

# 14<sup>th</sup> District Agricultural Association

## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FAIR

Established 1885



### BOARD MEETING MINUTES

#### Board of Directors' Meeting

2601 East Lake Avenue, Watsonville, CA

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

The Harvest Building

Approved by: 

Date: 9/12/21

**CALL TO ORDER:** 1:34 p.m. by President Stephanie Fontana

**DIRECTORS PRESENT IN PERSON:** None

*Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic special arrangements were made to participate remotely*

**DIRECTORS PARTICIPATING REMOTELY:** Stephanie Fontana - President; Jody Belgard- Vice-President (excused at 3:20), Bill Barton, Don Dietrich, Tony Campos, Lupe Flores, Michael Pruger (excused at 3:30).

**JR FAIRBOARD MEMBER:**

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

**DIRECTORS EXCUSED:** Director Estrada

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO):** Dave Kegebein

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Mary Bannister

**CLOSED SESSION – BOARD ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 1:40, RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION AT 2:41. REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION:** President Fontana reported that no action was taken in closed session.

**Public Comment** – Mary Ann LoBalbo from Santa Cruz County Public Works reminded everyone about the need to remove food waste from garbage receptacles and improve handling of waste headed to the landfill. She noted that fines will follow if changes aren't made. She said the County is available to assist. Jessica Ayala commented that her PRA requests have not been adequately handled. Also, she stated that public correspondence is not being included in the agenda packets – she is asking the board to make sure that happens. She stated that the Bagley Keene Act is not being followed regarding meetings being posted. Phillip Carranco stated that there is old business that is not being agendaized, and policies in the Policy Manual should be followed.

**Director Comments** – Director Belgard noted that she will leave the meeting at 3:20. Director Dietrich is very concerned about fire season this year and asked that the temporary horse and livestock stalls be put up in advance. President Fontana asked if we have a plan for fire response.

**CONSENT CALENDAR.** Director Belgard noted that in the Minutes of April 27, 2021, directors present should include Directors Flores and Campos. *Director Belgard moved; Director Barton seconded approval of the minutes of April 27, 2021 as amended. Motion carried 7 - 0. Ayes - Directors Fontana, Belgard, Barton, Dietrich, Campos, Flores and Pruger.*

Contracts - Director Dietrich asked if preliminary numbers were available from the Goat Hill Fair. CEO said they were not. Jessica Ayala asked about the Spay Neuter Contract which is shown as a zero charge. *Director Dietrich moved; Director Campos seconded approval of the contracts. Motion carried 7 - 0. Ayes - Directors Fontana, Belgard, Barton, Dietrich, Campos, Flores and Pruger.*

**FINANCIALS.** CEO reported \$450,000 cash on hand with all County payments from the CZU Fire current. Pension Liabilities have not been provided from the State to finish the audit so a Qualified Audit will be presented without those numbers next month. March financials and 2020 STOP report are in the packet. Director Dietrich asked if overtime is being paid to employees. He recommends a wage bump to the employees who had a rough year and stood by during the pandemic. CEO noted that the existing employees did just receive a wage increase. Jessica Ayala asked if credit was requested for fuel purchases and stated that employees may not be compensated from other agencies. CEO said fuel taxes are reimbursed. No employee receives compensation from another agency – the Fair is reimbursed from Santa Cruz County using FEMA funds for janitorial services. *Director Barton moved; Director Belgard seconded approval of the 2020 STOP Report. Motion carried 7 - 0. Ayes - Directors Fontana, Belgard, Barton, Dietrich, Campos, Flores and Pruger.*

March 2021 Financials were presented. Director Dietrich asked for several clarifications. *Director Flores moved; Director Belgard seconded approval of the March financials. Motion carried 6 - 1. Ayes - Directors Fontana, Barton Belgard, Campos, Flores and Pruger. Noes - Dietrich*

April 2021 Financials will be presented next month.

## **CEO REPORT**

**June 15<sup>th</sup> Reopening Date & 2021 September Annual Fair.** CEO reported that we are looking very positive for a 2021 Fair with current guidelines allowing full opening starting mid-June. LA County Fair is moving their dates to May, from September so that frees up vendors during our time slot. Recommendation is that there is a screening of temperatures or vaccine verification at the gates, otherwise masks may be required. We are moving forward with Premium Books and other preparations.

**Vaccination Clinics** – Tomorrow is the last day of the Santa Cruz County clinic. The SALUD Para La Gente clinic will wrap up around June 13.

**CZU Lightening Complex Fire County Reimbursements** - complete

**SB-5 Project – Electrical Upgrades**– Bids are due this Thursday. \$180,000 remains in the budget which may not be enough to complete the project. May need to break the project into phases and complete as funding allows.

**Update on Proposed Santa Cruz County Animal Control Ordinance** – The most recent version appears to be acceptable and is supported by Tim Baldwin from the Salinas Sports Complex. It will likely be brought back next month for consideration.

**40 Acres Behind Fairgrounds Development** – Planning is moving ahead by the County to acquire 40 acres behind the Fairgrounds for use as a park/sports facility accessible to the Fairgrounds. County will raise grants to fund acquisition of the property, and additional funding efforts may be warranted.

**Panetta Legislation** – Congressman Panetta toured the facility with the Kegebein's and Director Estrada recently and he is working to get State funding for the Fairs.

**Security RFP** – The Fair security contract will be separated from the regular annual security contract, bids solicited and a recommendation brought to the Board next month.

**Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture Awards Dinner** – **President Fontana** has been selected **Woman of the Year** and **Holiday Lights** is the **Event of the Year** by the Pajaro Chamber and everyone is encouraged to attend to celebrate with us.

**Ransomware Attack** – CEO reported that our computer system was down for a time, due to a ransomware attack, but is now back up and running. Director Dietrich asked how Director's emails were affected. CEO said they weren't affected.

Member of the Public asked about the Rodgers House working group and funding related to the facility CEO responded that the Rodgers House group will report to the Building and Grounds Committee and that there are funds held by Foundation to support the Rodgers House. Jessica Ayala asked if the ransomware breach was reported to CDFA IT and also what department of the County is purchasing the 40 acres behind the Fairgrounds. She also said that she would like to be notified of the Policy Committee meetings. CEO said that the County is exploring the purchase of the 40 acres for athletic fields and parks. The ransom ware attack was reported to CDFA but they are not involved with individual fair's computer operations.

**OLD BUSINESS**- none

**NEW BUSINESS** –

**2021 Fair Time Concession – Vendor – Camping Fees** – CEO provided an update on Fair Time fees and recommended approval. *Director Dietrich moved, Director Fontana seconded approval of Fair Time Fees. Motion carried 5 - 0. Ayes - Directors Fontana, Barton, Dietrich, Campos, and Flores.*

**Horse Show Rental Rates** – CEO provided background on how rates are set. Jessica Ayala asked for a copy of background materials. She stated that rates appear low. CEO provided clarification regarding our rates. Director Dietrich asked if stall rate was sufficient to cover costs of cleaning stalls. CEO responded

that it is. *Director Flores moved; Director Barton seconded approval of the Horse Show Rental Rates. Motion carried 5 - 0. Ayes - Directors Fontana, Barton, Dietrich, Campos, and Flores.*

**CORRESPONDENCE-** CDFA Correspondence regarding Poultry Health Inspections and Fair & Livestock Show Guidance.

## **REPORTS**

**Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds Foundation** – Jeannie Kegebein reported that they are currently interviewing Heritage Hog applicants. Proceeds will go towards purchase of 69 livestock pens which cost \$400 each. The 2020 Annual Report is being prepared. Alcohol sales are happening again and volunteers are needed for Friday Night Races, Sunday Flea Market and other events.

**Agricultural History Project** – John Kegebein reported that the Chicken Exhibit is being redone, interpretive signage is being prepared, but Spanish translation is needed – looking for a volunteer. He learned that the Watsonville 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade will be static, that is the exhibits will be on the sidelines and the audience will drive by. AHP plans to participate.

**Junior Fair Board - none**

**Rodgers House Update-** Will be presented next month.

**Livestock Committee** – President Fontana reported that they have been meeting regularly – they are redoing the entry guide. She commented on the very dedicated and talented committee that they're working with. Phillip Carranco asked if the Site Plan has been developed for the health agencies. CEO said the requirements are being developed now. Mike Francesconi said that up until June 15<sup>th</sup> the outdoor guidelines will need to be followed but after June 15<sup>th</sup>, if the tier system is no longer in place the requirements could change.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Next Regular Board Meeting is June 22, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. via remote-cast as necessary.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.