MEETING OF THE OCFEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS
32nd DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

Held on:    Thursday, August 27, 2015

Reported by:  Janet M. Taylor
CSR No. 9463
Certified Realtime Reporter
Registered Merit Reporter
Meeting of the OCFEC Board of Directors, reported by Janet M. Taylor, a Certified Shorthand Reporter for the State of California, with principal office in the County of Orange, commencing at 9:03 a.m., Thursday, August 27, 2015, in the Administration Building, Orange County Fairgrounds, Costa Mesa, California.

APPEARANCES OF BOARD MEMBERS:

Ashleigh Aitken, Chair
Barbara Bagneris, Member
Nick Berardino, Member
Sandra Cervantes, Member
Douglas La Belle, Member
Bao Nguyen, Member
Stanley Tkaczyk, Member

STAFF SPEAKERS:

Kathy Kramer, CEO
Michele Richards, Chief Business Development Officer
Nick Buffa, Safety & Security Supervisor
Jessica Zimmerman, OCFEC
Jeff Willson, OCFEC

APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL:

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(Speakers Continued . . .)
SPEAKERS (Cont'd):

PUBLIC SPEAKERS:

Richard Skoczylas
Jeanine Robbins
Theresa Sears
Mike Robbins
Thursday, August 27, 2015  
Costa Mesa, California  
9:03 a.m.  
* * *  

CHAIR ASHLEY AITKEN: I'll call the meeting to order. We're going to start with our Pledge of Allegiance. May I ask Director Berardino to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance, please?  

(Pledge of Allegiance conducted.)  

CHAIR ASHLEY AITKEN: Thank you very much.  
Jessica, can you do the roll call, please?  

(Roll call conducted by Jessica Zimmerman.)  

CHAIR ASHLEY AITKEN: I'm going to turn it over to Kathy, Ms. Kramer, for our CEO's Operational Announcements and Updates.  

MS. KATHY KRAMER: All right. Thank you. 

Good morning. Our 125th anniversary celebration was certainly one big party, and we had a few surprises too. Despite Mother Nature bringing rain the opening weekend and extreme heat and humidity the closing weekend, we finished the fair strong.  

Our final 2015 numbers were attendance, 1,301,445, which was down 2.67 percent from 2014 attendance. Our total 2015 gross revenue was
49,193,826, which was down 1.57 from 2004. So all that said, it was truly one big party, so congratulations to the team.

I fully appreciate all the hard work and the planning it takes to create the OC Fair. We have a very talented, passionate team. We should be proud of the caliber of experience and value we provide for our guests. I want to thank the entire team for making my first OC Fair special in so many ways. So thank you.

We will be providing a full Fair by the Numbers overview and fair highlights at the September Board Meeting. As you can see, we've got lots of staff on a well-deserved holiday immediately following fair. Give them a chance to recharge and bring back and share numbers and lots of highlights.

We'll also be scheduling a post fair community meeting within the next month or so to gather feedback from neighbors and stakeholders.

Speaking of some highlights, I'd like to share some highlights around two neighborhood fair time initiatives that we introduced this year. The Neighborhood Ambassador Program and the Neighborhood Sound Research teams.

Our neighborhood ambassadors were very well received by the neighbors and made an impact in keeping
trash picked up and were interacting with neighbors by become the boots on the streets to intercept issues. They even became celebrities when the OC Register ran a story during fair, interviewing them on the job.

The neighborhood sound research teams were placed in the College Park and Mesa Del Mar neighborhoods during the nightly concerts in the Pac Amp. This was the first time that this level of dedicated field sound monitoring and data collection has occurred.

Sound readings were taken in five-minute blocks of time, and any noise occurrences happening during those times were logged, i.e., a plane flying overhead, loud traffic, neighborhood noise. Results of these nightly readings were posted on a special neighborhood website in the form of a graph, depicting sound levels and five-minute incrementing, creating a report for each evening.

I'm happy to report we did not receive any noise complaints as a result of the concerts in the Pac Amp, and the research data that was collected will help us further understand and mitigate sound. At the September Board Meeting Gary Hardesty of Sound Media Fusion will provide a full report.

We have several major projects in the
pipeline right now, and I would like to provide brief
update on these projects. The first one is the
Arlington bioswale project. For the past two months,
staff has been working with consultants to review
documentation and information related to the
relationship of the OCFEC master plan drainage
improvement requirements to the Arlington Drive bioswale
project. The City of Costa Mesa is asking to make a
presentation at the September Board Meeting.

In conjunction with this presentation, staff
is preparing a summary of possible scenarios and costs
relating to this project that will be shared in
September. The possible scenarios include OCFEC
constructs storm drain improvements as identified in the
master plan, second scenario is OCFEC constructs storm
drain improvements as identified in the master plan in
conjunction with the city's bioswale project as
originally planned in the south side of Arlington, and
the third potential scenario is OCFEC constructs storm
drain improvements and road improvements should the city
decide to construct the bioswale project on the north
side of the Arlington Street.

The executive office will continue to work
closely with board leadership regarding review of the
possible scenarios prior to the presentation of the
September Board Meeting.

The other project for an update is the OC parking -- the OCFEC OCC parking structure. Staff met this past Tuesday with leadership from the college, and they have indicated they have recirculated their CEQA document.

In their new document, they have removed the joint use parking structure. Their updated plan calls for the location of the new parking structure on their campus with the proposed location in the Adams Street parking lot. Their on-site parking structure will remain in the master plan. And at this time, there is no funding dedicated to building a structure. They will be holding a public meeting on September 9 to take public comments on their revised CEQA.

The other project, which is in full swing, is our Pac Amp seat replacement. A mandatory job walk for the Pac Amp seat replacement was conducted on August 20. Bids are due September 10th and will be open that day at 2:00 p.m. We are estimating the project will be completed in February of 2016.

Staff will bring back the recommendation at the September Board Meeting for the Board to authorize CFFA to enter into a construction contract on behalf of the association for this project.
Last, but not least, an update on the executive team recruitment. You might notice there's an empty seat at our Board Member table today. Sharon Augenstein, our former CFO, has left the organization effective August 21st to pursue another opportunity. We wish her well in her endeavor and thank her for her contributions to OCFEC.

We'll be placing an interim VP of finance and administration in this role immediately to assist the team as we recruit for the permanent position. We're also conducting the first round of interviews for the VP of operations position the week of September 7th through the 9th. From this round, we will identify a short list to be interviewed by our panel. That concludes my report.

CHAIR ASHEIGH AITKEN: Thank you.

At this time, I have two cards for public comment. So if I miss anybody, please let me know. The first person is Richard Skoczylas. I'm sorry.

MR. RICHARD SKOCZYLAS: Skoczylas.

CHAIR ASHEIGH AITKEN: Skoczylas. Sorry.

MR. RICHARD SKOCZYLAS: Ladies and gentlemen, good morning. My name is Richard Skoczylas, and I'm currently the vice president of the Orange County Wine Society. Basically, I just have a question.
What are the plans, if any, about constructing a new building to house the Orange County Wine Society along with the Centennial Farms?

A little bit of background, two years ago when we moved out of the Memorial Gardens, we moved into temporary quarters, which I understand was only going to be for two years. Well, two years has gone. I haven't heard anything, so I just wanted to bring it up and sort of get an idea are there any plans and what they might be. Thank you.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. Kathy, can you speak to that, or is that something we should circle back with?

MS. KATHY KRAMER: I believe we need to circle back on that. I don't have that knowledge.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. Yeah. We'll look into that. And -- because, honestly, I don't know the answer. So maybe we can put something for our -- Kathy to report on during her CEO report for next month.

MR. RICHARD SKOCZYLAS: Thank you. I appreciate that.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Thank you for bringing that to our attention.

The next, Jeanine Robbins.

MS. JEANINE ROBBINS: Good morning. On the last
Saturday of the fair, after 11:00 p.m., we had a couple come into our stand. And in the course of their transaction, they paid us with four counterfeit $20 bills. This was caught by our employees. And while Mike was discussing it with them, my son ran to find the sheriffs or the security at Green Gate.

And during that time, Mike was unable to delay them anymore. They replaced the money with real money, and then they left the stand heading towards Centennial Farm.

When my son came -- I told Mike, "Follow them." When my son came back, he said, "I can't find anybody." So I said, "Go with your dad," and I called the sheriffs. They had already had a description of the couple because before I could give them the description, they noted that the guy was wearing a white -- very distinctive white jersey.

So, in the meantime, we have three employees following them. The sheriffs and the security intercepted them. One -- the woman got away. They got the man.

Okay. During the course of the evening, then, we had a lot of security at our stand, a lot of sheriffs at our stand taking reports, and Mike had to go to the sheriff's office once the fair closed and file a
statement and do an identification for the guy.

Now, my concern is only that this had been going on, and the vendors weren't notified. So I don't know if there's a way we can implement something similar to what they have at colleges like a text alert that all -- you know, all the vendors' cell phone numbers are on there. You know, these people out here, this description, are passing fake money, because the sheriffs indicated that this was not the first day that that had happened.

So no vendors were aware. These people had bags of merchandise. So you have a lot of vendors who lost not only merchandise, but the money for that merchandise. And I think if we had a way of notifying the vendors, whether it be on a daily newsletter, whether it be where they sign in, somebody gives them something, or, like I said, a generalized text alert, if we had received a text alert earlier when the sheriffs began looking for them, we would have recognized them right away and called. So that was just my suggestion.

Thank you.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Thank you very much. I think that -- maybe also when we do our vendor meetings before the fair, kind of put in a reminder. Because I know it's inexpensive to get the pens that can check,
but when you're doing that many transactions, I think a lot of things probably get missed. So -- but I think that's a good suggestion, and we'll try to look into how we can help you guys stay more aware of what's going on.

MS. JEANINE ROBBINS: That would be great.

Because the guy was wearing such a distinctive jersey that anybody who had seen him would have recognized him, and that is why they were even able to follow him, because he was wearing this jersey and they could see it.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Thank you for bringing that to our attention.

DIRECTOR BAO NGUYEN: Chair, if I may.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Absolutely.

DIRECTOR BAO NGUYEN: I think that's a great idea. And in addition to that, I think we should utilize technology to have better communications with our vendors for security. I think vendors would play a good role in maintaining security for the entire fair, as well, so not just in terms of catching counterfeiters or cooperating with the sheriffs but to be on a general communication lookout just to be a part of the team.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: That's a great idea.

With no other Matters of Public Comment, I'm going to go to our minutes for the Board Meeting from
June 25th under the tab. So does anyone have any changes? And, if not any changes, can I have somebody move --

DIRECTOR SANDRA CERVANTES: I so move.
DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Second.
CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: All in favor?
BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Any opposed?
MS. DEBORAH FLETCHER: There has to be a roll call.

MR. JEFF WILLSON: Yeah. There has to be roll call vote.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Oh, all right.
MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Ashleigh Aitken?
CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Approved.
MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Gerardo Mouet?
Stanley Tkaczyk?
DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: Yes.
MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Barbara Bagneris?
DIRECTOR BARBARA BAGNERIS: Yes.
MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Doug La Belle?
DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: Yes.
MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Sandra Cervantes?
DIRECTOR SANDRA CERVANTES: Yes.
MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Nick Berardino?
DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Bao Nguyen?

DIRECTOR BAO NGUYEN: Aye.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Robert Ruiz?

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: You'll train me. By the time I'm leaving, I'll be properly trained.

The next thing, are we removing anything from the Consent Calendar? Okay. If not --

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: I'd like to remove R-110-15, Southwest Airlines.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay.

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: I would remove the rest of the -- move the rest of the Consent Calendar if that's appropriate. Or do you --

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Yeah, that's fine. You want to move the rest of it, and we can circle back to that?

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: Or I can make it real quick. This is what I always do. Southwest Airlines, I own a hundred shares of stock out of 649 million shares outstanding, so that rental agreement would not have any significant impact on me.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay.

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: You never know.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: With that -- with that
notation, then, may I have somebody --

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: Move the Consent Calendar.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: -- move the Consent Calendar?

DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: Second.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. All in favor?

BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. JEFF WILLSON: Roll call.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Ashleigh Aitken?

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Gerardo Mouet?

Stanley Tkaczyk?

DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Barbara Bagneris?

DIRECTOR BARBARA BAGNERIS: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Douglas La Belle?

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Sandra Cervantes?

DIRECTOR SANDRA CERVANTES: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Nick Berardino?

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Bao Nguyen?

DIRECTOR BAO NGUYEN: Aye.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Robert Ruiz.
CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. Consent Calendar is moved. With that, we're going to go into our committee and task force reports. Vice Chair Mouet is not here to give us an update. Do we have an update on anything with the Centennial Farm?

MS. MICHELE RICHARDS: I can give a little bit of an update.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: That would be great. Thank you.

MS. MICHELE RICHARDS: The Centennial Farm Foundation held their annual poker tournament fundraiser during the fair on Tuesday, August 4th. They saw an increase in the number of participants, so every year that's growing. They raised about $4,500 from the event. And they did not meet in July due to the fair, but they'll have their first meeting this afternoon post fair.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Wonderful.

Next I will turn it over to Directors Berardino and La Belle for a report on our Veterans Foundation Board. Do we have anything on that?

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: I do. I can do it and Doug can -- everything is going relatively well. I guess relatively is a bad term. It is going unbelievably fantastic.
We're getting -- the community sponsor list is not -- I mean it's beyond what I ever imagined, and it's being widely, widely embraced.

And so in terms of updates regarding that, we've raised now probably close to a hundred thousand dollars. We haven't even started our solicitation program because we have to wait for our 501(c)(3). So once we get that, I'm sure we're going to be really cruising.

In addition to that, I want to say yes -- the day before yesterday, the law firm of Manatt Phelps sent us an engagement letter, and they -- the firm has adopted the Heroes Hall Foundation as part of their pro bono efforts. So we signed -- yeah. It's a big, big deal. I mean what a great, great law firm. And for us to be chosen as one of their pro bono clients, we are just really excited. So things are just moving really, really well.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay.

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: I'll just add, if I could, to Nick's comments that we have our next Foundation Board Meeting Wednesday of next week here at 3:00 o'clock.

And Nick has been elected as president of the Foundation, and we have a very lengthy agenda that we'll
be going through. And, as Nick mentioned, one of the
items we'll be looking at are different fundraising
options or opportunities. I think we have a very
engaged board, a lot of good ideas. So I'm looking
forward to moving it one step forward.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Great. It sounds like
most of the loose ends are starting to get tied up, so I
look forward to the report next month and see how the
progress is made.

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Yeah.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Do we have an estimate on
when the 501(c)(3) is going to be put through?

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: I don't know. I have a
letter here from the IRS. I haven't opened it. It
could be --

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Don't open up letters
from the IRS.

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Well, that's the thing.
I mean when do you open letters from the IRS? And I
don't even know what this is. It says -- yeah, maybe
this is it.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Breaking news.

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: So --

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Well, thank you very
much. I also wanted to note that tonight the Orange
County Fair & Events Center is receiving an award from the Black Chamber of Commerce for our work with veterans and for our decision to have the Heroes Hall. So we're getting a lot of recognition as an organization for your guys' good work and deeds. So thank you very much for making us all look good.

DIRECTOR BARBARA BAGNERIS: Madam Chair?

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Yes.

DIRECTOR BARBARA BAGNERIS: There are some issues that we still need to discuss about the Foundation. I would like to agendize them for the next Board Meeting.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Yes. Hopefully, with the pro bono with Manatt, I think a lot of these things are going to take care of themselves. But, definitely, I already let our CEO know to agendize them for the next meeting.

DIRECTOR BARBARA BAGNERIS: Thank you.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Next we have our Workers Memorial Task Force, which is me and also Director Berardino. I know that we have our event for Labor Day coming up on September 7th. It will be a soft opening. It won't be completed. But it's going to be -- you're definitely going to be able to do -- invite people to see what it's going to look like, give them a flavor.

And, Michele, would you like to add some
information?

MS. MICHELE RICHARDS: I think you've said it all. It's on Labor Day from 10:00 a.m. to noon here at the OC Fair and Event Center at the site. So we're very excited to have that dedication. And as you said, it -- the project is not completed yet, but, then, is our work ever really completed; right? So we're looking forward to that event.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Now, I notice -- is it something that's open to the public?

MS. MICHELE RICHARDS: It is.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: And is there a way for the public to RSVP so that we know how many people are coming or --

MS. MICHELE RICHARDS: I don't think we'll really need RSVPs. We'll be prepared to welcome as large a crowd as possible.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. Wonderful. So I look forward to everyone, our friends out in the community, to help us publicize and get a great hopefully annual event here to honor the workers in honor of Labor Day.

Next we have our city liaison -- our Fair City Liaison Committee, which is Directors Nguyen and La Belle.
DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: I don't know that we have anything to report other than we had a very successful event with the number of cities attending the business development, as well as the city days at the fair. So maybe Michele can answer that.

MS. MICHELE RICHARDS: Yes. In fact, the hosting of that event rose every year. So the turnout was very good. And as you know, during the weekdays at the fair, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, we always designate a number of cities, and we host them for that day.

We do morning flag raising. Actually, not morning. It's 12:30, right after the fair opens. And I'm happy to report that during the course of the fair, we had 104 representatives from Orange County cities. We also had significant interest from county representatives and state officials to attend, as well. So we were very happy to welcome them.

One hundred four attended those flag-raising ceremonies over the course of the fair. They represented 28 of the 34 OC cities. So that has grown tremendously since we started this three years ago. So we'll set a goal of next year to get all 34 involved.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: I know the idea started a couple years ago. It's become such a nice tradition. I was going to ask our Fair City Liaison Committee, I
noticed that, like, we've been talking just -- I'm from Anaheim, and in talking with the people in Anaheim, I know that they do -- they partner with -- (indiscernible) -- and a lot of the information is at City Hall.

But I wanted to see if we could explore working with our city partners to get things more into the libraries because I feel like we don't have them for the kids in school.

Like Anaheim Public Library has a really active summer reading program, and you can get little rewards and little certificates by completing your reading. And I think maybe if we can do a discounted fair ticket as a reward for when these kids get their reading tasks done or else at least publicize when the city day is through the public libraries, we can reach out to a little bit more families because I don't know how many families on a day to day go down to City Hall where a lot of the information and the discount tickets are being handed out.

MS. MICHELE RICHARDS: I think a lot of the cities do distribute the discount coupons through their libraries, but not all. It's inconsistent from city to city. So I think that would be a good push for next year to get those coupons connected with the reading
programs.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Next, we have our Legislative Monitoring Task Force, also Director Nguyen and Cervantes. Do we have anything to report?

DIRECTOR BAO NGUYEN: We don't.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Thank you.

Next, I'm going to turn it over to our CEO, Ms. Kramer. We have the Board position regarding SB 716.

MS. KATHY KRAMER: Thank you, Ashleigh.

There was discussion at the June Board Meeting around the status of Senate Bill 716 and that the OCFEC had taken a position on banning elephants from the fairground.

A little bit of background on this bill:

This bill -- the current status of the Senate Bill 716: This bill will ban the use of elephant guide, also known as a bullhook, in the state of California beginning in 2018. It would not only apply to circuses, but zoos and all other elephant exhibitions and facilities in California.

After passing through the Senate, the bill passed through the Assembly Public Safety Committee and the Assembly Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media Committee. This bill has been rereferred
to the Committee on Appropriations on July 14th.

As far as Board actions, the only Board action taken around this issue was in March of 2012. The Board voted to terminate elephant rides at the Orange County Fair. This action terminated the contract only with Have Trunk Will Travel. At that time, the Board did not adopt a broader policy around this issue.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. I think we put this on the agenda because we -- it was brought up for discussion about whether we want to take a position on this bill. Does anyone have any opinions or feelings on if this is something as a Board that we want to get involved in?

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: I think -- I mean we took a -- I think when we banned the elephant rides here, while not taking a policy, I mean it was very clear that the Board had great understanding in taking these beautiful beasts that are the size of motor homes, getting them to sit on two legs on a stool is a bit unnatural, and not only unnatural, but abusive. And you saw -- heard testimony and saw videos that this is a very abusive, very abusive act. And these -- what they're trying to ban, as I understand from the legislation, are these hooks that were circulated among the Board, and we got to all hold one
and got to decide for ourselves if we'd like somebody sticking a spike in us, twisting it, getting a hook, and getting us to do something. And that's what it takes to move and train these beautiful beasts, you know, to sit on two legs on a little stool.

So I think that we ought to be supportive of the ban on -- the ban of the hooks. And once they ban the hooks, I mean that -- I mean, clearly, why they went for the hook ban is because once you stop sticking these people with these spikes and twisting them and pulling them with the hook, that pretty much will stop being able to train.

So -- so I'd like us to stand with -- I mean I think we would appear to be -- because, in fact, we would be hypocritical saying we don't want those elephant rides here because we don't want, you know, living beasts being treated that way.

So I think -- and I'm just not sure, as agendized, if we could make a motion to support. I don't know, Deborah. Are we even in a position to do that?

MS. DEBORAH FLETCHER: Yes. Yes.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: I guess my question would be what would be the best form. Would it be something that we could do -- have our team draft kind of a letter
of support and explanation, including our history and
the votes that we've taken prior, and that's something
that we include or send to the drafter of the bill?
Would that be the best thing or course of action?

  MS. DEBORAH FLETCHER: I honestly don't know what
the best course of action would be. My -- my thought
would be to contact the author of the bill and ask the
bill's author what they would like to see, if anything.

  But, you know, other than that, all I can say
is there is no -- certainly no legal impediment
whatsoever to this Board taking some action to support
the bill if it desires to do so.

  DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: So I would be prepared
to make the motion to -- to support the ban and to
follow with a letter of our support to the author.

  DIRECTOR BARBARA BAGNERIS: Second.

  DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: Discussion? I just want
to make one other comment. If the Board's unaware and
the public isn't aware, I know that Ringling Brothers
made an announcement that they are going to be stopping
the use of elephants in their shows.

  So this is certainly something that is taking
root in California and -- the ban. I always think of
elephants in the circus. Well, the circus is taking the
initiative not to have elephants anymore. So I'm not
sure when that date is, but I know it's soon.

DIRECTOR BARBARA BAGNERIS: Madam Chair, I'd just
like to commend the 2012 Board for taking this up so
early on. And, you know, the guide isn't going to
affect us if we won't be having any elephants here, so
I'm glad that we are going to support this effort.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Wonderful.

Okay. We're going to do roll call.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Ashleigh Aitken?

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Aye.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Stan Tkaczyk?

DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Barbara Bagneris?

DIRECTOR BARBARA BAGNERIS: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Doug La Belle?

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: Aye.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Sandra Cervantes?

DIRECTOR SANDRA CERVANTES: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Nick Berardino?

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Bao Nguyen?

DIRECTOR BAO NGUYEN: Aye.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. Thank you.

Our next item on the agenda is the discussion
of hiring a legislative monitoring firm.
MS. KATHY KRAMER: Okay. I'll take that one.

This item was asked to be agendized for discussion in the August meeting at the request of Director Berardino. This will provide a resource to the OCFEC Board of Directors and CEO to monitor any legislation that would be relevant to the operations of the fairground.

DIRECTOR BARBARA BAGNERIS: The question I would have is what is the cost of hiring the monitoring firm?

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: You have to RFP it, put out to bid.

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: I have a question, if I could, Madam Chair.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. One moment. I have, I think, Director Berardino and then Director La Belle.

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: Sure.

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Yeah. I just think that -- a couple of thoughts why I wanted to see it agendized.

Number one, we, obviously -- this -- this Board, as any -- you know, all boards like to pat themselves on the back and, "Hey, look at all this good stuff we're doing, and look how it's been noticed." But it is -- what we're doing is really being noticed.
And as I had the CEO pass on to you, I had a -- I was talking to the Governor about legislation, actually, another bill that I was working, and talking to him on his phone. And, you know, we were talking back and forth.

And I was telling him why he needs to sign this bill when it gets to his desk, and he was telling me "Oh, Nick. I don't know. I mean I'm 50/50 on it." And he was looking for a way to change the subject, I thought.

But when he changed the subject, was "Hey, I want to tell you just what a great job all of you down there are doing." And it was unsolicited, completely unsolicited. And he was talking about, you know, Heroes Hall. You know, he just -- he loves that idea, of course. And he was talking about that. Then he talked about the Workers Memorial and how we've taken the lead on that and how much we're growing.

And then we talked more about the educational and how we're trying to -- because we're right across from the college and the use of public space, which is, you know, a big national issue, huge national issue. And he just was so complimentary of this Board.

And along with that, though, was the fact that we are really growing, and we're growing in a
direction that is not just growing just the fair, but we're growing in terms of our view and utilization of public space, exactly what I know all of us are charged with. And I don't know what kind of discussions -- appointment discussions you had, but the idea of public space is, as we know, very important.

And so we have Heroes Hall. We have now the Pacific Amphitheater, which, you know, we now know how -- we had an event there last night. This is going to be a very, very popular venue when the word gets out. No question about it.

We have the Workers Memorial. We have the idea of building these things. So we are really growing to a point the legislation that is passed or that's introduced, while maybe not just totally fair significant, because of our growth and education in other places could impact us as the Orange County Fairgrounds. We're taking a very different approach than most fairs. You know, we're not going to put in, you know, more Ferris wheels or that kind of thing off season. We're looking at ways to use the property.

So I think that is critical that we have someone that looks out for our interests. We have city representatives here that can tell you every city is represented by -- every city except the Orange County
cities, who decided they would pull out of the League of
Cities and --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: We're back in.

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Oh, you --

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE SPEAKER: We're back in.

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Costa Mesa's back in?

Wow. You're the first one back in. So the League of
Cities is huge, as we all know. And we can talk to Bao.

DIRECTOR BAO NGUYEN: We've been in.

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: So a big fight among
the cities and mayors about whether or not they should
be in the league. Every other city of California is --
(indiscernible) -- Orange County has their own special
reasons.

So -- but the League of Cities has lots of
lobbyists. You know, they have a lobbying team. But
every city -- most cities, they'll have their own person
too in addition to the league. And why do they have
their own person when they have this great League of
Cities, this powerful League of Cities, which is
powerful, why do they have their own lobbyists? Because
you have to have somebody watching out for your
interests because the organizations you belong to that
may have lobbyists, sometimes you have special
interests.
And so every city, every county, every -- I don't know if all the special districts of the county through the county have CSAC. (Indiscernible) -- big lobbyists -- (indiscernible). They have -- every county has their own lobbyists. And unions, you know, we have a huge lobbying group in Sacramento, but each one of us have our own lobbyists because you need it.

So we've really grown to that point, and that's why I think it's, you know, very important -- I mean we have this one piece of legislation. I think that the Western Fairs Association is opposing this bill. You know, they -- we belong to Western Fairs. We pay them dues. And that's why people have their own lobbyists because your leadership -- like we, leadership, always question "Hey, we're paying people dues to keep them alive in order for them to lobby against our interests."

Well, that's why people pull out of these coalitions. And I'm not suggesting that because I think the smarter way and the most rational way is you have your own person. So you say "Hey, look, that's not our interest. We're going to pursue it."

So I think we've reached that point. In terms of what the cost will be, you know, it's -- this is not one where you necessarily look for the cheapest.
You know, you look for people that have the biggest footprint because you want to ride off of their other clients; right?

And, you know, Ashleigh, you know this and your father, and you guys are great with this. So I'm not trying to -- (indiscernible) -- the story. But the bigger the footprint that they have in terms of clients, that's why lobbyists are rated by billings. That's how they rate. Why? Because nobody's giving them money if they're not very effective, as we all -- we all know.

So I would suggest that we do whatever process goes. And the ranges are probably, you know, just somebody monitoring -- you can get people to monitor your bills, then you pay them if they got to go. You know, and say, hey, you know, charge them X amount of years. Go, hey, I want you to push this bill, and, you know, we'll pay you in addition to do it, or you can take the whole package. Those are kind of the options that are available.

And so I think we ought to ask that the CEO and staff begin the process of procuring legislative applicants on behalf of this Board.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. And then Director La Belle, you had a comment and then Director Bagneris.

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: Yes. Just to
elaborate on what Nick has said, I think he's absolutely right. In my past life as a city manager, all of the cities that I was in had a lobbyist in Sacramento. The firm that we used in my last two cities represented over 50 cities and a number of private clients, as well.

They were on a retainer. And it wasn't only legislation that we were concerned with. Things would come up relating to the prison in Chino that would have impacts on Chino Hills. We had issues with the Public Utilities Commission. The retainer was great. I might go a month without talking to anybody, and then I'd talk to the firm five times a day for a week.

They were very responsive. Their offices are right across from the Capitol. Most of the lobbying firms are right in that general area there. They help you get to people who can give you the answers to the questions you have. They arrange meetings, and they coordinate everything.

And one point that Nick made I think was very good. All his points are very good, but one point was specifically good. We were also members of the League of California Cities. But there are, you know, literally hundreds of cities in California. Our interests were not necessarily the same as Los Angeles or Sacramento or San Diego, but they were similar to
other cities.

So we would have -- from time to time, we would take positions that were contrary to what the League of Cities was doing because it was not in our best interest, and we would use our lobbying firm to do that.

So I'm prepared to make a motion. Or if Nick wants to make the motion --

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: You can.

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: -- to proceed ahead with at least looking into the options of retaining a lobbyist, I would be in support of that.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. Well, I think we made a motion. I know we have a matter of public comment. So why don't we -- and Director Bagneris had a comment, and then we'll have our public comment.

DIRECTOR BARBARA BAGNERIS: Yeah. I just want to make sure the Financial Monitoring Committee gets involved in this decision-making because there would be a cost involved, and we want to make sure that we --

(indiscernible).

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Right. Theresa Sears had a Matter of Public Comment on this issue.

MS. THERESA SEARS: Good morning, Board. And I want to commend Nick for bringing this forward. And
everything he is saying, Doug is saying is really right on target. Having spent three years in Sacramento working on trying to save the fairgrounds, I know it well, know every -- every -- all six floors, every office, what happens, how it goes.

I would suggest a letter to the -- on the elephant bill, you send it to the Governor, as well, not just to the author. So -- you know, people don't talk up there. And I think Bao is actually correct. I mean we're not using the needed technology, et cetera.

So Orange County is actually defining, redefining what the town square is, this whole thing about public space. We are the leaders. Western Fairs is not leading. They are -- they are holding everyone back, and they're putting a lid on everything. And what's happened is they've even worked against every effort we've tried to do. They're doing the contrary.

So I -- I mean I'm a big believer in just paying the minimum dues, and -- and I would not spend a lot of time relying on them. They are not lobbying on behalf of Orange County, our fairgrounds, and what's happening as we move forward.

We're going to have a new Governor. Depending on that Governor, I can tell you this. There's some candidates that are very innovative, and
they're looking to the future as to what we do, and
that's what we're trying to do here at this fairgrounds.

And -- and the leadership this Board has
provided has been so important. It's been very
proactive, very visionary, and I -- and I do commend all
of you for taking that leadership role. Whether you
knew you were actually doing those things, the result is
you are -- we are becoming that model.

So I would suggest that in the RFP, when
you're dealing with a lobby firm, you don't just let
them take charge and give them free rein. I would
suggest there be a component in there to work with
citizen activists because people like me can save this
Board a lot of time because I know how to go do all
those things.

And, granted, other people get paid for some
of the work that I do as a volunteer. I mean it's
really -- you know, if you don't have to go through 13
offices in Orange County -- I don't even know what the
number is anymore in our legislative -- you know, our
legislators, but if you don't have to go to every office
and you're not paying a lobbyist and you have citizen
activists that are actually carrying that ball and going
to Sacramento, we know how to do it. I've worked on all
types of different bills over the years and all kinds of
efforts.

So I would definitely make sure in the RFP there's a component to work with citizen activists. And that's getting -- that's connecting people back to their government, and that's what we've sort of demonstrated here over these last six years and that transparency and then technology.

We are like missing the whole boat on the technology issue. And I think elected officials and politicians, they can't get there. It's going to take people like us that help -- help drive that and that whole town square thing.

So, as usual, I'm available, happy to help solving problems, and I -- I totally support this effort. And I appreciate all the smart people and the leaders that are working in government. I mean Doug knows what it takes. Bao is doing his thing, which is really, really great. And we have just a lot of talent on this Board. So carry on.

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Thank you.

CHAIR ASHEIGH AITKEN: Thank you, Theresa.

DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: Ashleigh?

CHAIR ASHEIGH AITKEN: Yes.

DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: I have a discussion.

Theresa, thank you. I really appreciate the
comments you had. You know, when I became a Board Member, I was really surprised that we didn't have an advocate in Sacramento. In fact, I was shocked. And I really appreciated all the people like yourself and the members here and the public that would report back to us, and it is time for us to get involved.

The one thing I would say with Theresa that I don't disagree with you too many times, but I'll throw a point out. Western Fairs -- I grew up in associations, and I was the president of associations. And I think what's so important is that we have -- that we have a seat on that association. Because if we're not -- we can change them more than they can change us.

And if we sit at that table, the other people that are in the industry will hear our views. And if we are the leader, they will come around because our views will be right views.

So I would really hope that we continue to be involved and at least that's my point of view with associations is be there, have your voice heard. If you're not, then they can run and do whatever they want without opposition internally. That's my thoughts.

CHAIR ASHEIGH AITKEN: And I think this is -- I'm glad that we're moving forward with this. I think this is a great idea. I think, moving forward, I would
like to have our CEO work with our Legislative
Monitoring Task Force because I know our mayor worked
with a lot of lobbyists and will have some good insight.
So I think the drafting of the RFP is going to be really
important about how -- what exactly we're looking for.
And then when we get to judging the bids that
come in, I think it would be important to make sure that
we have -- having gone through the RFP process several
times, we have all the -- everything that we want we
have laid out so that we get the greater -- the greatest
field of candidates.
So if we could work with our Legislative
Monitoring Task Force, and then, obviously, I would
really like Director Berardino's input on this because
he knows a lot more about working with lobbyists and
what we should -- than I do.
So I don't believe we have a motion yet on
the table officially.
DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: I move that -- I would
move that I shouldn't have drunk so much last night,
but -- my brain doesn't work under normal circumstances
given this -- but I would move that we direct the CEO to
begin the RFP process for securing legislative advocacy.
DIRECTOR SANDRA CERVANTES: I second.
CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. We can take a
vote.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Ashleigh Aitken?
CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Aye.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Stanley Tkaczyk?
DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Barbara Bagneris?
DIRECTOR BARBARA BAGNERIS: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Douglas La Belle?
DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Sandra Cervantes?
DIRECTOR SANDRA CERVANTES: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Nick Berardino?
DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Bao Nguyen?
DIRECTOR BAO NGUYEN: Aye.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. Thank you.

Our next issue is the appointees to the Heroes Hall Veterans Foundation Board of Directors.

MS. KATHY KRAMER: I will start by giving a little bit of background.

When I joined the organization --

MS. MICHELE RICHARDS: Excuse me. We skipped a -- we should be on --

MS. KATHY KRAMER: Oh, I'm sorry.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Oh, I'm so sorry. I
crossed it off and went right over. Thank you.

I'm just going to circle back to that.

Our next item on the agenda is the Approval
of the Architectural Designs Service for Heroes Hall
Project.

MS. KATHY KRAMER: That one I have a little
background on. Thank you. Rolling through the agenda.

When I joined the organization, the Board had
just allocated $1 million in funding for the Heroes Hall
project. It's important for us to remember at that
time, it was not defined the scope of work or any way to
anticipate the cost of the project.

Over the past several months, ATI has worked
with staff and members of the Veterans Advisory
Committee to develop the concept drawings. Pending your
approval of the request before you today, ATI will begin
design development and design review.

Staff will be working closely with the
Veterans Advisory Committee and the architect over the
next several weeks to be prepared to present at the
September meeting what the architect believes will be
the cost of the project and the final designs.

This project is -- has an aggressive time
line to ensure that we are finished in November of 2016.
Specific to the requests, I would ask Michele to provide
some more detail.

Michele?

MS. MICHELE RICHARDS: Jessica, if you could advance the slides.

I would remind the Board about the renderings that were presented prior to the fair that ATI created with significant input from the Heroes Hall committee of this Board and the advisory group, and these are just a few of the renderings of the restored building. These were created by ATI.

And the -- the recommendation that is before the Board today is to continue to use ATI to further the plans to create detailed architectural plans and construction plans in order to finalize the bid package that would then go out on the street for bidding.

And as Kathy said, we would come back in September with a more detailed time line, but the goal is to dedicate the building for -- and have the public opening on Veterans Day of 2016.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Director Tkaczyk?

DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: Is this the same firm that did The Hangar?

MS. MICHELE RICHARDS: It is the same firm that did The Hangar, yes.

DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: Okay. And we had a good
relationship, and everything worked?

      MS. MICHELE RICHARDS: Yes, we did.

      DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: So it's not the same firm that did the --

      MS. MICHELE RICHARDS: It is not.

      DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: Okay. Thank you.

      DIRECTOR BARBARA BAGNERIS: I'd like to move that we approve the architectural design services for Heroes Hall for ATI.

      DIRECTOR SANDRA CERVANTES: Second.

      CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay.

      DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: I have a comment, if I could.

      CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Absolutely.

      DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: I'm, obviously, in support of this firm. One of the issues that I would like us to consider, perhaps, at the next Board Meeting, I'm just going to raise it under comments, I think it's time that we take a look at construction management firms to assist us.

      We've been using a state agency, and we've had some lengthy discussions earlier on with the Board. And I'd like to see us look at the possibility of bringing in private firms to do that.

      We constructed our library, City Hall, and
police facility, fire facility in Chino Hills. In addition to the architect, we had a construction management firm that basically managed the contract from kind of beginning to end.

Some of my best friends are architects, but architects will spend all the money that you put on the table and then some. So I think you need to have a secondary firm looking at those costs and keeping it within the budget.

We previously appropriated a million dollars for the work. This will cut significantly into that, which we need to do, obviously, to get it built. So I would like to, as a part of our discussion in September, look at options for other construction management firms to assist the Board.

CHAIR ASHELI GH AITKEN: We have a motion. We have second. Okay. Roll call vote?

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Ashleigh Aitken?
CHAIR ASHELI GH AITKEN: Aye.
MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Stanley Tkaczyk?
DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: Yes.
MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Barbara Bagneris?
DIRECTOR BARBARA BAGNERIS: Yes.
MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Douglas La Belle?
DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: Yes.
MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Sandra Cervantes?

DIRECTOR SANDRA CERVANTES: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Nick Berardino?

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Bao Nguyen?

DIRECTOR BAO NGUYEN: Aye.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. Thank you.

So I apologize if I'm going out of order.

Now we are going to circle back to our appointees to the Heroes Hall Veterans Foundation Board of Directors.

Who wants to -- I guess Director La Belle or --

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Yeah. I -- Director La Belle and I are -- with great honor, we are -- we all know who -- how much can we say about Bobby McDonald? I mean he is a tireless, just tireless volunteer for veterans issues, and he has helped us beginning when we started our first Veterans Day.

And Bobby, as you can see, has been, you know, a great, great leader. He's done a fantastic job in terms of he is the chairman of the Orange County Advisory Board, Veterans Advisory Board, he's chairman of Buffalo Soldiers Advisory Board, president of the Black Chamber of Commerce. He's a Vietnam veteran.

He, you know, leads numerous national
organizations, and he has brought such vision and vigor and just eminently, eminently qualified for the position.

What Bobby will do and one of the things that, you know, is so important, diversity in the veteran community is a long time coming. Our military forces were segregated throughout the Second World War and even through Korea. And, you know, our Vietnam War was the first time we really had a fully integrated fighting force.

And one of the things that veterans are struggling with and veterans organizations are struggling with is that diversity because that has not been something that was embraced for a long time.

So, you know, Bobby's been at the head of the diversity program on the national level for veterans, and that's a very, very important component for this museum and this hall is that we are all committed and certainly the foundation is committed to begin riding that terrible part of -- that's a bad -- I hate to say it, but it's not -- well, let's just say it.

It's a terrible part of our history how we dealt with African-American soldiers who fought bravely in every one of these wars from -- (indiscernible) -- and you know the story.
So Bobby is eminently qualified, extraordinarily interested, and committed. And so it's my honor to put Bobby's name before you. And if the Board approves Bobby to come on to the Foundation, tonight I know the Black Chamber of Commerce is honoring this Board and giving this Board an award.

Perhaps, if the motion passes, then we would be quiet about it, you know, because, you know, Bobby's the kind of guy that -- (indiscernible) -- it actually gets passed. But tonight at the -- at the Black Chamber, on behalf of this Board, make the announcement to the Board. So I nominate Bobby McDonald.

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: I'll second the motion.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Any discussion?

Okay. Roll call vote.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Ashleigh Aitken?

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Aye.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Stan Tkaczyk?

DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Barbara Bagneris?

DIRECTOR BARBARA BAGNERIS: Abstain.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Douglas La Belle?

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Sandra Cervantes?
DIRECTOR SANDRA CERVANTES: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Nick Berardino?

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: And Bao Nguyen?

DIRECTOR BAO NGUYEN: Aye.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. It passes. And I'd be happy to make that announcement tonight.

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Thank you.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: That's a great idea.

That's wonderful.

Our next item is the approval of issuance of a fair lifetime credential to Robert Grable.

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Move it.

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: Second.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay.

All right. Vote.

MR. JEFF WILLSON: Who was second?

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: I did.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Ashleigh Aitken?

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Aye.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Stan Tkaczyk?

DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Barbara Bagneris?

DIRECTOR BARBARA BAGNERIS: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Douglas La Belle?
DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: Yes.
MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Sandra Cervantes?
DIRECTOR SANDRA CERVANTES: Yes.
MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Nick Berardino?
DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Yes.
MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Bao Nguyen?
DIRECTOR BAO NGUYEN: Aye.
CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. Next is the appointment of members to our Nominating Task Force to decide who's going to be the next Vice Chair and Chair. I have asked -- I'm asking the Board to approve putting former Chairs Stan Tkaczyk and Doug La Belle on the nominating Task Force if they would accept and if the Board would approve.
DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Move it.
DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: Second.
CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: You didn't get a chance to say no.
Okay. Do a roll call vote. Or do we have to vote on that?
MR. JEFF WILLSON: No. You can appoint people to committees.
CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. Never mind.
DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Still move it.
CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Before they -- before
they have a chance to run out.

Next we have an informational item. We have an operational report from our CEO and from Michele -- oh, sorry -- from Michele on our Designated Smoking Policy.

MS. MICHELE RICHARDS: Yes. So the Board will remember that in January, it voted to adopt a new smoking policy, which would limit smoking during the annual OC Fair to designated smoking areas only and directed staff, then, to find space for those designated smoking areas.

And, Jessica, if you will advance the slide, I'll remind everyone where those locations were.

I know this is a difficult map to -- to see. But location 1 was up here inside of Green Gate. Location 2 was here on the new plaza next to Paradise Cigars. Location 3 was on the lawn at Baja Blues.

Location 4 was the third base side of the concourse at Pacific Amphitheater. Location 5 was at the first base side of the Pacific Amphitheater. Location 6 was down here next to Hussong's. And then, finally, location 7 here inside of Yellow Gate at the fair.

And, Jessica, if you'll go one more slide.

This was the configuration that was presented
and approved, which included the hedge walls, bench seating, ashtrays, and, you know, each one was configured just a little bit differently, depending on the size and the location.

But I would ask Nick Buffa, our Safety and Security Supervisor, to come up and brief the Board on how things went during the fair.

MR. NICK BUFFA: Good morning, everybody. Just a quick update. The main information I want to provide you guys today is purely the feedback we got from our customers, vendors, everyone on site.

I was out there myself with my staff, contacting many of the smokers and informing them of the new designated smoking area policy, and what we found, just a few bullet points here, is that most were courteous when informed of the new policy and the designated area. Most of them seemed to accept the information well, no belligerence or hostility towards staff when they were contacted about this.

Unfortunately, when contacted about this, we discovered a new problem. When people were told that there was a designated smoking area down at the other end of the property or this way or that way, you can't smoke out here, for two reasons, either in somewhat of a protest, people dropped cigarettes on the ground and
stomped them out right there, or out of courtesy they thought "Oh, my gosh. I'm violating a policy. I'm going to put my cigarette out. But either way, it generated a lot of trash on the ground, so kind of an indirect result of the new policy.

We received additional comments regarding no designated smoking locations in the middle of the property in proximity to the center of the property. If you were in the carnival, the Main Mall, basically, everyone had to point out where -- to the outer edges of the property and, again, received comments regarding the distance to designated smoking areas because there was no smoking area in the middle of the property.

The designated area on the pond lawn or the grass area next to Baja Blues was a challenge, and the reason being is that the amount of people that would accumulate there to eat, especially children. What we found at the smoking areas, that we found a lot of people standing out in the Gate 5 roadway smoking.

Myself, I went to make contact with a handful of them, told them about the smoking area. It's right over there on the grass. I look back fives minutes later, and they're still smoking in that area.

So we went to contact them again and reeducate them on the new policy and the smoking area,
and they had very good points. This young girl looks at me and says "I'm sorry. I understand you said you wanted me to smoke over there. However, there's a whole bunch of kids sitting over there eating at that table."

So I looked over, and I said "You're right. I'm not going to argue with you. So you can stand out here in this kind of no man's land on the Gate 5 roadway. Those were some of the exceptions we made when we saw those situations, kind of an on-the-fly decision as opposed to having a big congregation of people smoking adjacent to people eating their food and a lot of children in the area. We did make some exceptions.

There were guests observed, again, smoking on Gate 5 roadway, were often permitted to do so based on who was present at the time on the pond lawn.

Some of the more congested areas, Pacific Amphitheater, the carnival, the Main Mall area, they were very challenging to police. When you have that many people in one area, you have that many people smoking, a decision has to be made as a security attendant to go off task from what they're assigned to do to continually make contact with people and abandon their original assignment, or do they focus purely on the smoking.

It's a hard decision. It was a game-time
decision made a lot of times based on crowd, capacity, how many people were smoking out there, and it was a challenge to police it.

We did notice OCFEC staff, Coulter & Associates staff, RCS staff, Orange County Sheriff's Department staff, personally I noticed all of them enforcing the new policy, informing everyone of the new designated smoking areas. Information collected from all those people, as well, the same feedback we had, that no one was belligerent or hostile, pretty well received, other than the logistical concerns we've had.

Customers seemed to like the setup. They were very fond of the hedges and the benches and the way it was set up. However, there was a lot of comments about the size of the spaces, that they need to be twice the size bigger, whatever it might be to accommodate more smokers.

A lot of feedback we got was people said they had to stand out of the designated area and were contacted again and again because they were out of the designated area smoking, but they couldn't be in there because there were too many people and not enough space.

A little bit more of the feedback we got was people said they couldn't find the areas due to the signage being low. I didn't know what they were talking
about. I went out there, and the signage was in the lower stand. So in a bigger crowd, can't see over people's heads, it was tough to see the signage. So I understood quickly what they were talking about.

Guests in the Action Sports Arena are really the only unthrilled venue. They didn't have a designated smoking area in their venue. Obviously, The Hangar's not going to have it. It's indoors. Pacific Amphitheater, we had two of them on the concourse.

But in the Action Sports Arena, people had to leave the arena to go to the pond lawn, the grass area next to Baja Blues, to have a cigarette or whatever they wanted to smoke over there. Those were a little more of the unthrilled patrons about their designated area, even though only in there for an hour, maybe an hour and a half at a time, people asked for a designated smoking area.

Again, for the most part, the reaction to the new policy was pleasant. Most people were understanding, no belligerence, no bad words, at least that I experienced. Most people who were disgruntled about it just kind of dropped their cigarette and walked away. Again, the trash issue.

But the biggest challenge for our department this year for the safety and security team and all the
team that was out there regulating or trying to regulate
the new policy was, again, choosing between staying on
task, what you're assigned to do, or reaching out and
contacting smokers.

So just a few of the feedback, some of the
comments we received from our staff and from other
patrons out there that we thought we'd relay to you
today and how it kind of went on for this year.

Any questions anybody has?

DIRECTOR BARBARA BAGNERIS: My only comment
somebody made to me, because I actually approached
several people and said we have smoking areas now. And
I was in my head trying to think where is that? Where
am I going to point them to?

So, you know, knowing better where all the
smoking areas are, maybe there need to be a few more.
The only other comment someone made was maybe some
shading over the top. If they're going to sit out there
for a while, maybe they could be protected from the sun.
Or in the case of the rainy day, they could have some
protection. So that was the only comment that was made.

MR. NICK BUFFA: I agree. With as fair-skinned
as I am, I'm always looking for shade, as well. So I
understand.

Any other questions? Thank you.
CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Thank you very much. And anytime you can do something new, it's going to just be a little bit of a cultural shift, and so we're going to have to train ourselves and train our customers as -- as we move on.

Director Berardino?

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Yeah. Well, I think my experience from it was -- and I -- and maybe it's maybe premature given Nick's report, but I don't think it worked. I'll just be straight up. You know, I don't want to -- and I don't think it's fair to anybody to not just address this thing early on so everybody knows.

But my personal opinion, it was a great effort. This is -- it wasn't that it didn't work because there wasn't -- this is just my -- my view, that there wasn't enough places or they weren't big enough.

The fact is we're going to have to get our arms around this issue one way or another because -- and I'm looking directly at Mike because I know this impacts, you know, his -- his area. But the smoking policy didn't work.

I happened to pay kind of close attention to it because I've been -- obviously, the issue about whether or not we're going to allow smoking on the grounds has been an issue for four years that I've been
here.

And I have -- because -- because of understanding the impact of making this a nonsmoking fair on folks and on our guests and other things, I have, you know, been very vigorous about not making it a nonsmoking fair because I wanted to be sure to try every single possible aspect to see if it -- you know, could we still remain.

And when I say it didn't work, I hope no one takes this as a criticism of anybody, of staff or what you did, because I think what you did was -- was great. I used a smoking area because I like to go to a fair, and I like to drink beer once in a while. I'm not a big drinker. But I like to have a beer, have a cigar, watch people go by, and, you know, that's what I like to do at the fair. I mean I'm not getting on any of those rides. They scare the crap out of me. So -- because I'm scared of heights. I don't even jump out of my bed in the morning.

But the fact is -- and so I enjoy that. And I thought to myself when I saw how this didn't work because I also said to people "Can I show you where the smoking area is?"

And I mean most people looked at me like "Who are you?" You know, "Can I show you where the door is?
you know. So people weren't paying attention to it.

And so I came out there -- I came out when the fair was not in session and -- on an off day. Man, the place was -- and this was after the cleaning was done, and so I'm not trying to point fingers at that. But it was so littered with cigarette butts all over the place. I actually took pictures because I'm thinking no one's going to believe this; right? So I took pictures of it and have the pictures.

And I mean I could have spent just in a one -- by the eating area, by the Workers Memorial, I could have spent an hour there picking up cigarette butts. I mean I piled them up and said that's enough. That's just enough. And so I saw that.

And then I thought of you, Ashleigh, who, you know, has always been such an advocate for children and -- very much an advocate for children in terms of our fair and looking out for them in the Kiddie Land. I don't know if that's the right word. But, you know, that's what I use to bribe my grandchildren. "Be nice, and I'll take you to Kiddie Land at the fair." So, you know, I was leaving Kiddie Land. Is that -- what's the proper name so I can use it?

MS. KATHY KRAMER: Kid Land.

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Oh, that's right.
So I said I'm leaving Kid Land. And this
guy's smoking a cigarette, and he's walking, he's
walking. And this little blond-haired kid -- and then
he was walking down the lane where all the, you know,
food things is, juice and that stuff, he's holding his
cigarette down. And he wasn't being obnoxious or rude
or intentional or anything.

This kid, honest to God, missed running into
this cigarette with his little, you know, blond, fair,
smooth-skinned face right into that cigarette, and
that's when it just struck me is that we've really --
we've got to deal with this issue.

I mean either we're going to have a smoking
fair, or we're going to have a nonsmoking fair. The
halfway measure ain't -- the halfway measure, in my
view -- and the other Board Members I know were out and
about probably much more than I am. I don't know what
their views are. But from my perspective, I just want
to deal with it. I want to put it up front.

If it's going to have impact on our vendors,
let's do it sooner than later. It's not anything -- you
know, we need to make sure they're aware of and get
their input before, you know, we take action so we can
hear from them. But I think it's time to make a call
one way or the other. So that's my opinion.
CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. Director Tkaczyk had a comment.

DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: Yeah. Nick, I also want to comment. I was in favor of the smoking situation that we developed here to have both at the fair. And I too this year looked around and saw everything you saw, and it just doesn't work.

I thought the blending of smoking and nonsmoking, having the areas, would work. I know that I had a lengthy discussion with people in San Diego, and San Diego Fair went nonsmoking I think it was two years ago. And I think it causes a problem for our staff, Nick, your folks there.

There is going to be an education. There's no question. If we go to a no-smoking venue, the first, I think, year or two could be a little challenging. No doubt. But to have mixed messages -- I saw people in corners I never saw them before smoking, and it was repeated over and over again. And I just kind of gave up wanting to talk to people about where to go. It was just so dominant out there.

So I think we need to look at it. I think we need to take a hard look at San Diego because they have something that's been in effect for a couple years and bring it back and see what we decide.
CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Director La Belle?

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: Stan, what kind of comments did you get from the San Diego folks? What was their general reaction in terms of -- (indiscernible)?

DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: The first thing that came out of their mouth that I remember was "What, you're still smoking?" That was it. And they actually had buttons.

It's kind of what I shared with you, Doug, is that at the beginning -- and one of the things they did, and I think we may have lacked a little bit because this was our first attempt at this, they had a lot of signage at the front gate as you enter. There was no doubt that when you entered into the fair that it was a nonsmoking fair.

They also passed out buttons to people as you came in. So I think when people walk in that door and people enter into the fair, they have to really know it's a nonsmoking fair.

Our situation -- I don't know if we did enough of that to let people know that there were smoking areas. And it's hard to display a split a message. It's very difficult to split a message where you've got smoking and nonsmoking.

So when they went to nonsmoking, the main
thing I walked away with is that they -- when you walked
in, there was no misunderstanding that this was a
nonsmoking fair. That was the thing. And it's working
for them. Not without challenge. I'm not saying it
isn't. It's an education process, and it could take a
year or two. But that's what I came back with.

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: Okay. Thank you.
Well, I concur. I think we definitely need
to bring this back and have a very full-on discussion
sooner rather than later.

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: That's what I've been
saying.

DIRECTOR SANDRA CERVANTES: My quick comment is
the same as everybody else. I think that I found this
year that -- (indiscernible) -- really excited and happy
and greeting people and smiling at people, feeling like
you had to be an enforcement agency and a little bit of
a police because it wasn't fair for the people that were
stuck in the corners smoking where they needed to be,
and then you had, you know, a few other people that
weren't complying because they either didn't know or
they didn't want to.

So it was very, very unusual. And I agree
with Nick that, you know, it has to be one or the other.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. I know we have one
matter of public comment from Michael -- Mike Robbins on this issue. And as you're coming up, I guess we'll hear your comments and then put this as an action item on next month's agenda to look at what is going to be a more permanent smoking policy. So Mike Robbins or Jeanine.

MS. JEANINE ROBBINS: Jeanine. Together.

My perception of this is that we have to retrain the people. There's never been any kind of smoking restrictions. So whenever a new restriction is added, it's going to take time for them to know.

There weren't enough signs posted out front. They didn't know. And when they were going to the information booth, they were getting false information. Or the security couldn't direct them to the closest booth is what we heard also.

So one -- we spent a lot of time directing people next door to us because on the app., it stated that Paradise Cigars was a smoking area, specifically. It didn't say adjacent to Paradise Cigars. It didn't say next to Paradise Cigars. It said at Paradise Cigars on the app.

The information booth was sending people to us to smoke. As soon as they walked in our booth, they lit up. And we're like "No, no. I'm sorry. You have
to go next door."

So I think it's just a matter of time, like anything. They've been smoking and walking around here for years. And I know while Stan likes to talk about Del Mar, keep in mind Del Mar is a very restrictive fair. It's restrictive on drinking. You cannot walk around that property and drink. You have to stay in a designated drinking area.

So I think heading off in that direction is an error, and I think it's just a matter of time. You know, this was the opening. A lot of people know now. They'll know for next year. I mean give it a couple years. Then you can make a decision if it's not working.

But I will tell you too, having been to Del Mar twice, people are smoking there everywhere. So you might think they aren't smoking. All the -- where do you think all the carnies smoke? They all smoke behind the booths. People are walking around smoking. I saw them smoking cigarettes everywhere, and I saw them vaping everywhere too. And nobody was saying anything to them.

So they might have the signs posted, but the policy is not enforced. So I don't think they want to kick anybody out of the fair for doing that, so --
MR. MIKE ROBBINS: I've been training the customers to smoke the cigars at the fair for 20 years. And, certainly, we cut it in half this year. My cigar sales were down by about 50 percent because they don't want to smoke there and sit in a little booth. They want to sit in a bar and relax and kick back.

So, certainly, there were a lot less cigar smokers. But I do believe that we do need the training. I think it's going to take a lot of time to change people after they've been doing this for 20 years or for a lot longer. I mean 124 years people have been coming to the fair. I was smoking there 40 years while walking around with the kids, smoking a cigar while they were on the rides.

I think it will take a little time, as usual. And what happens is when you force them, for instance, you put up rules for them not to smoke like at Del Mar, they just hide behind the building and smoke or walk around with it. And when they're told to put it out, they put it out.

I was going to bring up something about, you know, smoking from the czar of Russia back in the 1800s pointed out that -- he passed a law that they cut off people's heads for smoking. And the same things have always passed through history with alcohol, and people
still smoked and people still drank no matter what the rules were. They just hide to do it, or it creates an underground community as it did with alcohol.

I think that with time, the people will learn and maybe, perhaps, we'll make some of the areas a little larger, group them away from the children. And I think that it's a functional -- I have to change my conception of how I'm working the cigars where I had a deal where I bought a bunch of cigars. We get a really good deal. So hopefully, they're going to buy in package and not smoke them there and just take them home. So I have to work it in that regard, and that's my goal as a cigar guy.

But I do think this is a functional thing. And to drive the people underground I think is not the way to do it, and I think it doesn't work. I hate to say, but I went to Del Mar last year and take -- and next year and take pictures. But I know from history if you drive it underground, they still do it no matter what you threaten them with.

And I think it's best to deal with it on our -- in the way we're doing it and teach the people over the years. The people have been doing it there for decades. And hopefully it's going to come around, and we'll all going to be fine there. You'll see a lot less
trash and everything too.

MS. JEANINE ROBBINS: Thank you.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Thank you.

Okay. Well, I'm going to ask that, obviously, I will be a fan of putting this on the agenda for next month and have you just do a report on where we should go from here.

Our next -- we have an action item for approval of submission of our bad debt write-off.

MS. KATHY KRAMER: Yes. We are requesting approval to submit to the State Controller's Office for the discharge of outstanding debts for Mr. Mike Cruz in the amount of $745.92 and for Local Life in the amount of $5,000.

This debt has been on the books for a very long time, and staff has spent considerable time and effort in attempting to collect, including a third-party collection agency, without success. With your approval, we would submit to the State Controller's Office so we can remove these items from our books.

DIRECTOR BARBARA BAGNERIS: Madam Chair, just to add to that, the Financial Monitoring Committee, both Director Mouet and myself, we did go over all of this. We had all of the staff on the phone. So we did approve this and think this is what we should do. It's in our
best interest. So I would like to move that we go ahead and take care of this debt.

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Second.

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: I have a question.

What is Local Life? What do they do exactly?

MS. KATHY KRAMER: I'll defer that to Michele.

(Indiscernible) -- sponsorship.

MS. MICHELE RICHARDS: It was a very short-term mobile marketing tour during the fair that year.

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: And what kind of -- what was the --

MS. MICHELE RICHARDS: It was before my time in this position, and I don't know exactly what the setup was.

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: It was just a sponsorship?

MS. MICHELE RICHARDS: Yes. We categorized it under mobile marketing tour because it's a company that would just come in for maybe a weekend or a few days at a time.

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: We have a motion and a second. So can we do a roll call vote?

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Ashleigh Aitken?

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Aye.
MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Stan Tkaczyk?
DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: Yes.
MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Barbara Bagneris?
DIRECTOR BARBARA BAGNERIS: Yes.
MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Douglas La Belle?
DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: Yes.
MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Sandra Cervantes?
DIRECTOR SANDRA CERVANTES: Yes.
MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Nick Berardino?
DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Yes.
MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: And Bao Nguyen?
DIRECTOR BAO NGUYEN: Aye.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. Our last action item on the agenda is for the Orange County Marketplace rental agreement amendment to relocate some buildings.

MS. MICHELE RICHARDS: I'll take that one.
We received a proposal from the Orange County Marketplace to relocate two rather large structures within their footprint that at the time we believed would require an amendment to the current rental agreement, which would need to be brought before the Board.

Since the publication of -- or the posting of the agenda, the Marketplace has withdrawn that proposal. So there's no need to move forward on this item.
CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. Okay. With that, we will go into closed --

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: I move to receive and file.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Pardon?

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Receive and file.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Receive and file.

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: Second.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. Vote for that.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Ashleigh Aitken?

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Aye.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Stanley Tkaczyk?

DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Barbara Bagneris?

DIRECTOR BARBARA BAGNERIS: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Douglas La Belle?

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Sandra Cervantes?

DIRECTOR SANDRA CERVANTES: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Nick Berardino?

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Yes.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: And Bao Nguyen?

DIRECTOR BAO NGUYEN: Aye.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: With that, we're going to go into closed session. We'll be back shortly.
(Whereupon, closed session was held from 10:27 a.m. until 11:44 a.m.)

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. We are back in from closed session. There's no action to report.

So we are going to move to our Board of Directors Matters of Information. I'll start on this side with Director Berardino.

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: The only -- I don't have any matters of information. Just I mean our -- I just want to encourage the CEO to get with Mike and his group if they have any comments, you know, so we're ready to, as we said earlier, to take action so -- whatever it may be so people know early on.

And I also want to thank everybody. It was an incredible fair. I just think that this executive team and the staff needs to -- there are a couple of things that show their extraordinary effort and their extraordinary success in this fair.

One, of course, is that -- was the weather. I mean just not that there's anything about global warming or anything. That's not a pause for the cause. It's just we all know it exists. Strike that.

The fact is the weather's just so unpredictable now, and they recovered incredibly for that. That's number one. Number two -- and last night,
you know, I was able to give Eric Spitz a -- a call --
well, he was there last night, so I had a long talk with
him. And I called Rob Curley, the editor-in-chief
of the "Register" and said, "Hey, man, what about -- we
got to get more -- we got to get more in the newshole,
you know. I mean we got to do more." And, you know,
that's contracted.

So our -- our initiatives were just
substantially less than what we were in previous years
because of a whole variety of everybody you can't get
into. It's just very competitive now. So we lost a lot
of the newsholes. Everybody has.

But even with all of that, to do what they
did, I mean you put those two forces together, and to
come out of that is just an incredible execution,
incredible execution in very, very adversarial
circumstances. So I want to be sure that's on note.

And then, lastly, I want to thank everybody
for -- you know, I was able to have a party here last
night with our new venue, and I see, you know, there's
Nick Nicora and Bobby Chichi (phonetic) over here,
who -- he was serving Italian food. I mean I was
thinking, God, I was expecting my mother to come down
from heaven and say "Hey" -- (indiscernible). My mother
never said anything good about anybody. When I was
driving home from every dinner, she was always pointing
out how hers was much better.

But it was great. It was -- yeah.
Particularly when she went to her mother-in-law's house
and then there was, like, fights, you know. But great
job. Thank you all and thank the staff and everybody.
Just a beautiful -- and it is, folks. This is the venue
for the future here in Orange County.

I mean this is going to be -- the way it
works, the beautiful lobby, lighting, air conditioning
worked, the great -- you know, using that facility is
wonderful. So thank you all very much, and I really
appreciate it from the bottom of my heart. Thank you.

DIRECTOR SANDRA CERVANTES: I just want to say
great job to the staff and a most important and amazing
job to Kathy. Whenever there's change, there's always
some amount of resistance. And then we had Mother
Nature playing a couple games with us.

And it was amazing the amount of work and
effort that was put into everything where after the rain
was over, nobody knew that anything happened or that we
had any rain. So thank you, again, Kathy, for your
amazing dedication and hard work.

And I was very excited to have a wonderful
Latino artist as Juanes and look forward to seeing more
next year.

Oh, and also the Mexican consul that was here during that concert, as well, and reaching out to some of the Latino people in the community. That was very fun and very enjoyable.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Yeah. I agree. I think it was very nice, and I got a lot of compliments. And -- (indiscernible) -- share that with Dan. But I got a lot of people that came up that were excited to have diversity in our acts at the Pac Amp. And it sold out, so, obviously, it works and there's a market there. So that was really fun.

And I would just like to echo, obviously, this fair was just amazing. And thank you to your team. I did want to credit Kathy with two things that I thought were really just a sign of your leadership and your responsiveness, one of them being working with our Marketplace vendors.

When that wasn't working out for them, as opposed to just letting them kind of dwindle on the vine, to be able to in the middle of the fair pick up an entire section and move it and find places for them, I just thought that was -- it was the right thing to do and shows that, you know, we're trying to be a partner both with our vendors and our larger fair family. So I
just really respected the work. I know you had a lot to
do with that, as well, Stan.

And second would be the -- bringing that
family that had the article. There was an article in
the "Register" about a girl, and their family came to
the fair every year. Because their daughter is
suffering from leukemia, they couldn't be in this type
of environment. And I had forwarded the article to
Kathy, and I said we have to do something for this
family.

And unbeknownst to me, she was on it. She
had already talked to the reporter. She had already
reached out. And I just love that because I feel like,
you know, not only is that -- we're doing great stuff
with our fair family, but in the community. We are a
part of this larger Orange County community. And so to
be able to just have that type of foresight in the
middle of your putting on, as CEO, the fair hat, I just
thought great job to you and your team. I thought that
was a really just a commendable thing to do.

DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: Thank you.

I choose to share everything that was just
shared. But I want to thank senior management and
Michele, Kathy. May we take the title "new CEO" away
now?
MS. KATHY KRAMER: You can now retire the "new."

DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: Okay. We'll take that away.

MS. KATHY KRAMER: Yes.

DIRECTOR STAN TKACZYK: I also want to say to Jessica thank you. You certainly stepped in some big shoes because this guy has just been doing a great job, and he was really missed. I miss Jeff's smiling face, but I did see him backstage. And I'm glad the two of you were here because there's some big shoes to jump into here.

And then, Gary, I want to thank you too because I know in our meeting today, we mentioned about the sound, and, yet, this has certainly been your project back there to make sure that we are good neighbors. And from the report that Kathy gave, we are good neighbors and will continue to be good neighbors because we've heard the report.

And all the people that are here that went to the fair and, Nick, your team over there, the food that you did was great. And everybody sitting back there, I won't go down the names, but thank all of you for a great fair. That's it.

DIRECTOR BARBARA BAGNERIS: Ditto echo. This is an incredible staff. I walked around the fair, and I --
I was walking with Kathy one day, and I got to see the fair in a whole new light from a whole new set of eyes. And the things that she noticed that could immediately be changed or made better, and I really, really appreciate that because I know this is your first fair with us.

And the rain, to overcome that, I just really, really admire our executive staff and -- and the overall staff of the fair and how we handled an event like that. To bring in 1.3 million people and make the changes to the Marketplace and move receptacles around as necessary, all those things. And it's just an incredible -- it's an honor for me to be able to work with the talent that we have sitting around this table. And so I want to thank you, as well.

And I look forward to what's to come, going from good to great and from great -- great to greater so that we can just keep making this fair better. And we still have some challenges ahead of us, but I believe this is the right Board to tackle them and to see us through it.

So I really, again, just want to thank the staff and thank the Board Members for all you bring and offer to this -- this property. Thank you.

And, Jessica, awesome. Awesome. I felt well
taken care of.

MS. JESSICA ZIMMERMAN: Thank you.

DIRECTOR BAO NGUYEN: I'll echo all of the gratitude expressed today by my colleagues and look forward to the next year, our 126th party.

And I also want to congratulate my brother and colleague Nick Berardino on your retirement. It was a beautiful and very meaningful celebration last night. I was happy to be in the audience and see such diversity there to recognize your legacy of leadership here in the county.

I want to congratulate you and wish you and your wife and family a great retirement, which also means you'll have more time to dedicate here with the Fair Board.

DIRECTOR NICK BERARDINO: Thank you very much, Bao. I appreciate that.

DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: Well, when you're last, it's all been said.

Again, congratulations to Nick on his retirement. And the executive staff, the entire staff, did just a fantastic job. My grandkids love the fair. We were here a number of times. And Evan is now Kathy's best friend, the four-year-old.

MS. KATHY KRAMER: Yeah. That's nice.
DIRECTOR DOUGLAS LA BELLE: So I really appreciate everything that you all do. So thank you so much, and look forward to next year.

CHAIR ASHLEIGH AITKEN: Okay. With that, we are adjourned.

* * *

(Whereupon, the OCFEC Board of Directors Meeting was hereby adjourned at 11:54 a.m.)
Certificate

of

Certified Shorthand Reporter

The undersigned certified shorthand reporter of the State of California does hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings was taken before me at the time and place therein set forth and was recorded stenographically by me and thereafter transcribed, said transcript being a true copy of my shorthand notes thereof.

I further certify that I am neither financially interested in the action nor a relative or employee of any attorney of any of the parties.

In witness whereof, I have subscribed my name this date, September 9, 2015.

Janet M. Taylor
Certified Shorthand Reporter
Certificate Number 9463