full board meeting. No action taken.

Report on Harvest Fair – Director Lowe

Director Lowe reported that an ad hoc committee had been formed to discuss possible use of the Saralee & Richard's Barn or another location during the fair for the Harvest Fair. Members of the ad hoc are: Teejay Lowe, Jake Martini, Les Perry, Pat Emery, Amy Tesconi and Jacqueline Balletto. These discussions will also take place at the Fair Operations Committee.

He reminded everyone that the Harvest Fair Awards Night is September 29th, and the Harvest Fair is October 4 & 5.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The Official Ballot from the Nominating Committee was distributed and President Muelrath asked for any nominations from the floor. **Director Crane moved to accept the ballot as presented; Director Wittke Schaffner seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

ELECTION OF OFFICERS BY WRITTEN BALLOT:

The ballots were tallied by CFO Margetts and Lorna Fox Induction of Incoming 2019-2020 Officers and the elected officers are: Max Mickelsen, President; Marcia Mickelson, Vice President; Teejay Lowe, Treasurer; Wanda Tapia, Secretary.

President Mickelsen recognized Director Muelrath's service to the board and presented him with a plaque.

President Mickelsen stated that he is looking forward to the year ahead and wants the board to recognize that there is one spokesperson for the fair, and that is CEO Bartling.

It was announced that it was Director Beretta's last meeting as he resigned from the board and he was thanked for his 10 years of service.

The new Committee assignments were distributed.

2020 BOARD CALENDAR REVIEW:

A 2020 calendar was distributed. No action taken.

REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (non-discussion item)

None

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Director Wittke Schaffner to adjourn the meeting; Director Muelrath seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from the August 27, 2019 Board Meeting
2. **Fair Operations Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the September 10, 2019 Committee Meeting
3. **Ag & Exhibits Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the September 10, 2019 Committee Meeting
4. **Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from September 12, 2019 Committee Meeting
5. **Racing Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from September 12, 2019 Committee Meeting
6. **Budget & Finance Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the August 27, 2019 Committee Meeting