

Sonoma County Fair
APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Tuesday, June 23, 2020 5:15 p.m.

In accordance with Executive Order N-29-20 the June 23, 2020 Sonoma County Fair Board meeting was held virtually.

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, Lorna Fox, Cliff Sanders, Jane Engdahl, Greg Duncan, Debbie Townsend, Phone numbers: 464 & 293 (not identified), Karlie Bencich, Exhibits II, Suzanne, Tami Landucci, Samantha Pieoff

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: 5:15PM

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Tami Landucci, a solicitor for the JLA was expressing concerns she and others had regarding how the auction was being handled. CEO Bartling reminded the Board that this topic is on the regular agenda and will be discussed later.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Director Lowe moved to approve the agenda; Director Palm 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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – Items 1-4:

Director Liscum moved to approve the Consent Agenda; Director Herzog 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

PRESIDENT COMMENTS:

President Mickelsen sadly reported that a longtime supporter of the Fair, Dot Holtz and Honorary Director Deb Sterling had passed away.

President Mickelsen acknowledged the hard work put in by staff and board members regarding one of the topics under the Buildings & Grounds report.

CEO AND STAFF REPORTS:

CEO Bartling reviewed the Interim Event Schedule and the Interim Financials. She reported that staff was working hard to reschedule events based upon the Health orders.

CEO Bartling announced that the Board of Supervisors approved to financially support four Fairgrounds Senior Maintenance workers through the end of December 2020 for wildfire evacuation efforts.

CEO Bartling stated that the unsolicited proposal that the Fairgrounds received for a major development of the grounds had been pulled. She stated that conversations around the land use should continue. Director Muelrath stated that he believes the company that contacted us is still interested.

CEO Bartling stated that Western Fairs Association is looking for financial support from the Federal government.

Fair Operations – Director Wittke Schaffner

No meeting in June. Director Wittke Schaffner stated that the committee may want to meet to discuss creating a master calendar of events happening in the area.

Competitive Exhibits, Ag & Educational Exhibits – Director Howe

No meeting in June.

Exhibits Coordinator Borck stated that there were currently 95 animals registered for the auction, but expects to have many more as it gets closer to the deadline to submit.

Director Howe led discussions regarding the process for distributing resale funds from the processor after the JLA auction. Director Muelrath made a motion to accept the current process for the 2020 Fair; Director Crane seconded the motion. Discussion ensued and Director Muelrath and Crane rescinded the motion. **No action taken.**

Director Palm made a motion to have a Competitive Exhibits, Ag & Educational Exhibits Committee meeting next week; Director Herzog seconded the motion. Discussion ensued and Director Palm and Herzog rescinded the motion. **No action needed.**

Exhibits Coordinator Borck led a discussion regarding the JLA 6% commission sponsorship opportunity. The topic will go back to committee for discussion.

Buildings & Grounds – Director Liscum

Director Liscum moved to approve a contract with Recology Sonoma Marin in the amount not to exceed \$900,000 over a five-year period to include tipping fees; Director Lowe seconded the motion; the motion passed as follows: Roll call vote: Ayes: Marcia Mickelson, Teejay Lowe, Wanda Tapia, Tony Gerald, Marilyn Herzog, Cindy Crane, Kevin Howe, Ross Liscum, Annette O’Kelley, Kanani Reynolds, Bev Palm, Neysa Hinton, Lisa Wittke Schaffner, Max Mickelsen; Noes: 0; Absent: 0; Director Muelrath recused himself from the vote.

CEO Bartling led a discussion regarding the dates for the 2021 Country Summer contract. She stated that there had been numerous discussions regarding the proposed dates as they would overlap the Sonoma Marin Fair. **Director Liscum moved to accept the contract with Country Summer for June 18, 19 & 20, 2021; Director Lowe 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 Liscum moved to direct the CEO to negotiate an agreement with Impact Entertainment for a new classic rock festival on June 25 & 26, 2021; 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

CEO Bartling stated that she was reviewing with County Council the agreement with the Riding & Driving Club. **No action taken.**

CEO Bartling and COO Findley-Thorn reported that the Health Care Officer had approved drive-through events for the fairgrounds. Discussions are taking place regarding possible concerts and other vehicle-based events. **No action taken.**

Racing – Director Lowe

Director Lowe moved to approve a financial arrangement with the Stronach Group to run the Sonoma County Race Meet at Golden Gate Fields July 29 – August 11, 2020; Director Mickelson 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

CEO Bartling stated that we are looking at the protocols to reopen the Jockey Club. **No action taken.**

Budget & Finance – Director Lowe

Director Lowe gave a report of the June 23, 2020 Budget & Finance Committee meeting.

Director Lowe moved to approve the draft financial statement through May 2020 as presented; Director Mickelson 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

REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (non-discussion item)

- None

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Director Lowe to adjourn the meeting at 6:48; Director Tapia 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

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes from the May 26, 2020 Full Board Meeting
2. **Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the June 11, 2020 Committee Meeting
3. **Racing Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the June 11, 2020 Committee Meeting
4. **Budget & Finance Committee Meeting**
Approval of Minutes from the May 26, 2020 Committee Meeting