

Sonoma County Fair
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Tuesday, July 28, 2020 5:15 p.m.

In accordance with Executive Order N-29-20 the July 28, 2020 Sonoma County Fair Board meeting was held virtually.
All actions were voted on by roll call.

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Becky Bartling, Michael Margetts, Kaitlyn Findley-Thorn, Heather Borck, Cliff Sanders, Debbie Townsend

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order by Vice President Mickelson at 5:19 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA:

Director Lowe moved to approve the agenda; Director O'Kelley seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Ayes: Marcia Mickelson, Teejay Lowe, Wanda Tapia, Tony Geraldi, Marilyn Herzog, Cindy Crane, Ross Liscum, Kanani Reynolds, Annette O'Kelley, Bev Palm, Neysa Hinton, Rob Muelrath, Lisa Wittke Schaffner; Noes: 0; Absent: 2

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – Items 1-5:

Director Muelrath moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Director Herzog seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Ayes: Marcia Mickelson, Teejay Lowe, Wanda Tapia, Tony Geraldi, Marilyn Herzog, Cindy Crane, Ross Liscum, Kanani Reynolds, Annette O'Kelley, Bev Palm, Neysa Hinton, Rob Muelrath, Lisa Wittke Schaffner; Noes: 0; Absent: 2

PRESIDENT COMMENTS:

President Mickelsen reported that nominations for the 2020/2021 committees will take place in September.

CEO'S REPORT:

CEO Bartling reviewed the Interim Event Schedule and the Interim Financials. She stated events continue to be cancelled due to COVID-19, however staff is monitoring the County's health order for events that get added to the list and are allowed.

CEO Bartling gave an update on the COVID-19 trailers placed at the fairgrounds. She reported 4 trailers will be added in D-Lot, bringing the total to 14, and 20 trailers will be put in the Ball Park.

CEO Bartling reported the dates for the upcoming Fair Food Frenzy will be August 7-9 & 14-16, 11am-8pm daily. COO Findley-Thorn added the menu will include corn dogs, funnel cakes, lemonade, cotton candy, corn-on-the-cob, turkey legs and during the second week the Sleek Greek will participating. The Spaghetti Palace and Willie Bird were invited, however unfortunately were unable to participate due to other commitments.

CEO Bartling stated that there is a bill in Congress for a \$5 billion grant to Fairs nationwide, she added that a payment of approximately \$30K from AB1499 is expected in August or September.

Fair Operations – Director Wittke Schaffner

No meeting in July.

Competitive Exhibits, Ag & Educational Exhibits – Director Howe

Director Howe reported there were 3 special committee meetings held in July, and a lot of time and effort has been put into organizing our Junior Livestock Auction. He and CEO Bartling thanked Exhibits Coordinator Borck for all of her time and efforts.

Exhibits Coordinator Borck stated that there were currently 300 animals registered for the auction, consisting of 165 hogs/60 lambs/10 goats/65 steer, however she expects this number may go down due to animals unable to make weight.

Director Howe moved to approve the appointment of Director Howe, Director Mickelson and Director O’Kelley to a special Ad/Hoc Competitive Exhibits Auction/Protest Committee; Director O’Kelley seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Marcia Mickelson, Max Mickelsen, Teejay Lowe, Wanda Tapia, Tony Geraldi, Marilyn Herzog, Cindy Crane, Kevin Howe, Ross Liscum, Kanani Reynolds, Annette O’Kelley, Bev Palm, Neysa Hinton, Rob Muelrath, Lisa Wittke Schaffner; Noes: 0; Absent: 0

Exhibits Coordinator Borck explained the process for the virtual auction and let a discussion regarding the various components.

Director Howe moved to approve holding the 2020 Livestock Auction as an online hybrid auction in a live format without an on-site live component; Director Reynolds seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Marcia Mickelson, Max Mickelsen, Teejay Lowe, Wanda Tapia, Tony Geraldi, Marilyn Herzog, Cindy Crane, Kevin Howe, Ross Liscum, Kanani Reynolds, Annette O’Kelley, Bev Palm, Neysa Hinton, Rob Muelrath, Lisa Wittke Schaffner; Noes: 0; Absent: 0

Director Howe moved to approve that buyers be approved in the online registration process at the discretion of Jeff Maynard from Virtual Stock Show and Heather Borck in the Exhibits office; Director Crane seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Marcia Mickelson, Max Mickelsen, Teejay Lowe, Wanda Tapia, Tony Geraldi, Marilyn Herzog, Cindy Crane, Kevin Howe, Ross Liscum, Kanani Reynolds, Annette O’Kelley, Bev Palm, Neysa Hinton, Rob Muelrath, Lisa Wittke Schaffner; Noes: 0; Absent: 0

Buildings & Grounds – Director Liscum

CEO Bartling reported that the golf course has been active. She added that due to the July 1st minimum wage increase, they have raised their greens fees by \$1. **No action taken.**

CEO Bartling reported that the revenue at the RV Park continues to be good, with approximately 68 contractors and 28-day reservations. **No action taken.**

Racing – Director Lowe

CEO Bartling reported that she and CFO Margetts spent a lot of time working on the agreements for the 2020 Sonoma County Fair Horse Race Meet at Golden Gate Fields, which seemed to go well. She added that she attended the opening and closing days, and said it was interesting to watch without any patrons, and to observe the safety protocols in place due to COVID-19. **No action taken.**

CEO Bartling reported that there are no dates yet for the 2020 Horse Race Meet. **No action taken.**

Budget & Finance – Director Lowe

Director Lowe gave a report of the July 28, 2020 Budget & Finance Committee meeting.

Director Lowe moved to approve the draft financial statement through June 2020 as presented; Director Muelrath seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Ayes: Marcia Mickelson, Max Mickelsen, Teejay Lowe, Wanda Tapia, Tony Gerald, Marilyn Herzog, Cindy Crane, Kevin Howe, Ross Liscum, Kanani Reynolds, Annette O’Kelley, Bev Palm, Neysa Hinton, Rob Muelrath, Lisa Wittke Schaffner; Noes: 0; Absent: 0

REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (non-discussion item)

- Nominating Committee in September

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Director Lowe to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. in memory of Debbie Stirling; Director Tapia seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Ayes: Marcia Mickelson, Max Mickelsen, Teejay Lowe, Wanda Tapia, Tony Gerald, Marilyn Herzog, Cindy Crane, Kevin Howe, Ross Liscum, Kanani Reynolds, Annette O’Kelley, Bev Palm, Neysa Hinton, Rob Muelrath, Lisa Wittke Schaffner; Noes: 0; Absent: 0

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from the June 23, 2020 Full Board Meeting
2. **Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the July 9, 2020 Committee Meeting
3. **Racing Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the July 9, 2020 Committee Meeting
4. **Aq & Exhibits Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the July 1, 2020 Special Committee Meeting
Approval of Minutes from the July 14, 2020 Special Committee Meeting
Approval of Minutes from the July 21, 2020 Special Committee Meeting
5. **Budget & Finance Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the June 23, 2020 Committee Meeting