



Wildcatz

WATSONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

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Elaine Legorreta
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July 13, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C.
20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

I have lived and worked in Watsonville since August, 1983. As a teacher, coach, and athletic director at Watsonville High School, I have worked closely with the Santa Cruz County Fair in several important fundraisers for many school athletic teams and other student organizations. I have seen first hand how our local fairground is truly the heartbeat of our community in generatin critical funding for a wide variety of youth activities. Due to the serious Covid-19 concerns, our fair decided two weeks ago to cancel and look ahead to the 2012 event. While I agree with the fair's decision, I also understand the disappointment of county residents in not having a fair to attend and also the concerns of many nonprofit groups in having to forego their much-needed fundraiser.

I completely understand why Governor Newsome issued a statewide stay-at-home order and social distancing policies in response to the coronavirus outbreak and I applaud his effective leadership and his genuine concern for all Californians. No large-scale mass gatherings like sporting events, fairs, or concerts will be allowed until a reliable and proven vaccine has been developed and this may take several more months. However, all Santa Cruz County residents are justifiably concerned about the future of our fairgrounds.

Fairgrounds in California are self-funded, earning the revenue needed to support operations, promote community events, and maintain the facilities and grounds in presenting the annual fair and serving as an event center for the community. The aforementioned governmental actions have literally eliminated California fairgrounds' ability to earn revenue. This has placed all California fairgrounds in jeopardy.

The Network of California Fairs represents 76 fairgrounds that annually serve more than 35 million Californians in all 58 counties. Fairgrounds are often the center of their community, generating over \$35 million in nonprofit and community benefits and promoting a quality of life serving as gathering spots, recreation facilities, and learning centers. Fairgrounds in California preserve 30,000 jobs and generate more than \$3.5 billion in annual economic impact while contributing over \$200 million in tax revenue to local and state governments.

In addition, Fairgrounds are an essential part of the infrastructure necessary for the state to effectively respond in natural disasters and emergencies. During wildfires, floods, and earthquakes, Fairgrounds stage emergency vehicles and fire equipment, shelter displaced residents and animals, and generally support the community efforts to cope with each emergency.

More than 50 Fairs in California have been canceled due to the stay-at-home order and response to Covid-19, and more are expected in the coming weeks. Educational, entertainment, and family events highly important to the communities have also been canceled. Events that preserve our traditions and heritage; events that bring neighbors together in celebration; events that memorialize significant events such as quinceneras, weddings, funerals; events that promote local economy and commerce; events that are the very fabric of community wellbeing are all canceled. The financial hardship is extreme and felt by our fairs, the employees, and also vendors, concessionaires, entertainers, local businesses, exhibitors, carnivals, service providers, hotels, and nonprofits who rely on our fairgrounds and the Network of California Fairs to survive.

I respectfully request your help during these unprecedented challenging times by appropriating \$300 million in the 2020-21 budget as emergency assistance to the Network of California Fairs. Without this level of support, many fairs are scheduled to run out of funds and will be unable to pay their employees within the next 30 days.

The Santa Cruz County Fair has always been there to add to the quality of life and assist us in so many ways. The Network of California Fairgrounds must be supported so in turn the citizens of California can enjoy the values and benefits provided by all that takes place on our fairgrounds. The city of Watsonville and the county of Santa Cruz depend on the fairgrounds to ensure a quality of life that is healthy, safe, inclusive, accessible, and provide opportunity to all. I am optimistic that the future of fairs will strengthen and nurture communities that are currently hurting from the effects of Covid-19. Now is the time to provide emergency funding and preserve the legacy of the state's fairgrounds for future generations to come.

Thank you for supporting the fairs in California by appropriating emergency funding in the 2020-21 budget.

Sincerely,



Brad Hubbard
Assistant Athletic Director
Watsonville High School

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**Minutes of the Board of Director’s Meeting
Agricultural History Project
June 2, 2020**

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 6:03pm, June 2, 2020 President Jennifer Lemon via on-line Zoom.

Roll Call: The following Directors were present: Hank Aranda, Mary Bannister, John Eiskamp, Bob Erbe, Donna Giubbini, Nic Keiderling, Carol Kitayama, Jennifer Lemon, Kayce Pavlovich, Les Roth, Barney Stephens, Tom Stickel and Phil Ybarra. Excused: Tim Lorenzen & Ricardo Rocha. Absent: Mike Sears. Staff: John Kegebein, Carol Grossi and Kaleena Mornard.

Welcome Guests: Tom Rider.

Approval of Minutes: A Motion was made by Hank Aranda to approve the May 5, 2020 Minutes. Barney Stephens Seconds. Motion passed.

Correspondence & Communications- John Kegebein reported that Big Creek Lumber contacted him and would like to become a new sponsor for 3 years. He also received notice from Tom Rider and Chuck & Ramona Allen that they would like to renew their sponsorships.

Public Business from the Floor: None

Treasurer’s Report- April 2020 & April 2020 Restricted Funds: Nic Keiderling reported that the Executive Committee has reviewed and recommends approval. A Motion to approve April 2020 & April 2020 Restricted Funds was made by Nic Keiderling, Barney Stephens Seconds, Motion Passed.

President’s Report: Outgoing President, Jennifer Lemon reported that she really enjoyed working with everyone and is excited to pass the gavel along to new President Phil Ybarra.

Director’s Report: Outgoing Director Barney Stephens stated that “it’s been wonderful” being on the Board. A big thank you to all outgoing Directors.

Committee & Task Force Reports:

Gift Shop- Jennifer Lemon: Jennifer reported that she has put the Gift Shop On-line. So please log on and shop our unique selection of gifts.

Accessions & Restoration Committee- John Kegebein for Tom Stickel: John reported that there has been a full crew working each Tuesday to maintain equipment and facilities until Tom returns.

OLD BUSINESS:

a) Approve three new fundraising ideas- After taking a vote, the Directors decided on the following fundraising ideas. A Motion was made by Phil Ybarra and Hank Aranda seconded. Motion passed to accept the following Major Fundraising ideas:

- 1. Raffle – If good prizes are offered there is potential to generate \$8,000-10,000.

2. Drive Thru Harvest Dinner- Ken Schwan has agreed to cater this event and noted that several other organizations have requested similar services due to the Covid-19 Virus.

-An On-line Auction would replace the Silent Auction and Live Auctions. Santa Cruz schools have done this in the past. On-line Auction Houses will be contacted to see if this is a viable option.

3. Christmas Lights Drive-Thru- AHP would Team up with the Fairgrounds Foundation, each would contribute \$10,000 to get event started and then split the proceeds. Some proceeds would be put aside to develop the event further for the following year. A 4- person task force from each organization would be appointed. The task force would determine route from main entrance through fairgrounds. There were concerns about return on investment and Security. An idea would be to put volunteer's and their RV's around area to work security. Information regarding Budget, etc. was sent to each Director in this month's Board Packet. Due to all large events being cancelled because of Covid-19, it was agreed that keeping the Fairground and AHP's presence out there in the public's eye with a positive and enthusiastic attitude is important for its future. Soliciting funds via Social Media, Crowd-Funding and Amazon Smile should also be pursued.

b) New State of Board Officers: A motion was made by Carol Kitayama and seconded by John Eiskamp to accept the following slate of new officers. Motion passed: President- Phil Ybarra, Past President- Jennifer Lemon, 1st Vice President-Bob Erbe, 2nd Vice President-John Eiskamp, Treasurer-Nic Keiderling, Secretary-Donna Giubbini.

NEW BUSINESS:

a) Borina Barn Enclosure: A Motion was made by Barney Stephens and seconded by Phil Ybarra to begin the process of enclosing the Borina Barn (ends only).

Motion passed.
b) Start Process to install a Fire Hydrant on the AHP site- this will be investigated.
c) If Approved, Appoint Task Force for Christmas Lights Drive-Thru- the following Director's volunteered to be on the Task Force: Phil Ybarra, John Eiskamp, Carol

Kitayama, Mary Bannister, Jennifer Lemon and Hank Aranda. Four Directors will be appointed and two will be back- ups.
CEO REPORT- John Kegebein reported that Dave Kegebein recently sent a letter to see if there would be Federal assistance available for the Fairgrounds. He also requested volunteers to help garner support from Federal Agencies. Tom Rider volunteered to help. Dirt from site has been removed.
Meeting Adjourned: 7:34pm

Minutes recorded and respectfully submitted by Donna Giubbini, Secretary

Rodgers House Committee meeting

July 22, 2020

Members present: Sue King, Marilyn Hoyt, Kennette Roberts, Jody Belgard, Joanie Hargis, Trisha Kett, and Loretta Estrada.

The meeting was held outdoors on the back porch, mask worn by those who felt the need for them. At the meeting it was discussed about the leak we have in the ceiling of the Grand Room, it is coming from the outside balcony in the office area. Sue is going to talk to Scott and see if he will address the issue. Also Coy feels the roof/ deck needs to be addressed, it needs to have a better and different coating or calking. Again she will ask him to look at fixing the problem.

Trisha informed us the humidifiers are working well, we will continue to dump them every other day, BUT the house does not have that old smell any more. So they are doing the job. Paul says there is no water under the house.

Melanie had her painter paint the back new door inside and outside, plus he touched up some places on the gazebo.

I informed the committee Sharon Willis lost her 94 year old mother, we send her our sympathy. Rachelann gave us some of her childhood toys, the old lady in the shoe and they are porcelain heads and hands, very old, she is 92 so they are at least 88 years old, the shoe is missing, so I ask the committee to keep a eye out for the shoe at antique stores.

Kennette said there is a site called Santa Cruz County Health.org that gives information concerning the Covid 19, and it is very informative.

I apologized about not getting a couple of fans for the house, I need to carry through and pick 2 of them up for circulation of air, which Dave said he feels it would help with the moisture as well.

We all helped to clean the house, dusted, moped, vacuumed cleaned the bathrooms, dusted the outside of the house for spider webs. Many hands make a fast project get done very quickly. Changed the ducks clothing into a school dress! Not that it will be attending school for a while.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40, the garden ladies were still working in the yard, thank god for them.

Sincerely



Loretta Estrada

Chairman