

**Sonoma County Fair**  
**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**Tuesday, November 24, 2020 5:15 p.m.**

In accordance with Executive Order N-29-20 the November 24, 2020 Sonoma County Fair Board meeting was held virtually.  
All actions were voted on by roll call.

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

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Becky Bartling, Michael Margetts, Kaitlyn Findley-Thorn, Heather Borck, Debbie Townsend, Cliff Sanders, Greg Duncan, Jane Engdahl, Tiffany Kelley

**CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order by President Mickelson at 5:15 p.m.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA:**

Director Tapia moved to approve the agenda; Director O’Kelley seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – Items 1-6:**

Director Palm moved to approve the Consent Agenda with correction of a few minor typos in the October 27, 2020 Draft Full Board minutes; Director Herzog seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

**PRESIDENT COMMENTS:**

President Mickelson stated that with the uncertainty regarding a 2021 Fair, it is important to stay positive and everyone should be considering ideas to generate revenue.

**CEO’S REPORT:**

CEO Bartling reviewed the October Interim Financials and the November-December Interim event schedule, noting that Rebel Junk Vintage Market cancelled due to COVID-19 health and safety concerns. Bartling reported that AB1499 funding for Fairs distribution of 199K has been modified, and there will not be any funds in 2021. **No actions taken.**

**Executive/Personnel – CEO Bartling**

CEO Bartling gave a report on the November 24, 2020 Committee meeting.

Bartling reported that the CDFA held a webinar on alternate Fairgrounds operating models. Discussions ensued. **No actions taken.**

Bartling stated that the Board bylaws had not been updated in quite a while. A draft of modified bylaws will be sent out for review/comment, and will be taken to the Board of Supervisors in February for approval. **No actions taken.**

Director Liscum moved to approve staff to notify the County Health Department that dog agility trials meet the same criteria as horse shows and should be allowed to be booked; Director Mickelsen seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

### **Fair Operations – Director Wittke Schaffner**

Director Wittke Schaffner gave a report on the November 10, 2020 Committee meeting.

CEO Bartling stated whether or not a Fair can be held is still “wait & see”, she added that the news of a vaccine is hopeful. Discussion ensued. **No actions taken.**

### **Competitive Exhibits, Ag & Educational Exhibits – Director O’Kelley**

Director O’Kelley gave a report on the November 10, 2020 Committee meeting.

Exhibits Coordinator Borck reported that options regarding a 2021 auction format and Fair alternatives are being explored. Discussion ensued. **No actions taken.**

### **Buildings & Grounds – Director Liscum**

Director Liscum gave a report for the November 12, 2020 Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting.

**Director Liscum moved to approve a 1-year extension of the security contract with Professional Event Services; Director Mickelsen seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

**Director Liscum moved to approve; Director O’Kelley seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

**Director Liscum moved to approve staff to notify the County Health Department that dog agility trials meet the same criteria as horse shows and should be allowed to be booked; Director Tapia seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

CEO Bartling reported that for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time, an application for SB5 Project Funding had been submitted and denied. Bartling stated an application would be resubmitted to seek funding swamp coolers in Findley Hall. **No actions taken.**

### **Racing – Director Lowe**

Director Lowe gave a report for the November 12, 2020 Racing Committee meeting.

- Bartling reported that horse racing at Golden Gate Fields has stopped due to COVID-19 issues, and is expected to resume in late December. **No actions taken.**
- Bartling reported that the 2021 Race Meet dates were officially confirmed at the November CHRB meeting, dates are August 4-15, 2021. Bartling also stated that we have been given the option to run our race meet at Golden Gate if operationally and financially this is more appropriate. Bartling added that another topic of discussion was the possibility of getting a 3<sup>rd</sup> week of racing in 2022 from Cal-Expo. **No actions taken.**

### **Budget & Finance – Director Tapia**

Director Tapia gave a report for the November 24, 2020 Budget & Finance Committee meeting.

**Tapia moved to approve the draft financial statement through October 2020 as Director presented; Director Lowe seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

CFO Margetts reviewed the US Bank credit card charges paid through October 2020. **No action taken.**

**Tapia moved to approve submission of form 900 and form 199 tax filings; Director Lowe seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

CFO Margetts reported that a budget without Fair would be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for approval, adding that should Fair be allowed, then a revised budget would be taken back to the Board of Supervisors, along with a request to have allocations reinstated. **No action taken.**

CFO Margetts reviewed the October 2020 Harvest Fair financial statements. **No action taken.**

**Announcement by Director Liscum**

President Mickelson granted the floor to Director Liscum. Director Liscum announced that effective immediately, he would be stepping down as a director from the Sonoma County Fair Board, and also from the Sonoma County Fair Foundation. Liscum reflected all of the changes and memories he experienced over his 18 year term. Fellow directors and Fair staff expressed their appreciation, gratitude and memories of working with Liscum over the years. **No action taken.**

**REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (non-discussion item)**

None

**ADJOURN**

**A motion was made by Director Liscum to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. with a moment of silence in memory of Art Ibleto; Director Lowe seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of Minutes from the October 27, 2020 Full Board Meeting
2. **Fair Ops Committee Meeting**  
Approval of Minutes from the November 10, 2020 Committee Meeting
3. **Ag & Exhibits Committee Meeting**  
Approval of Minutes from the November 10, 2020 Committee Meeting
4. **Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting**  
Approval of Minutes from the November 12, 2020 Committee Meeting
5. **Racing Committee Meeting**  
Approval of Minutes from the November 12, 2020 Committee Meeting
6. **Budget & Finance Committee Meeting**  
Approval of Minutes from the October 27, 2020 Committee Meeting