

MINUTES OF OCFEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD April 27, 2020

The following Minutes are a summary of Board action and proceedings. For a full transcript please click on the link below or visit the [ocfair.com](https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/ocfair.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/06085927/20_04_April_27th_Special_transcript.pdf) website.

https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/ocfair.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/06085927/20_04_April_27th_Special_transcript.pdf

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Cervantes called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

2. MISSION STATEMENT

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Director Bagneris. Roll call was taken by Summer Angus.

4. DIRECTORS PRESENT (via teleconference):

Chair Cervantes, Vice Chair Rubalcava-Garcia, Director Ruiz, Director Bagneris, Director Aitken, Director La Belle and Director Pham.

DIRECTORS ABSENT/EXCUSED: None.

OTHERS PRESENT:

(in person): Michele Richards, OCFEC CEO; Ken Karns, OCFEC Chief Operating Officer; Jason Jacobsen, OCFEC Director of Planning & Presentation; Nick Buffa, Director of Safety & Traffic

(via teleconference): Doug Lofstrom, OCFEC Chief Business Development Officer; Terry Moore, OCFEC Director of Communications; Summer Angus, OCFEC Executive Assistant; Josh Caplan, Office of the Attorney General; Luis Hernandez, transcriptionist; Reggie Mundekis; Vincent Pollmeier; Pam Jones; Dr. Horne; Jeremy Cates; Gina Montes

5. MATTERS OF PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

6. GOVERNANCE PROCESS:

A. Consideration of and Vote on Whether or Not to Cancel the 2020 OC Fair

Action Item

Doctor Horn, veterinarian that works with 4H groups, stated holding the OC Fair normally would have significant health risks but asked the Board to consider the possibility of holding the Jr. Livestock shows with appropriate social distancing, for the benefit of the students that participate in the 4H programs.

Vincent Pollmeier, Friends and Neighbors of the Orange County Fairgrounds, spoke in support of canceling the 2020 OC Fair and any other summer bookings, if they cannot be held in absolute safety (due to risks from COVID-19). He suggested, using this time made by these

cancellations, staff be tasked:

- To review the events of the past two years and generate an assessment/breakdown of where and how the fairgrounds has made its money, where expenses are
- Work with partners to determine how to hold events in safety in the future; and what that would mean for changes for how facilities are laid out and ways of doing business
 - How those changes will impact profit and loss

He encouraged the Board to cancel the 2020 OC Fair for public safety.

Pam Jones, long time OC Fair vendor, stated she thinks it is premature, with two and a half months before the fair, to make a definite decision to cancel the fair. She suggested making a stipulation with a timeline instead; a stipulation of cancellation with a date closer to fair if things have not changed with regard to California re-opening and social distancing requirements.

Jeremy Cates echoed comments made by Dr. Horn regarding holding Jr. Livestock shows with appropriate social distancing. He urged the need to do something for the 4H students who have put so much time, money and effort into their livestock projects. He suggested moving forward with the Jr. Livestock auction in some way for the students and their projects.

Gina Montes, La Habra Hill Hoppers where she houses livestock for Jr. Livestock programs, urged the Board to hold the livestock shows for the students and their projects. She stated the students come to her facility and take care of their animals with proper social distancing. She suggested moving toward a virtual/online Jr. Livestock auction. She urged the Board to do something for the 4H students.

Chair Cervantes stated with a heavy heart she motioned to cancel the 2020 OC Fair due to the pandemic, the restrictions on mass gatherings and the safety of the community, which is the Board's main priority.

Director Bagneris asked about the possibility of online fair options.

CEO Richards presented the agenda report.

Board and staff discussion ensued regarding the cancellation of the 2020 OC Fair, items discussed:

- Keeping the fair alive through social media and possible online options/activities
- Staff looking into how to still hold the Junior Livestock Auction; Staff assessing guidelines from the State for an online option for the kids and public to participate in an online auction
- Staff looking at how to have competitive entries virtually
- Looking at other ways to bring entertainment through the

OCFEC website to guests

ACTION: Chair Cervantes motioned and Director Aitken seconded to cancel the 2020 OC Fair. **MOTION CARRIED. AYES:** Chair Cervantes, Vice Chair Rubalcava-Garcia, Director Ruiz, Director Bagneris, Director Aitken, Director La Belle and Director Pham. **NAYES:** None. **ABSTENTIONS:** None.

Director Ruiz shared it is with a heavy heart that he voted to cancel the 2020 OC Fair, adding that the number one priority is always the safety of the public.

Director Bagneris echoed Director Ruiz's comment, reiterating the number one priority is safety and security. She added that the fair will come back stronger next year. She thanked the Board for their thoughtful consideration of their votes to cancel the fair, adding life is more important than anything else.

Director Aitken thanked staff for all the work they have put in. She shared that the organization is heartbroken to have to cancel the fair and reemphasized public safety is the number one priority. She discussed the timeline and the Board needing to make the decision to cancel. She spoke in support of looking into online options to keep the fair spirit alive, with regard to the 4H and FFA Jr. Livestock auction and artistic competitions.

Director La Belle added safety is first over all other priorities. He thanked staff and the Board of Directors for their hard work. He shared he looks forward to the opportunities that might exist for some activities that will keep the OC Fair in everybody's minds and thoughts.

Vice Chair Rubalcava-Garcia agreed with the comments from the Board, stating it was a very hard decision to make to cancel the fair. She shared she is excited to see what ideas the Board and staff come up with to bring the community together virtually and creating some potential opportunities for economic development.

Chair Cervantes also agreed with the Board comments. She spoke in support of virtual concepts to keep the fair alive. She reiterated that safety comes first and thanked staff for their hard work.

7. ADJOURNMENT MOTION TO ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.


Sandra Cervantes, Chair
Michele Richards, Chief Executive Officer