

# 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, April 27, 2021

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 5/28/21

**CALL TO ORDER:** 1:31 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, Loretta Estrada, Don Dietrich, Tony Campos, Lupe Flores, Michael Pruger (left at 4:00).

**JR FAIRBOARD MEMBER:** Morgan Cole

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:**

**DIRECTORS EXCUSED:** Directors Barton

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

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Mary Bannister

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Eric Zamost commented that when meetings are again held in person, he'd like to know what hurdles would be faced in also allowing remote access. Phillip Carranco commented that agendas don't provide information regarding Old Business, as an example, the Race Track contract information. Jessica Ayala said that Bagley Keene Act was violated last month by not providing 10 days' notice. Also, the Livestock Committee meeting was not allowed to be recorded. She also asked that the Board presses to have PRA requests met. Eric Zamost said that although he is recoding this meeting, it would also be a good idea for Dave to make a recording to have an official one.

**DIRECTOR COMMENTS:** none

**CLOSED SESSION – BOARD ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION AT 1:40, RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION AT 2:43. REPORT ON CLOSED SESSION.** President Fontana reported that no action was taken.

**CONSENT CALENDAR.** Minutes of March 23, 2021. *Director Belgard moved; Director Estrada seconded approval of the minutes. Motion carried 6 - 0. Ayes - Directors Fontana, Belgard, Estrada, Dietrich, Campos and Pruger.*

Contracts – Director Dietrich asked why there were 2 contracts for Jeannie’s Artichokes. CEO responded that there were 2 weekends, so were shown separately. He also asked about horse show contracts. CEO responded. President Fontana asked that Horse Show rate sheet be provided for next month’s meeting. Jessica Ayala asked about fee schedules. Phillip Carranco asked about Davey Tree contract. *Director Estrada moved; Director Fontana seconded approval of the contracts. Motion carried 6 - 0. Ayes - Directors Fontana, Belgard, Estrada, Dietrich, Campos and Pruger.*

**FINANCIALS.** CEO reported \$406,000 cash on hand with \$95,000 received from SB5, and \$120,00 in reserve. Director Dietrich asked about Horse Show revenues. The 2020 STOP Report is not yet available. February Financials -Jessica Ayala asked about bank charges. Phillip Carranco asked about alcohol sales from last year. *Director Belgard moved; Director Estrada seconded approval of the contracts. Motion carried 4 - 2. Ayes - Directors Fontana, Belgard, Estrada and Pruger. Noes – Director Dietrich and Campos.*

March Financials were not presented.

**CEO REPORT**

The 40 acres behind the Fairgrounds is being acquired by the County for park space to include soccer fields and sports fields. There would be access from the site to the fairgrounds which could provide additional parking for the fairgrounds and utilities could be provided from the fairgrounds to the site, etc.. This will be a long process and CEO will keep the Board updated.

**President Fontana has been selected Woman of the Year by the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. Also, our Holiday Lights event was selected as Event of the Year!!**

Refunds are being processed for the many events that were cancelled last year. This will amount to about \$40,000. There is a “Shuttered Events” grant program that may help fund some of the losses. Congressman Panetta has authored legislation to help support Fairs across the country.

**Vaccination Clinics** – Santa Cruz County set up the site in the parking area and has had challenges - trying to vaccinate 1,200 – 1,500people/day. Tuesday Wednesday and Thursday. The reservation system is very challenging. CEO is in discussions with PAMF to do one day a week. Recently, the Farm Bureau did 1,200 vaccinations of farm workers in one afternoon with Dominican Hospital.

**SB-5 Project – Electrical Upgrades**– Pre-inspection was completed. Will go to construction next.

**Proposed Santa Cruz County Animal Control Ordinance** – By next month should be updated to a supportable format.

**June 15<sup>th</sup> Reopening Date and 2021 September Annual Fair** – Excited that we may be able to have a “walk-in” Fair. A conversation has been had with Department Heads – official announcement will be forthcoming by the first of June if conditions allow.

Members of the public have been making inappropriate comments to our sponsors – will follow up and please notify CEO with any reports of such comments.

Director Dietrich asked about inspections of livestock barns – CEO said reports have been completed and recommended upgrades are being considered. They are usable in their current condition but upgrades may be recommended. Director Dietrich asked about plans to staff up as it gets busier. CEO is bringing more staff back as it gets busier. Full time person will be in office starting May 1.

**OLD BUSINESS-** none

**NEW BUSINESS –**

**Establish Rental Rate for use of Internal Utility Systems During Declared Emergencies- CEO provided summary of analysis, President Fontana recommended cost for off haul of manure be included.** *Director Dietrich moved, Director Pruger seconded approval of Rental Rate for use of Internal Utility Systems During Declared Emergencies. Motion carried 6 - 0. Ayes - Directors Fontana, Belgard, Estrada, Dietrich, Campos and Pruger.*

**Appoint Buildings & Ground Board Committee-** President Fontana appointed Director Flores and Director Pruger to Buildings & Grounds Committee.

**Update Rates & Fees-** Director Pruger asked about charging volunteers and directors for fair tickets. Director Dietrich does not support charging volunteers and directors admission. He does not support increasing the admission cost for seniors, nor does Director Estrada. CEO explained that there is constant pressure for complimentary tickets by various participants. John Kegebein commented that this has been an ongoing problem, with folks wanting free tickets. It was agreed to approve the fee schedule but keep Senior price the same as before, and Livestock as was charged in 2019. Jessica Ayala said that it would be a shame for volunteers to have to pay. *Director Estrada moved, Director Belgard seconded approval of 2021 Presale and Gate Admissions except Seniors rates stay the same and Livestock stay at 2019 rates, with volunteer consideration to be brought back next month. Motion carried 4 -1. Ayes - Directors Fontana, Belgard, Estrada, and Dietrich. Noes – Director Campos.*

**CORRESPONDENCE-**

**REPORTS**

**Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds Foundation –** Jeannie Kegebein reported on the Heritage Hog program. She also noted that PPE loan was dismissed.

**Agricultural History Project –** John Kegebein said that Will with the Cinnamon Roll concession brings his kids to the Ag History Project for an educational tour and that it is a tremendously enriching experience for his kids. They are very busy at Ag History with projects that have been lagging for a while.

**Junior Fair Board –** barn being cleaned up and improvements under consideration.

**Rodgers House Update-** Director Estrada reported

**Livestock Committee –** President Fontana and Director Estrada ran the last meeting and discussed options should a fair be held. Jody Kolbach asked about the edits to the entry guide. Next meeting is April

28, 2021 and a discussion of the entry guide will be held then. Jessica Ayala asked when a policy committee will be put together.

**NEXT MEETING**

Next Regular Board Meeting is May 25, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. via remote-cast as necessary.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.