



14th District Agricultural Association

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FAIR

Established 1885

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting
Arts Building and via Zoom
2601 East Lake Avenue Watsonville CA
Tuesday October 25, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: 1:38 PM by President Dietrich

ROLL CALL, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE DECLARATION OF QUORUM, APPROVAL/DIS-APPROVAL OF ABSENCES: A quorum was declared.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: In-Person: President Dietrich, Director Campos, Director Flores, Director Campos, Director McRae. Via zoom Director Pruger, Appointee Director Wells.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

DIRECTORS EXCUSED: None

INTERIM MANAGER: Don Dietrich

RECORDING SECRETARY: Don Dietrich

PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

David Kegebein provided a written response to the State Audit Report, and stated that he was going to present the Fairgrounds with a check in the amount of \$33,000, and read a portion of his response alleging President Dietrich used his leverage to harass him into allowing a portion of the Shop to be used for work on personal vehicles. Dave Cavanaugh, former Board Member, stated that the CDFA was wrong and heartless for terminating the former CEO and Board Members, Estrada and Belgard; and, advised that he is concerned that CDFA does not include the interests of the community in their decisions. Former Director Loretta Estrada stated that she was kicked off the Board for voting to keep Dave Kegebein, and stated that the Board is a disgrace. An unidentified speaker stated that three people are responsible for the recent turmoil, and that they hoped those people are happy with themselves. Dennis Osmer stated the listed Closed Session was not in conformance with Bagley Keene; asked the Board to review the CDFA Audit in relation to the 2020 Audit, as they are conflicting documents; suggested that the Board needs to review the Dietrich response to the Audit; suggested that Dietrich is trying to convince us that "it is business as usual"; advised that the Pajaronian stated that Dietrich is not aware of why Estrada and Belgard were dismissed; asked if Dietrich knew of the threat of this missile on the 4th, and questioned whether or not Dietrich was notified in advance of the dismissals; and, questioned what the goal of the Governor and the CDFA was in taking over the fairgrounds. Becky Steinbruner asked the Board to continue with the contract with the County for the Emergency Evacuation Area; stated that the Public Records Act Requests were the only means of getting questions answered – [interrupted by audience before finishing her 3 minutes]. Unidentified person thanked Dave



14th District Agricultural Association

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FAIR

Established 1885

Kegebein, and wished Dietrich good luck. Greg Estrada advised that he feels certain individuals are trying to address their concerns with the Manager; advised that he did not like the answers; suggested that people start knocking on the doors of Sacramento; acknowledged that the Board had some responsibility for lack of policy; advised that he feels that the elected officials in Santa Cruz County would like to drop their problems on South County; cautioned the Board about accepting Resiliency Funding; suggested that in accepting funding, that the Boards' hands would be tied, just like they were when the County gave money to finish the Crosetti Kitchen. Paul Vitale, a volunteer for 25 years, advised that he was concerned about the process of how Dave Kegebein was terminated. Trina Gomez advised that she had never seen such a lack of transparency at the Fairgrounds; and, advised that she was disappointed at what happened. Jennette Crosetti advised that she is heartbroken by what has happened to Dave and Loretta; and, advised that she is concerned that the Fair is going to be torn down by the State. Eric Buska stated that the volunteers "need this like a hole in the head"; advised that he is concerned about the trailers in the parking lot; and, thanked everyone who worked hard for the Fair. Nick Kaderling, a 22-year volunteer, started that during Dave Kegebein's tenure, when there was no money, he had to secure a line of credit just to keep the doors open; and, advised that he believed that it would truly be a shame if the Fairgrounds becomes something else.

CORRESPONDENCE: Director Fontana stated that the advisory letter from the California Department of Food and Agriculture regarding Poultry Exhibitions was discussed with the Livestock Committee. No other comments were made regarding Correspondence.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Motion by Director McRae, and seconded by Director Fontana, to accept the August 23, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Dietrich-Yes, Campos- Yes, Flores-Yes, Fontana, -Yes McRae -Yes, Pruger- Yes. Board Meeting Minutes for September were not presented, as the Recording Secretary has resigned. Jessica Ayala requested contracts 2022-123 and MISC2022-26 be pulled from the Consent Calendar. Dennis Osmer requested all contracts on the Consent Calendar be pulled. Contracts were pulled for review and discussion at the December 6th 2022 meeting.

FINANCIALS: Motion to Accept July, 2022 Financials made by Director Fontana, and second by Director Flores. Motion Carries. Dietrich -Yes, Campos- Yes, Flores-Yes, Fontana-Yes, McRae-Yes, Pruger- Yes.

Motion to Accept August, 2022 Financials was made by Director Flores, and seconded by Director McRae. Motion carries 6-Yes, and Director Dietrich abstained.

The CDFA Contract for the Electrical Upgrade will be moved to the December 6, 2022 meeting, at the Request of President Dietrich. Motion to move the CDFA Contract to next meeting was made by Director Flores, and second by Director McRae. Motion carries 6-Yes, and Director Dietrich abstained.

A draft copy of the Independent Accountants Review Report was discussed. There was public comment by Dennis Osmer, who questioned the process of accepting a draft; stated that it does not make sense based on the information in the CDFA Audit. There was a public comment by Trina Gomez, regarding a lack of process, disorganization, and a need to ensure that the process is transparent. No action taken by the Board.



14th District Agricultural Association

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FAIR

Established 1885

OLD BUSINESS: There was no report or discussion regarding Committee Duties and Requirements, Policy review, MOU with the Foundation, or an updated Fee Schedule for Buildings and Grounds Rental. A Zoom presentation from County Parks was provided to update the Fair Board Members, and the community, on the County Parks Department purchase of property adjacent to the Fairgrounds. The County has entered into a lease, with the option to buy, the property located off Paulsen Road. No determination has been made, and no inquiries have been made by the Fairgrounds, as the County has not purchased the property yet.

NEW BUSINESS: Approval of Interim Manager. David Kegebein suggested that the California Department of Food and Agriculture has a list of long term successful Fair Managers that have retired. Director Dietrich agreed this is a good idea to find an Interim Fair Manager until a permanent replacement is hired. Motion by McRae second by Director Pruger, to have Dietrich continue as Interim Manager until a paid Interim Manger can be located. Motion carries. Dietrich-Abstained, Campos-Yes, Flores-Yes, McRae-Yes, Pruger-Yes. Interim Manger Dietrich relayed to the Board that the Harvest Building roof has significant leaks. The Building has several events booked, and there is concern about the safety of persons and property if the roof should leak during events. Motion by Director Campos to get the roof inspected to determine if the roof can be repaired, and if not, the cost of replacement as soon as possible. Seconded by Director Flores. Motion carries. Campos-Yes, Dietrich-Abstained, Flores-Yes, Fontana-Yes, McRae-Yes, Pruger-Yes.

Board directs Interim Manger to begin the recruitment process to hire a permanent Manager. Interim Manger reported the need to buy a new laptop for use during the meetings for the Zoom link. Interim Manager discussed the need to provide staff with cellular phones so they can communicate without using personal phones. Director Fontana request more information.

REPORTS:

Fairgrounds Foundation: Jeannie Kegebein reported that the Holiday Lights preparation is under way. The event opens November 25, 2022, and runs through December 25, 2022; and, advised that the event is open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday evening. The Holiday Craft and Gift Fair is December 2 through 3, 2022.

Agricultural History Project: John Elskamp reported that all school tours events have been filled for 2023; advised that the AHP Volunteers are working on Holiday Lights; advised that the Annual Harvest Dinner is October 29, 2022, and that there are still seats available; and, advised that yesterday's Farm during the fair was a big success.

Junior Fair Board. No report.

Livestock Committee: A meeting will be held on November 2, 2022, at 7pm

Buildings and Grounds: Director Campos advised that he has been in discussions with the State about the possibility of funding for the Livestock Barns.



14th District Agricultural Association

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FAIR

Established 1885

MANAGER REPORT: The entire Fairgrounds were inadvertently proclaimed to be a historic site. As a result, and therefore the determination of the potential Livestock barns demolition is on hold. The determination of the potential Livestock Barns demolition is on hold.

Closed Session: Pulled at manager's request.

Adjournment at 4:08 PM.