

## **OCF Board Meeting**

10.26.23

**Newton** [00:00] All right. Call to order. All matters. Notice on this agenda in any category, if you may be considered for action as listed, any item not to notice  
**Pham:** may not be considered. Item listed on this agenda may be considered in any order of discretion of the chairperson.

**Newton** [00:17] The mission of DOC FEC is to provide a list of items that are listed on this agenda. creating equitable community access to agriculture,  
**Pham:** entertainment, cultural, and educational experiences and making use of it.

**Nick**  
**Kovacevich:** [00:28] Thanks for that. Hand over your Heart.

**Everyone:** [00:31] I pledge allegiance. To the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**Newton**  
**Pham:** [00:47] All right, Summer. Take a roll call

**Summer**  
**Angus:** [00:50] Let's take a roll call. Chair Pham.

**Newton**  
**Pham:** [00:52] Here.

**Summer**  
**Angus:** [00:53] Vice Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick**  
**Kovacevich:** [00:54] Here.

**Summer**  
**Angus:** [00:55] Director LaBelle?

**Doug La**  
**Belle:** [00:56] Here.

**Summer**  
**Angus:** [00:57] Director Rubalcava- Garcia?

**Summer**  
**Angus:** [00:59] Director Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz:** [01:01] Here.

**Summer**  
**Angus:** [01:02] Director Bagneris?

**Barbera**  
**Bagneris:** [01:04] Here.

**Summer**  
**Angus:** [01:04] Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya**  
**Bilezikjian:** [01:06] Here.

**Summer**  
**Angus:** [01:06] And Director Jackson?

**Dimitria**  
**Jackson:** [01:08] Here.

**Summer**  
**Angus:** [01:08] Thank you.

**Newton**  
**Pham:** [01:10] Alrighty, is there a motion to approve? I mean, it's going to be last for me.

**Doug La**  
**Belle:** [01:14] So move.

**Michele**  
**Richards:** [01:16] Second.

**Newton**  
**Pham:** [01:17] All right.

**Summer**  
**Angus:** [01:18] Chair Pham?

**Newton**  
**Pham:** [01:20] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus:** [01:21] Vice Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick**  
**Kovacevich:** [01:22] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus:** [01:23] Director La Belle?

**Doug La Belle:** [01:24] Yes.

**Summer Angus:** [01:25] Director Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz:** [01:27] Yes.

**Summer Angus:** [01:28] Director Bagneris?

**Barbera Bagneris:** [01:29] Yes.

**Summer Angus:** [01:30] Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian:** [01:32] Yes.

**Summer Angus:** [01:32] And Director Jackson?

**Dimitria Jackson:** [01:33] Yes.

**Summer Angus:** [01:34] Thank you.

**Newton Pham:** [01:36] Okay. Matters of public comment. Public comment is allowed on issues not on the current agenda.

**Newton** [01:43] I have no debate by the board, which will be permitted on such public comments. And no action will be taken on such public comment items at this time. As law requires, formal public notice prior to any action on an agenda item.

**Newton** [01:56] Speakers are requested to fill out and submit a comment card to the meeting secretary prior to the start of the inter-limited read minutes.

**Pham:** Comments will be accepted on all other agenda items at time, each item is present on the agenda.

**Newton** [02:10] Speakers wishing to address the board on items on the agenda are requested to fill out and submit a comment card to the meeting secretary prior

**Pham:** to the start of the meeting and identify the agenda items on which you desire to address the board.

**Newton** [02:23] Again, speakers are limited three minutes. And with that, I'll do the general public comment items. We have Heather Clary and Luke Miller.

**Heather** [02:33] Hello, so you can hear me. My name is Heather Clary. I am the  
**Cleary:** College Park Coordinator at Frosted Street at Baker University.

**Heather** [02:47] We oversee a grant that allows our students to go out into the  
**Cleary:** community and serve at nonprofits in public form. They receive \$10,000 in the likes of doing so for completing 450 hours. We have been great for two years.

**Heather** [02:57] This is our second year of running it. In our first year, we had the  
**Cleary:** pleasure of partnering with the Centennial Farm here at O.C. Fair. We had four students last year working here. In this year, we've upgraded to six.

**Heather  
Cleary:**

[03:07] They are overseen by Allen and B.D. They have an incredible time here and they really love it. So you want to read the letter that writes them and present them with a certificate of appreciation. So on behalf of Baker University College Park, we would like to sincerely thank you for your partnership of the 2022 -2023 year.

**Heather  
Cleary:**

[03:24] You played an integral role in connecting Baker University to our community through service and have enlisted a heart of service to our fellows. We appreciate the opportunity to be another helping hand in the great work your organization is doing.

**Heather  
Cleary:**

[03:35] Thank you for your time and care that you put into the partnership. It is greatly appreciated. Sincerely, Baker University, Heather Cleary, and Shiliav, who's not here. And this is for them to do to you and to the entire team.

**Everyone:**

[03:45] (Clapping)

**Newton  
Pham:**

[03:45] Thank you. Thank you so much. Alright, thank you. Carol Grace.

**Carol  
Graves:**

[04:22] Thank you for taking your time to hear us and for voting to look for an operator and putting out an RFP for the Equestrian Center. My name is Carol Graves.

**Carol  
Graves:**

[04:34] I board my horse there and it's been huge positive for our entire family. Both of my daughters went to camp at the Equestrian Center. I had some props there and my special needs daughter was able to attend camp there which allowed her to have a more typical camp experience which is very meaningful to her and to me.

**Carol Graves:** [05:03] And, these are the kinds of things that they're doing. They make crafts, they learn about horses, things like this. They get to do all sorts of meaningful stuff. Parents are desperate for activities for kids that are outdoors that don't involve screens and things like working with animals.

**Carol Graves:** [05:24] So it's really a wonderful facility that you have. It's really a gem to the community and a lot of people don't know that it's there. When I tell people I board my horse there they say, "There's an equestrian center there?".

**Carol Graves:** [05:38] So I would like to see it promoted more. My older daughter that I said had autism, she is a success story of equine therapy. She was able to gain a lot of her language skills. She made three and a half years of gains basically in a year and a half doing horse therapy.

**Carol Graves:** [06:00] And we're starting to learn more and more about how horses help people. My other daughter has really come into her own at the Equestrian Center. She has learned so much. She's been given a lot of opportunities to work with horses, observe vet appointments, and a lot of other things that she's done.

**Carol Graves:** [06:19] about horse nutrition and horse care, and all because the equestrian center is there. So I'm very proud of her, and I'm very grateful to the facility and the people who are there who have given that to her.

**Carol Graves:** [06:33] Thank you.

**Newton Pham:** [06:34] Thank you. Next up, Denise Xagorarakis.

**Denise** [06:43] Good morning, my name is Denise Xagorarakis, and I'm pleased to  
**Xagorarakis** have a congratulations on pronouncing that. Yeah, that's definitely impressive.

**Everyone** [06:51] (Laughter).

[06:53] If anybody else wants an easy way to pronounce it, if you say south of the Rockies really fast, it sounds essentially fine. My name is Denise  
**Denise** Xagorarakis, I'm also a boarder at the equestrian center, and I just wanted to  
**Denise** come and give some appreciation to you guys for voting to put out a new RFP.  
**Xagorarakis** This is a really sensitive subject for me, because our horse has been so  
incredibly integral in my child's development. He has severe ADHD, and  
being around horses has given him the opportunity to learn self-regulation,  
responsibility that he hasn't been able to learn in other places.

[07:36] And it's really cute because my horse also seems to have ADHD, and  
**Denise** so I learned together. And it's just been a real blessing. My children are fourth  
**Xagorarakis** generation here in Costa Mesa, and he goes to Costa Mesa Middle School, and  
so he can go to the equestrian center after school, and we can work together  
with our horse.

[08:00] And in addition to that, my daughter, who's also eight, rides there as  
**Denise** well, and she's benefiting from being able to learn and interact with them. It's  
**Xagorarakis** amazing to see how the children really are. grow and mature around animals  
and we just don't have that opportunity here.

[08:26] Interestingly enough my husband was born and raised in Costa Mesa  
**Denise** and he did not know the equestrian center was here until he was in his 20s. So  
**Xagorarakis** it would be it would be an amazing opportunity for our community if we were



able to get more marketing out for us and to expose the public to that are beautiful animals.

**Denise** [08:50] In case thank you again so much for putting out a new RFP we're  
**Xagorarakis** really really grateful.

**Newton**  
**Pham** [08:56] Thank you Denise, Lisa Sabo.

**Lisa Sabo** [09:03] Good morning I'm Lisa Sebo and thank you for taking our public comments and thank you so much for taking our voting for the RFP and we're excited to see what comes of that to find a new operator the equestrian center and this coming Saturday we're having our annual Halloween parade and I really would love to have some of you come and watch it it's from 11 to 1 and Katrina Foley is our judge and Katrina Foley has been she's on the Orange County Board of Supervisors she has been on the Council here in Costa Mesa and the mayor and Katrina was had was working with us on the equestrian center back in 2007 and 2008 and then of course the Fairgrounds property got slipped into the budget bill in 2009 and we started the Orange County Fairgrounds Preservation Society which I'm the president of and so Katrina and I had the opportunity to travel to Sacramento I think three or four times and fight for this property this entire property and we lobbied on the you know in Sacramento and Katrina's just been a great supporter through these years so I hope that have flyers here for you come out and see us see all the great things that happen at the equestrian center There you go.

**Lisa Sabo** [10:20] If you could just pass that around. Thank you. And my husband and I, my husband's dressing up as a coal miner and I'm going to be a saloon girl and I'm dressing my horse up as a donkey. So, and there's a lot of things.

**Lisa Sabo** [10:33] All the kids are so excited. And what's neat about the Christian Center is, well, Churchill has the quote, "There's something about the outside of a horse, that's good for the inside of a man. And that is so true.

**Lisa Sabo** [10:49] Lies, I mean, I had a mom yesterday, just her daughter was so, is so fearful. And, but she wants to keep riding and the end, we were just talking about the importance of overcoming your fears. And the, you know, here's this 11 year old girl that's just shaking on the mounting block, but she doesn't want to give up.

**Lisa Sabo** [11:08] She gets on and she's just shaking. And we see that every day, people fighting through their fears and overcoming. It's a wonderful place. Thank you very much.

**Newton  
Pham** [11:18] Thank you, Lisa. Carolyn Beaver.

**Carolyn  
Beaver** [11:22] Good morning. I also would like to thank you for the RFP process and I do have a letter as a questioning task force we did provide some recommendations to consider in that RFP process.

[11:41] So I'll just pass it on to those who are in the report. So we do think that as you've heard some of the stories today we think that the courses are so important. There are very few public facilities in Orange County and obviously with the location of this one in particular that is accessible to so many people and literally they do change lives and we think that that's so important and as board members as we develop this RFP and put that out and listen to the responses when you find the responses to the RFP just ask questions and make sure that there is a good competitive process.

[12:30] If you don't end up having competitive fizz you have to ask yourself why not because there is a lot of interest out there and so we want to make sure that it's good RFP that includes provisions that will allow someone to come in and make the kind of operation that you know can continue this organization's legacy of providing this resource in Orange County that is so important to all of us.

[12:59] So thank you.

[13:01] Thank you. Mackie Hamilton.

[13:09] Sorry my hand rake doesn't My name is Mackie Hamlin and I'm a rider at the OC Fairgrounds. We're very grateful for the new RFP that's been released and I really appreciate the opportunity to speak today.

[13:30] I wanted to offer some insight on how the potential borders are handled by the office staff. It's an extremely important topic because the Fairgrounds has been steadily losing horses since the change in management.

[13:42] There's been no drive to attract or bring in new horses and some of the overt actions of not adding horses include not accepting new clients for approximately two months in the beginning of the year, along with no advertising or social media presence to fill open stalls.

[13:56] There are people inquiring about horse boarding every day on social media. On a more individual level, for potential borders, two of my acquaintances had an extremely off-putting and unpleasant experience this week with the OC Equestrian Center and they ended up choosing another facility instead.

[14:15] So the facility ended up losing about \$36,000 a year in part that the Fairgrounds staff deterred. The potential borders talked about both facilities on Saturday. The OCC couldn't answer any of their questions and kept telling them that the supervisor would eventually get back to them on Monday.

[14:35] The extremely time-consuming and overwhelming application process combined with not providing a more definitive date on when they could move in was a massive turnoff for both potential borders. The OCEC didn't update the owners on their application or anything regarding moving their horses in and the potential borders instead were constantly trying to call and check in to keep the process moving.

[14:57] On the other hand, the other facility had staff that answered their questions immediately, got them set up for a tour on the same day. They have the same requirements application-wise -wise but they were able to streamline it and avoid any stress for these potential borders.

**Maeki**  
**Hamldin**

[15:11] The other facility gave them real-time updates and continued to work for their business. The other facility handled booking the transport for the new borders and got them moved in on a Tuesday. The OC was closer, cleaner and more appropriate for the potential borders' needs, but after the overwhelming effort.

**Maeki**  
**Hamldin**

[15:28] of interacting with the office staff and the never-ending list of requirements. They decide to go with the facility that streamline the process and welcomes them. Every border counts towards the bottom line.

**Maeki**  
**Hamldin**

[15:37] I'm excited that we have been getting back, that we will be getting back to a driven, knowledgeable and welcoming staff that can fill the OC Equestrian Center once again. Again, thank you for letting me share my experience and we are again grateful for the RFP.

**Maeki**  
**Hamldin**

[15:51] Thank you.

**Newton**  
**Pham**

[15:54] All right.

**Gibran**  
**Stont**

[15:59] Good morning. Just a couple things real quick. Lisa already mentioned we do have our annual horsey Halloween that is this Saturday from the costume contest, which if you think dogs and costumes are cute, wait till you see horses and costumes.

**Gibran  
Stont**

[16:20] That's going to start at 12 o'clock and you can come earlier and walk around and check out the facility. So that is again this Saturday. So we invite and encourage you all to come. It is open to the public and it is our annual event that we really look forward to.

**Gibran  
Stont**

[16:36] Also, I'd like to let you know that if any of you have any organizations that are seeking donations, our or nonprofit loves to donate. And I know we have collaborated with SOI and other groups. So I encourage you to reach out to me.

**Gibran  
Stont**

[16:55] Our program we offer low and or no-cost equine experience as well as scholarships. So again, it's just one way we can really collaborate and really reach out to the community and work together. Thank you.

**Newton  
Pham**

[17:11] Thank you. That's it for the public comment. Moving on to the consent calendar. All matters listed under consent calendar are operational matters. Of which the board as government policies and implementation of the program.

**Newton  
Pham**

[17:28] of which is delegated to this EO that we enacted in one motion. There'll be no discussion of these items prior to the time. Board director votes on the motion, unless members of the board, staff, or public requests specific items to be discussed separately and or removed from the section.

**Newton  
Pham**

[17:44] Any member of the public who wishes to discuss consent calendar items should notify the chair of the board at the time requested and be recognized by invitation of the chair to address the board. Thank you.

**Newton  
Pham**

[17:59] Is there a, oh, sorry.

**Michele  
Richards**

[18:02] I don't have an item to pull, but an item to clarify. And I owe Director Bagneris an apology because you questioned it last month and you were absolutely correct, I was wrong.

**Michele  
Richards**

[18:14] We pulled contract number SA 21923PA, intending to pull another contract. So this one technically did not get approved by the board on the last Consent Calendar. This is the contract for "Iration", who performed at the Pacific Amphitheater this past summer.

**Michele  
Richards**

[18:37] So just for formalities, we need to, I just needed to point out that that contract is back on the Consent Calendar for approval by the board.

**Barbera  
Bagneris**

[18:47] Yeah, Mr. Chair, I Director Bagneris, I move that we accept the Consent Calendar.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[18:52] Second.

**Newton  
Pham**

[18:53] All right, roll call

**Summer  
Angus**

[18:54] Thank you. Chair Pham.

**Newton  
Pham**

[18:57] Yes.

**Summer  
Angus**

[18:58] Vice Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick**  
**Kovacevich** [19:00] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [19:00] Director LaBelle?

**Doug La**  
**Belle** [19:01] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [19:02] Director Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz** [19:04] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [19:05] Director Bagneris?

**Barbera**  
**Bagneris** [19:06] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [19:07] Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya**  
**Bilezikjian** [19:08] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [19:08] And Director Jackson?

**Dimitria**  
**Jackson** [19:09] Yes.



**Michele Richards** [19:10] Thank you. And thank you for accepting my apology. Thank you.

**Newton Pham** [19:19] Moving on to the governance process. Okay.

**Michele Richards** [19:25] Yep. Item A is presentation of the 2022 audit by the Financial Monitoring and Audit Committee and vote on whether or not to accept.

**Michele Richards** [19:35] So the audit committee met last week and I will turn it over to them for a review and recommendation.

**Nick Kovacevich** [19:43] Thank you. So some background, yeah, we did need to review the 2022 audit report with the representatives from LSL, who's the audit firm that we contracted to do our audit.

**Nick Kovacevich** [19:57] The audit report indicates that the financial statements present fairly in all material respects and that there are no deficiencies and internal controls. The financial monitoring and audit committee will present the draft document for the board's approval and filing with the CDFA.

**Nick Kovacevich** [20:15] Copy of the audit is attached. So we're moving to our recommendation, which would be that staff and audit committee all recommend acceptance of the 2022 audit report and filing with CDFA. Additionally, the committee and staff would like to thank LSL for the network.

**Nick Kovacevich** [20:37] Thank you. Now we got Adam on here from LSL.

**Adam Odom** [20:40] Thank you all for all your hard work in this audit too.

**Nick Kovacevich** [20:45] Great, and I know we have attached the report. Do we wanna review that or?

**Michele Richards** [20:50] I think that's up to the board.

**Nick Kovacevich** [20:52] Yeah, so feel free to ask questions if you guys would like, but do you have our recommendation?

**Barbera Bagneris** [20:57] We've actually seen it, but I'm just excited. We don't have a list of audits that we need to catch up on. Yes, so we're finally caught up.

**Robert Ruiz** [21:05] Yes, this is Director Ruiz. I am also glad to see a good, clean audit And I move that we accept the recommendation.

**Newton Pham** [21:14] I second. All right.

**Nick Kovacevich** [21:20] Call the question?

**Newton Pham** [21:21] Sure. Okay, roll call vote.

**Summer Angus** [21:24] Chair Pham?

**Newton Pham** [21:25] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [21:26] Vice -Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick**  
**Kovacevich** [21:27] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [21:27] Director La Belle?

**Doug La**  
**Belle** [21:29] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [21:29] Director Ruiz?

**Doug La**  
**Belle** [21:31] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [21:32] Director Bagneris?

**Barbera**  
**Bagneris** [21:34] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [21:35] Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya**  
**Bilezikjian** [21:36] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [21:37] And Director Jackson?

**Dimitria  
Jackson**

[21:38] Yes.

**Summer  
Angus**

[21:38] Thank you.

**Newton  
Pham**

[21:39] All right, item B.

**Michele  
Richards**

[21:42] Yes, moving on to item B.

**Michele  
Richards**

[21:46] Prior to 2021, the district contracted with a legislative representation services firm to advocate for the district's behalf to California legislators regarding pending legislation that impacted staff.

**Michele  
Richards**

[22:08] To cut costs during the pandemic, we eliminated that service, choosing to rely on the lobbyists that we have access to as part of our membership in the California Affairs Alliance. At the request of Director La Belle, we included \$30,000 in the 2023 budget.

**Michele  
Richards**

[22:33] And the board directed the staff to issue an RFP to identify legislative representation services. That contract came back to the board last month, but ultimately it was not approved in favor of maybe pulling back, having a discussion about legislative priorities, and then maybe going back out to RFP.

**Michele  
Richards**

[22:58] So in the meantime, we're in the middle of our budget process and staff would actually like to come forward with a recommendation, and certainly we'll open it up for board discussion. But since we have regular representation through California Affairs Alliance, anything that impacts the fair industry as a

whole and the district, we could use the lobbying services that are part of our membership in California Affairs Alliance.

**Michele  
Richards**

[23:32] If there are specific legislative issues that impact the district, we can always use a lobbyist on a special project basis, rather than retaining a lobbyist throughout the year. So I'll turn it over to Director La Belle if you have any additional comments, but that may be a way to cut our costs, but still make sure that we have access to services when we need it.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[24:03] I certainly agree with Michelle. I have two specific areas, and I'm sure other directors may have others that are specific to the OC Fair and the Vent Center. By way of background, for many years, we had a very successful marketplace, Orange County marketplace.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[24:26] When I first came on the board 13 years ago, they were still operating, but they were declining in terms of the revenues that were being generated to the Fair and the Vent Center. At one point in time, they were probably next to the fair where our single largest revenue producer.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[24:46] I think at the peak of the OC Fair and the Vent Center marketplace, they were generating close to four million a year in net revenues, which declined significantly over the years for a variety of reasons.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[25:02] The challenge is, at some point in time, the past operator of the OC marketplace, Bob Teller, was a very astute business person. And at some point in time, I don't know exactly when, it was probably 20, 30 years ago, he was able to get legislation enacted in Sacramento that precluded the OC Fair and Event Center from ever operating a marketplace as a function that we would

do, i.e., similar to our fair and similar to our Imagineology that we do in the spring.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[25:40] We are specifically precluded now from ever operating a marketplace. Whether or not this board or future boards would ever want to do that, that's a policy decision that we would make at some point down the road.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[25:58] I think it would behoove us to get that legislation out of there so we would have the ability as a fair board or future fair boards to have the ability to actually be the operator of the market place that we wanted to.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[26:12] I don't think it is a complex issue that's fairly straightforward. This would be a good example of what Michelle said. It doesn't really relate to the global area that the organization belongs to represents, but it's specific to us.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[26:31] So that's an area that I'd like to consider. We can certainly, don't need to make that decision now, we can do that as part of the budget process in the next couple of months. The second area, we have two non-profits that are 501C3s that are very, they're the lifeblood of Centennial Farms and Heroes Hall.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[26:55] I would want to make sure that the two non-profits, their whole reason for resisting is to support those two activities, Centennial Farms and Heroes Hall, that we make sure we are user-friendly in terms of our policies and procedures.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[27:14] I think right now, we don't have anything in place. I think State Law actually precludes us from giving any sort of special rate to Centennial Farms Foundation or Heroes Hall Foundation. I'd like to look at what we can do to get the legislation modified that would enable us to do that.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[27:37] And it's not only those two 501C3s, I'm sure there are other organizations out there that are non-profits that might get something too, and it all has to tie back into the mission we have as a district.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[27:53] If an organization came to a shell that wanted to do something that promoted something we were doing here at the fair and they wanted a discount or wanted some sort of rate to be adjusted to enable them to do that.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[28:13] I think Michelle should have the ability to do that and I think the way we would do that is ultimately adopt a policy at some point in time that the committee could look at that would give Michelle and her staff the ability to on a case -by -case basis to make adjustments in the fee schedule.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[28:33] I don't think we could correct me if I'm wrong Michelle. I don't think we could even do that now given, given what's currently existing in, in state law we have to have some sort of modification there to give us the district the ability to to assist local nonprofits with missions that are consistent with you know what we are are able to do.

**Michele  
Richards**

[28:55] Yeah, that's correct we would have the ability to to do a trade budget relieving trade so for example if a nonprofit had you know robust database that we could use to help market the fair or imagineology but it would have to be of equal equal value so we have some flexibility that way but to wave fees or discount fees we don't have the ability to do that now.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[29:26] And again those are my two areas that we can certainly discuss it now we can include it in the budget discussion whatever but I just think those are a couple of areas that we ought to look at trying to get some quote relief in terms of what we're confronted with.

**Nick Kovacevich** [29:42] Alright I have a couple questions.

**Newton Pham** [29:44] Real quick, before the board gets into the discussions we do have a public comment from Reggie Mundikis.

**Reggie Mundikis** [29:44] Hi good morning I'm Reggie Mundekis and thank you for this opportunity opportunity to address you this morning on this subject.

**Reggie Mundikis** [30:02] So I'm going to argue in favor of retaining a lobbyist. California Fair as Alliance can do a lot of good things for us, but we want to have our own lobbyists because we are different than all the other fairgrounds in the state.

**Reggie Mundikis** [30:19] I know people are going to look at me like, why is she saying that? Okay, every year the California Department of Food Agriculture publishes what's called the stop report, statement of operations. This is 2018, which is the most recent one they have on their website.

**Reggie Mundikis** [30:35] Michelle can probably get you one from, I'm thinking the most recent one is probably 2021. This is a big undertaking. This takes a year or more to prepare all this data. So let's go back to 2018 and talk about where we were and where other fairgrounds were on the state.

**Reggie Mundikis** [30:53] So in 2018, we had cash on hand of almost \$47 million, which is about 112% of our operating expenses. And we had 111 employees. What was the rest of the fair industry like in California?

**Reggie Mundikis** [31:14] Fairs are ranked by their size. There are nine classes of them. There are 12 class one fairs, which at that time had two employees each. And I had



reserves of either negative, one and a half million dollars, or a high of \$585,000.

**Reggie**  
**Mundikis**

[31:34] In our bracket, the top bracket, we were the one with the most reserves.

**Reggie**  
**Mundikis**

[31:42] San Diego County Fairgrounds, which has a racehorse track with it. So you think that they'd be rolling in the cash? I can't say how I describe their operations in this room because it is impolite over their inability to actually find a dollar, run along, and hang on to it.

**Reggie**  
**Mundikis**

[31:58] So, I'm going to hand this to you guys. Michelle can get to you electronically. It shows that we are different than everybody else. We just have this contract to do those two projects that Director La Belle suggests, which I support.

**Reggie**  
**Mundikis**

[32:14] And also for that one time that everybody else who doesn't make much money or any money at all wants to go one place and we don't want to carpool with them in a manner of speaking. We either need to stay where we are or go a different place.

**Reggie**  
**Mundikis**

[32:30] So it's just for me, it's a belt and suspenders approach. So I support the contract so that we, I'm sorry, so that we can maintain our own self-interest in this while helping others. So thank you.

**Newton**  
**Pham**

[32:44] All right, thanks.

**Nick  
Kovacevich**

[32:46] Yes, I have a couple questions. Director La Belle, you mentioned two items. Those are just to clarify, specific only to the OEC fare? The, are the marketplace, swap meet ban? No other state fares have that issue or?

**Michele  
Richards**

[33:02] That's correct.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[33:03] That's correct, yes.

**Nick  
Kovacevich**

[33:04] And that same with the discounting for nonprofits?

**Doug La  
Belle**

[33:08] Well, I think the nonprofit issue probably applies to any state agency. So that would apply theoretically to other fares.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[33:17] Whether they have issues similar to ours, I don't know. I don't know anybody else that has extensive nonprofit network as we do with Centennial Farms and Hero's Hall. But obviously, if there was some change in legislation, could give an ability to somebody else to do the same thing.

**Nick  
Kovacevich**

[33:37] Okay, yeah, and that would be, has that ever been something discussed with the California Fairline?

**Michele  
Richards**

[33:43] Yes.

**Nick  
Kovacevich**

[33:44] Yeah, so they're kind of on that one. And then if we were to do something like you guys recommended, Michelle would be approving sort of the ability to do special projects with the lobbying group.

**Nick  
Kovacevich**

[33:56] Would that be something that basically, we would approve once and then you guys could utilize that as needed or we could I guess approve things as needed?

**Michele  
Richards**

[34:07] Sure. Yeah, we would put money in the budget for one or two of those issues and then take them as one-offs as they come up.

**Michele  
Richards**

[34:20] And then once the board as Director LaBelle indicated, once the board approves that budget, then there would be no need to come back for fund approval. Obviously, we would want to involve the board from the legislative standpoint and you know, but the board's position would be on a particular topic.

**Barbera  
Bagneris**

[34:40] Mr. Chair.

**Newton  
Pham**

[34:42] Yeah.

**Barbera  
Bagneris**

[34:42] So, I have a couple of comments. I'm supporting this recommendation. A couple of things come to mind. First of all, how much money are we talking about for 2024 for a couple of one-offs that may happen?

**Michele  
Richards**

[34:54] So, the state contracting allows us to utilize, you know, any service provider without necessarily having to go through an RFP process as long as those services are under \$10,000. So we would move to, you know, budget in 2024, \$10,000 in case one of these items, you know, came before us and we wanted to take action.

[35:21] Okay. Because my overall concern is when I think of we can pay zero because we're in a membership with CFA versus \$10,000, \$30,000, I'm going to take zero because here we are trying to cut costs and telling the equestrian center, we're spending all this money and we're trying to get back to zero.

[35:41] I don't see us adding on to that if we have this other option. So that's why I would support this and \$10,000 doesn't sound like, you know, a big deal. So we'd be able to go out and have the lobbyists through the CFA or if we wanted to hire somebody.

[36:06] I think, what was our guys name before?

[36:06] Gonzales.

[36:06] Gonzales, if we wanted to hire them we could because it would be in our budget. So i'd support your recommendation.

[36:08] Quick follow-up. So we would be able to hire any of those firms, any of the lobbying firms, we wouldn't have to go with the winner of the bid if we wanted to do the special projects?

[36:20] That's correct.

[36:21] Yeah, I think Michelle could vote anyone she wanted to based upon who has the best ability to get us through on an issue.

[36:26 ] And that's under 10,000?

**Michele Richards** [36:26] Correct.

**Doug La Belle** [36:26] 9999.

**Nick Kovacevich** [36:26] So let's say we were talking about two projects. Could you do one under 10,000 with one firm and another one under 10,000?

**Michele Richards** [36:41] I think that's a question for them. If a firm would, you know, would take us on for that amount, but anything over that 10,000, we would have to do a competitive bid process.

**Barbera Bagneris** [36:52] Just to be clear, the projects that Director La Belle is talking about CFA can handles those right?

**Michele Richards** [36:57] Not the swap meet issue, she's not specific to the 32nd.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** [36:57] One last question. Can somebody point me to the legislation about the marketplace? Do you have a handy or--?

**Doug La Belle** [37:12] Oh, it's in one of those big blue books with the attorneys have. It's in the government code somewhere. I can't give you the exact, but I think you can pull that out. We can do it.

**Michele Richards** [37:28] I don't have it committed to memory,

**Doug La  
Belle**

[37:28] In all fairness I guess, at the point in time, it was very smart business decision on the part of Mr. Teller to get that in the legislation, but they don't exist anymore.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[37:38] And I think it's really up to this board or future boards. We may not want to ever do it, but I think we need to have the ability to do it if we want to at some point. And I don't think it's, I can't imagine there'd be a lot of oppositions that would be fairly straightforward.

**Michele  
Richards**

[37:54] I would follow it up by saying anything that is legislative related, even though I would have the authority as the CEO to, you know, to spend that money to engage a legislative representative, I would certainly bring a legislative issue back to the board for discussion.

**Michele  
Richards**

[38:17] That's not within my authority to decide how this board takes a stand on an issue.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[38:24] And there may well be other areas that staff has issues with. I think Michelle said it very well. She brings it back to us and say, you know, this is a problem we are having relative to such and such and then we have the ability as a board to say yay or nay.

**Barbera  
Bagneris**

[38:45] Mr. Chair, not hearing any opposition to this recommendation, I move that we approve this recommendation.

**Tanya  
Bilezikjian**

[38:47] I have one more question, sorry. Does it only limit swap meet type activity or marketplace type activity, that legislation or is it more broad?

**Michele  
Richards**

[38:57] It's specific to the term " Swap Meet".

**Doug La  
Belle**

[39:00] Yeah, specific to the marketplace operation.

**Nick  
Kovacevich**

[39:04] I actually have a question. Do we know how many, let's say "discriminatory laws" there are specifically against our fair versus...cause I know the guns show thing...

**Michele  
Richards**

[39:04] Those are the only two that I'm aware of and now you know that's across the board now on all state property, the gun law.

**Nick  
Kovacevich**

[39:26] Okay, that makes me feel a lot better

**Michele  
Richards**

[39:27] Yeah, but that was...

**Nick  
Kovacevich**

[39:30] I don't like us getting singled out.

**Michele  
Richards**

[39:31] Right, right.

**Newton  
Pham**

[39:32] All right, second. Roll call, please.

**Summer  
Angus**

[39:39] Chair Pham?

**Newton  
Pham**

[39:41] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [39:42] Vice Chair Kavacevich.?

**Nick**  
**Kovacevich** [39:44] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [39:44] Director La Belle?

**Doug La**  
**Belle** [39:45] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [39:45] Director Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz** [39:48] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [39:49] Director Bagneris?

**Barbera**  
**Bagneris** [39:50] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [39:50] Director Bileziikjian?

**Tanya**  
**Bilezikjian** [39:51] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [39:51] And Director Jackson?



**Dimitria  
Jackson**

[39:53] Yes.

**Summer  
Angus**

[39:53] Thank you.

**Newton  
Pham**

[39:55] All right, item C.

**Tanya  
Bilezikjian**

[39:59] Ready for the next one.

**Michele  
Richards**

[40:00] Oh, not changing? Here we go.

**Newton  
Pham**

[40:03] Out-of-state travel.

**Michele  
Richards**

[40:04] This one should be easy. So out of state travel, we always include in the budget any out-of-state travel that we plan to take during the next budget year for conventions, training opportunities, employee development opportunities.

**Michele  
Richards**

[40:23] We did not include attendance at the 2024, sorry, 2023, IAFI, International Association Affairs and Expositions Annual Convention, because we knew at the time that it was being held in Salt Lake City, and Utah was on the list of ban travel states.

**Michele Richards** [40:44] As you know, that ban has been lifted, so we now have the ability to travel out of state. And so we're asking for approval for COO Carnes and myself to attend that International Association Affairs and Expositions Convention, November 26th through the 29th in Salt Lake City.

**Michele Richards** [41:08] And just for reference, we expect that budget impact to be about \$2,500, and we do have leftover money in our travel budget for 2023 to cover those costs.

**Newton Pham** [41:25] I don't have a question or concerns.

**Barbera Bagneris** [41:26] Mr. Chair, recommend that we move to approve the recommendation.

**Robert Ruiz** [41:26] I second, Director Ruiz.

**Doug La Belle** [41:38] I support the motion but like to speak to the issue if I could. I know Michelle, our support has become a member of the International County and City Managers Association, which is actually an international, but nationwide, so that she could interact with, obviously, not only city managers but county managers and other public agency managers that are doing similar things to what she is responsible for.

**Doug La Belle** [42:05] They have a statewide conference, they have an international conference. I'd like her to at least look at that during the process and then we can discuss it as we go through the budget.

**Doug La Belle** [42:17] But I think that could be very, very beneficial.

**Michele Richards** [42:20] And we are and Melissa is a member as well. So we are definitely looking at that for our 2024 schedule.

**Doug La Belle** [42:27] Super. Okay. I call the question.

**Newton Pham** [42:29] Okay, Director Ruiz have a comment or something I heard.

**Nick Kovacevich** [42:32] Think he seconded.

**Newton Pham** [42:32] Oh, okay.

**Michele Richards** [42:33] He's going to jump in and make his noise there.

**Everyone** [42:33] (Laughter)

**Newton Pham** [42:40] I forgot to ask about the online stuff. last go around. Okay. roll call.

**Summer Angus** [42:47] I'll take the roll call vote. Chair Pham?

**Newton Pham** [42:48] Yes.

**Summer Angus** [42:49] Vice-Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick**  
**Kovacevich** [42:50] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [42:51] Director La Belle?

**Doug La**  
**Belle** [42:52] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [42:52] Director Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz** [42:54] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [42:55] Director Bagneris?

**Robert Ruiz** [42:56] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [42:57] Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya**  
**Bilezikjian** [42:58] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [42:58] And Director Jackson?

**Dimitria**  
**Jackson** [43:00] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus**

[43:00] Thank you.

**Michele**  
**Richards**

[43:01] Thank you. It's been a very long time since we've been able to attend a lot of the IAFI and it's a great organization. So thank you so much. We'll need to catch up all in one convention. Thank you.

**Tanya**  
**Bilezikjian**

[43:15] We need to host it next year.

**Michele**  
**Richards**

[43:16] Yeah. There we go. Okay.

**Newton**  
**Pham**

[43:19] Okay. Item D.

**Michele**  
**Richards**

[43:21] Yes. Okay. Board policy 3.05 states that regular meetings of the board of directors will be held monthly on the 4th Thursday or at the discretion of the board chair.

**Michele**  
**Richards**

[43:33] Each year is a housekeeping item. We present a proposed calendar for board meetings for the upcoming years. So these are the dates that align with that 4th Thursday of every month. January 25th, February 22nd, March 28th, et cetera.

**Michele**  
**Richards**

[43:51] No meeting in July. No meeting in August. And you'll note, as tradition November, November, and December meetings are the third Thursday because of the holiday. So we're just looking for approval for those dates, meeting time at 9:30 so that we can get that on everyone's calendars for 2024.

**Newton  
Pham** [44:14] Does anyone have any comments on the third? Robert?

**Robert Ruiz** [44:23] No, no, I have no comment.

**Nick  
Kovacevich** [44:25] I'll make a motion to approve.

**Dimitria  
Jackson** [44:27] I'll second it. Director Jackson.

**Newton  
Pham** [44:29] All right, roll call?

**Summer  
Angus** [44:30] Chair Pham?

**Newton  
Pham** [44:33] Yes.

**Summer  
Angus** [44:34] Vice Chair Kovacevich?

**Newton  
Pham** [44:35] Yes.

**Summer  
Angus** [44:36] Director La Belle?

**Barbera  
Bagneris** [44:37] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [44:37] Director Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz** [44:39] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [44:40] Director Bagneris?

**Robert Ruiz** 44:41 Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [44:41] Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya**  
**Bilezikjian** [44:43] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [44:43] And Director Jackson?

**Dimitria**  
**Jackson** [44:44] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [44:45] Thank you.

**Michele**  
**Richards** [44:46] All right, Summer will be sending out outlook notices for all those dates and to get them on your calendars.

**Newton**  
**Pham** [44:53] Okay. item E

**Michele Richards** [44:53] You want to take that one?

**Newton Pham** [44:53] Sure.

**Michele Richards** [44:53] That's your nominee consideration.

**Newton Pham** [44:53] Consideration and vote of board director's nominating task force recommendation and election of board officers and that'll turn it over to the Doug.

**Doug La Belle** [44:53] Thank you, Chair Pham.

**Doug La Belle** [45:15] Director Rubalcava-Garcia and myself were appointed at the last meeting to be the nominating committee. Uh, and we have reached out to two individuals, and Natalie and I are pleased to, um, recommend to the full board the, uh, selection of Director Kovacevich as our chair for the ensuing year and Director Bagneris as the vice-chair for the ensuing year.

**Doug La Belle** [45:42] We are very pleased that they both indicated a willingness to do that. And, uh, with that I'm going to move, um, that, uh, recommendation.

**Dimitria Jackson** [45:52] I'll second that.

**Newton Pham** [45:53] Enthusiastic yes from me.



**Doug La Belle** [45:54] Yeah. Any objections from these two?

**Everyone** [45:58] (Laughter)

**Michele Richards** [45:58] He Said, "Enthusiastically."

**Newton Pham** [45:58] Yeah, let's go!

**Everyone** [46:06] (Laughter)

**Summer Angus** [46:10] Okay, roll call vote. Chair, Pham?

**Newton Pham** [46:11] Yes.

**Summer Angus** 46:12] Vice-Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** [46:13] Yes.

**Summer Angus** [46:14] Director La Belle?

**Doug La Belle** [46:15] Absolutely, yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [46:16] Director Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz** [46:18] 100 percent, yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [46:20] Director Bagneris?

**Barbera**  
**Bagneris** [46:21] Yes.

**Tanya**  
**Bilezikjian** [46:23] Director Bilezikjian?

**Summer**  
**Angus** [46:25] Yes. And Director Jackson?

**Dimitria**  
**Jackson** [46:26] Yes.

**Summer**  
**Angus** [46:27] Thank you. All right.

**Everyone** [46:28] (Applause)

**Michele**  
**Richards** [46:28] And If I could just...

**Michele**  
**Richards** [46:31] Get ready you two.

Michele Richards [46:36] Director Pham, Newton, on behalf of the board and staff, we wanted to present you with this commemorative plaque with appreciation for your service as our board chair for the 2023 year.

Newton Pham [46:50] Awesome!

Everyone [46:51] (Applause)

Newton Pham [46:54] Thank you.

Michele Richards [47:11] Newton, it's been a pleasure. Thank you so much for your leadership this year.

Newton Pham [47:17] Thank you.

Barbera Bagneris [47:18] We have had some of the shortest meetings ever.

Newton Pham [47:20] Again, not always a good thing, but I'll take it.

**Newton Pham** [47:24] Awesome.

**Michele Richards** [47:27] Yeah.

**Newton** [47:28] All right. Committee reports. We do have a public comment for item  
**Pham** 8F, a leadership committee. Gibran Stont

**Gibran** [47:42] Hello. You know what I was going to say has already been discussed,  
**Stont** but I really want to, again, thank you for the RFP and I really encourage you to  
look at what is working. There are four other public facilities, in addition to  
the one that's here in the county.

**Gibran** [48:04] So there's really great information available to you there. I'm really  
**Stont** excited and anxious and looking forward to learning from the mistakes that  
have been made in the past. And I really encourage you to ask questions.

**Gibran** [48:19] There's a lot more information available to you. Ask questions and  
**Stont** trust your instincts. You're all brilliant people and your forerunners in your  
fields. Trust your instincts and ask questions. You have made a commitment to  
the community to preserve this amazing agricultural asset which is becoming  
more and more rare as we watch urban sprawl and development roll all around  
us.

**Gibran** [48:46] So again, ask questions, trust your instincts and make informed  
**Stont** decisions. Thank you.

**Newton** [48:52] Thank you. So we, the leadership committee, Nick, and I met with  
**Pham** staff and discussed the agenda and different board topics and items.

**Newton** [49:06] We don't have any special projects at this time. And we worked with  
**Pham** CO to develop the agenda that's presented today. Follow me next meeting is  
November 8th, which Nick will be the chair.

**Michele Richards** [49:20] That's Right.

**Doug La Belle** [49:22] You're smiling way too much.

**Everyone** [49:25] (Laughter)

**Newton Pham** [49:25] It wasn't that.

**Nick Kovacevich** [49:30] Big shoes to fill. Would you like me to do the next report?

**Newton Pham** [49:38] Yes.

**Nick Kovacevich** [49:38] Okay, great. So the financial monitoring and audit committee obviously has been a very impressive duo to be able to be nominated into leadership positions.

**Nick Kovacevich** [49:48] Barbara and I have been working well together. We did meet on October 20th with LSL, our audit firm, and we were provided with an overview and reviewed the 2022 audit report with the committee and staff.

**Nick Kovacevich** [50:05] The auditor stated the report indicates the financial statements present fairly and all material respects, the financial position of the organization. Additionally, the independent auditors did not identify any deficiencies in internal control or consider material weaknesses.

**Nick  
Kovacevich**

[50:19] The committee will present the audit, but we did present the audit to the board today. And we approved it today, so that's great. Subsequent to that, we also reviewed the September financial reports in the committee.

**Nick  
Kovacevich**

[50:34] The revenue for the month of September was \$ 2.64 million. It was favorable to budget by \$539,000. And that's mainly due to the rescheduling of the Chicago concert due to the hurricane from August into September.

**Nick  
Kovacevich**

[50:52] So we benefited in September but lost revenue in August. So next, the operating expenses for the month of September were \$ 4.3 million and were unfavorable to budget by a million. And that was mainly due to late invoices related to the OC Fair. 2023 fair.

**Nick  
Kovacevich**

[51:10] For the year-to-date period of ending on September 30th, net proceeds are \$ 11.8 million and favorable to budget by \$2.18 million. For the period of ending September 30th, cash and cash equivalents are at \$ 59.1 million, and the decrease is due to \$22 million contributed already to the administration building expansion project.

**Nick  
Kovacevich**

[51:36] So we could see some more cash being put to use. The committee has also reviewed the Department 25 Equestrian Center financial report for the period ending September 30th. Revenue for the month was close to \$100,000, which was almost \$19,000 unfavorable to budget.

**Nick  
Kovacevich**

[51:57] Expenses were \$1 .5 million. at \$171,000, which was favorable to budget by almost \$56,000. Overall, net losses for the month of September came in at \$72,489. Net losses year to date are just over \$770,000 compared to what we budgeted for, which was a loss of 1.227 million.

[52:27] The committee and staff confirmed the daytime, the upcoming budget study session, which will be held on Tuesday, November 7th at 3 p.m. So we look forward to seeing members of the public and also by of course all the members of the board to participate if you're available.

[52:48] The next meeting for the financial monitoring audit committee is scheduled for November 10th. Thank you. Thanks,

[52:53] Thanks Nick. We actually have a public comment on this as well. Gibran Stont.

[52:57] Hello, talking here a lot today, sorry about that. I'm so excited to hear you guys reading this, it's going over the financial committee stuff. One of the things I'm curious if we've considered, I haven't heard it in any of the meetings, but I don't care everything all the time.

[53:20] I'm curious why we are building now when the cost of building is at an all-time high, labor costs, as you know, it's costing more now than anything, than ever before to build. When there's tons, and I mean tons, of existing inventory, sitting nearby of empty space, as employers found from COVID that people can work remotely.

[53:51] And that staff can work very successfully in many cases remotely. I'm wondering if the financial committee has considered leasing or purchasing nearby space. I know for a fact that you can get three times the space that you're proposing to spend \$30 million on, three times the space for half the price, and that would be an investment that could grow in your portfolio.

**Gibran Stont** [54:17] So I'm just wondering how much conversation there is about other options, because there's tons of options there. It would be great if we could send even one person to meetings to bring forth some information that may be not be included.

**Gibran Stont** [54:32] So that's all my suggestion. Thank you.

**Newton Pham** [54:35] Alrighty. Facilities committee?

**Barbera Bagneris** [54:38] Before you move on, I just wanted to compliment, I'm calling them M &M now, Melissa and Max, for their hard work. The fidelity of detail that we can get now surpasses when I came on the board we weren't getting that.

**Barbera Bagneris** [54:54] And so I really appreciate their expertise and what they bring and how they present it to us in our meetings. I just want to compliment M &M.

**Newton Pham** [55:04] My new nickname approved.

**Nick Kovacevich** [55:04] I dido that compliment.

**Newton Pham** [55:04] Facilities committee?

**Doug La Belle** [55:13] Robert, do you want to do it or?



**Michele Richards** [55:19] I know Director Ruiz needed to leave at a certain time, so you may have have left.

**Doug La Belle** [55:22] We have the report that's been transmitted to the board. I think the only thing I would add to it, Ken and CCA have done an excellent job of moving the CAPEX projects along and getting them completed.

**Doug La Belle** [55:37] Based upon Director Ruiz's comment at the last board meeting about the Irvine Theater that was under consideration, we did talk about that at the facilities committee. And subsequently, the facilities committee, it now appears that Live Nation is not going to be proceeding ahead with that project.

**Doug La Belle** [56:00] I still think, and we talked about not slowing anything else down that we're doing, but trying to accelerate the PAC -AM to make sure we can get it done as soon as possible. I think when Live Nation was proceeding ahead, they were looking at. January in 2026 is opening.

**Doug La Belle** [56:22] And I think our schedule would be after that. Now a lot of things have changed. We don't know what the city of Irvine is going to do. It looks like it could be more of a local theater that may even be in more competition with us than Live Nation.

**Doug La Belle** [56:38] So I just like to comment that as we go through the budget, I think the boards should kind of revisit our priorities and make sure that we're going in the same direction that we think we ought to be going in.

**Doug La Belle** [56:51] But that's a budget discussion in November and December. So those would be my comments.

**Newton  
Pham** [56:59] Thank you. There's no closed sessions.

**Michele  
Richards** [57:02] There's no closed session?

**Barbera  
Bagneris** [57:03] I just want to comment. The Gov. committee, I don't think they're reporting out.

**Barbera  
Bagneris** [57:09] But I did hear Director La Belle tell me something about if we had policy, or if we needed policy for a legislative priority matters, and I don't have a document in front of me, you might know if we have something in there already.

**Michele  
Richards** [57:23] We don't. But I would suggest that maybe when, now chair, soon to be chair, chair-elect, Kovacevich when we have a discussion about committee assignments, that that might be a good topic for the governance.

**Barbera  
Bagneris** [57:42] I didn't want it to get lost, I heard him say it earlier.

**Michele  
Richards** [57:42] Thank you. Good point.

**Newton  
Pham** [57:42] Oh, sorry about that. There is a public comment from Gibran Stont on the facility. okay.

**Michele  
Richards** [57:42] I do want to add something on behalf of the community affairs committee, even though they didn't meet.

**Michele  
Richards**

[58:00] We do want to recognize Filipino American History Month, the celebration of this month in October commemorates the first recorded presence of Filipinos in the continental United States, and October was chosen to commemorate the arrival of the first Filipinos who landed in what is now Morro Bay, California, on October 18, 1587.

**Michele  
Richards**

[58:26] So we recognize that group within our community, and then observed each October National Disability Employment Awareness Month celebrates the contributions of America's workers with disabilities past and present and showcases supportive, inclusive employment policies and practices that benefit both employers and employees, and those are from Cali Char.

**Michele  
Richards**

[58:51] So I wanted to recognize those two celebrations this month.

**Michele  
Richards**

[58:57] And if you're okay, chair Pham, I'll just roll right into a few operational updates. Okay, so as was mentioned, the RFP for the Independent Operator for the Equestrian Center is ongoing.

**Michele  
Richards**

[59:11] Expected release is early December. Now we don't bring draft RFPs into public board meetings for obvious reasons. It's a competitive document. But we will be reviewing some highlights and key points of that RFP with the board in November before that's released.

**Michele  
Richards**

[59:32] The 60% conceptual design completion of the administration building project is nearing completion. And we will have a presentation next month at the board meeting to show the progression of the design.

[59:48] Our 2024 budget process is in full swing. And as Chair-Elect  
**Michele** Kovacevich said, the budget study session is scheduled for November 7th in  
**Richards** this room. Thank you to Directors Bagneris and Kovacevich for attending the  
Economic Forecast Conference with us as the finance committee.

[01:00:10] It was very good. That information is always really helpful to us in  
**Michele** forecasting our budget. And it's kind of more of the same, right? Going into  
**Richards** 2024. So once again, the 2023 OC Fair was voted the number one fair of  
festival in Orange County by readers of the OC Register.

[01:00:32] And we're so proud of this award because it's from the readers. It's  
**Michele** from the people. And the register said, quote, "For many locals a trip to the OC  
**Richards** Fair is an essential part of any summer, unquote. "And we couldn't agree more.

[01:00:49] So thank you to the register and register readers for that award. And  
**Michele** do you remember the Chilled Water Stations at the fair? Okay. So we are. We  
**Richards** placed those throughout the fair. We did a little research, maybe not too  
scientific, but the best that we could find, to learn what the impact might be,  
since our goal was to eliminate as many plastic water bottles out of the  
environment as possible.

[01:01:15] We're very happy to report that we estimate that those chilled water  
**Michele** stations helped eliminate 26,145 plastic water bottles from the environment  
**Richards** just during the fair. Now, how big is that exactly? Well, if you were to place  
those bottles end to end, they would measure 3.71 miles of distance, or  
basically from here to South Coast Plaza, and back.

**Michele Richards** [01:01:45] 3.71 miles of plastic bottles. So that was a great introduction to the fair. Thank you, COO Karnes, for that idea.

**Doug La Belle** [01:01:56] Now, did he actually walk to South Coast Plaza?

**Michele Richards** [01:01:59] Yeah, I think he did.

**Doug La Belle** [01:01:59] Did he line them all up?

**Doug La Belle** [01:02:02] You know, these are very scientific figure.

**Doug La Belle** [01:02:02] Yes, right. You know, they had pictures, that's what I'm talking about.

**Barbera Bagneris** [01:02:02] But everything, you know, I love that the chilled water stations have just found them hard to find, so maybe more.

**Michele Richards** [01:02:16] Yeah. Yes. It was the first year, and certainly, ideas for next year are underway. And, Joan, if you don't mind, I'll click for you. That's okay. Three slides.

**Joan Hamill** [01:02:28] I'm here to present the events update. Yay. Oops, sorry.

**Joan Hamill** [01:02:33] Thank you. Oh, wow, that's really a lot of footage over here. The seasonal Adventures Pumpkin Patch is taking place through October 31st, so that's just next week. So, invite everyone to go out and give their pumpkins and have some fun out there.

**Joan Hamill** [01:02:47] There's lots to do. Fight Club, OC Tonight in the Hanger. The most fun you can have on a Thursday night in Orange County, as quoted. The Japan Fair taking place this weekend as well, the 27th through the 29th.

**Joan Hamill** [01:03:02] And a new event to our property, the Great Junk Hunt, November 3rd and 4th. That's a Friday and Saturday. And this will be four buildings full of vintage shopping. And those buildings are Anaheim, Los Alamitos, OC Promenade, and the Hanger.

**Joan Hamill** [01:03:20] And then the OC Wine returns at the 11th and the 12th. That's also in the hangar. And as always, farmers markets on Thursdays. And you can get fresh fruits, vegetables, farm fresh eggs, prepared food, local honey, and so much more.

**Joan Hamill** [01:03:36] For events taking place at Centennial Farm in Heroes Hall, our very popular Centennial Farm Garden Class Series. We have an upcoming one November 4th, and that's Winter's Sweet Harvest with Persimmon.

**Joan Hamill** [01:03:51] And this is all about growing and cultivating your own persimmon trees. So favorite recipes will be shared, techniques. \$6 is the materials fee and it covers all the handouts. And there's still a few open spots.

**Joan Hamill** [01:04:06] So if you're interested or if you have a persimmon tree that you don't know what to do with, please come out. We have some very, we have experts that can help you with that. So you can get focus projects here and sign up for that online.

[01:04:19] And then I'd like to take this opportunity to invite everyone to our Salute to Veterans event at Heroes Hall on Saturday, November 11th. That's

**Joan Hamill** Veterans Day from 2 to 4 p.m. And please join us for a ceremony in the unveiling of a new memorial plaque honoring our fallen heroes and veterans who served post 9 -11.

[01:04:41] Additionally, there will be a Veterans pinning ceremony for those

**Joan Hamill** who are supposed to be on 11 Veterans. A performance by All American Boys Chorus, Veterans Service Organization booth, kids activities, and more.

[01:04:55] This is a free event and all are welcome. And last, just to continue with Centennial Farm and Heroes Hall at Centennial Farm, our junior farmer

**Joan Hamill** tours, which are the school fellowships, are in full swing as our discovery days, which are self-guided tours for any school or public to attend.

[01:05:15] Our --- are on handed during discovery days and available to answer questions and guide attendees. And at Heroes Hall, the recently opened

**Joan Hamill** exhibit, Ballard and Virtue, Jewish American Medal of Honor recipients continues on the lower level.

[01:05:31] This exhibit runs through March 24th. And Heroes Hall is open 10

**Joan Hamill** to 4 Wednesdays through Sundays. And then, of course, the Santa Ana Army Air Base exhibit is ongoing upstairs. And this concludes my report.

**Joan Hamill** [01:05:45] And I think if you have any questions,

**Barbera**  
**Bagneris** [01:05:47] I do. Can you tell me what the junk hunt is about?

**Joan Hamill** [01:05:50] Yeah, it's vintage items for sale, so a vintage market.

**Barbera  
Bagneris** [01:05:55] Oh, OK. So I'm not hunting for anything.

**Joan Hamill** [01:05:57] Well, depends what you're looking for, that you don't have, that you didn't know you needed.

**Joan Hamill** [01:06:02] They're fantastic. This is a great show. You'll love it.

**Barbera  
Bagneris** [01:06:05] I was thinking maybe a scavenger hunt.

**Doug La  
Belle** [01:06:09] More stuff for the garage.

**Michele  
Richards** [01:06:10] That's right. And one more thing, a very happy, belated birthday to Director La Belle.

**Doug La  
Belle** [01:06:16] Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

**Michele  
Richards** [01:06:17] Director La Belle, you have to clarify something for us. Some of our records say October 3rd. Some say the 13th.

**Doug La  
Belle** [01:06:17] The 3rd.

**Michele  
Richards** [01:06:17] The 3rd. OK, then we're very late. I wish you a happy birthday hope it was a good one.

**Michele  
Richards** [01:06:34] All right. And that concludes our report.



**Tanya  
Bilezikjian**

[01:06:37] Just a quick question. What time is the farmer's market?

**Joan Hamill**

[01:06:43] Farmers market is taking place right now. And it is from 9 to 1. 9 to noon. Every Thursday. Every Thursday.

**Joan Hamill**

[01:06:50] Wednesday. Wednesday. OK. See, come right out. It's worth it.

**Newton  
Pham**

[01:06:55] OK. And with that, I'll take it around the room. I think you're ready to start off with floor comments. Or should I go the other way?

**Newton  
Pham**

[01:07:10] All right. Let's go with you first.

**Nick  
Kovacevich**

[01:07:14] All right. Well, first of all, I'd like to thank the board here for their support. for trusting me to become the next chairman and appreciate the support and the leadership, mentorship that I received from many here in my years, and hopefully I'm up for the task.

**Nick  
Kovacevich**

[01:07:30] So thank you and I look forward to working with Director Bagneris on the leadership committee going forward. This last month I was able to attend the pumpkin patch here at the very grounds. My son is a huge fan.

**Nick  
Kovacevich**

[01:07:48] He loves to go down the slides. In fact, we invited his whole class here on Friday after school. So hopefully it's not too crowded, even though I put the word out. But it's a lot of fun. So if you haven't been able to go, I would suggest.

[01:08:03] And thank you to SAF for doing a great job and the event schedule is good. I hope to attend some of the upcoming events. And lastly, thanks to the members of the public here showing support and kind words on some of the actions we've taken and helpful notes that they've provided.

[01:08:19] So thank you for your engagement and we look forward to continuing to move the ball on anything that's of importance to the community.

[01:08:32] First I'd like to thank Newton for a great job as chair. He kept us in line and moving ahead and Nick will be a good successor to Nick and Barbara as well.

[01:08:43] So I want to congratulate them. Also, I wanted to take the opportunity, I think you know I'm on the Boys and Public Board. And we have our hundredth, Delta Robita reefs anniversary, a hundred years. We've been producing the wreath starting in 1923.

[01:09:04] And Chris Burns, our executive director will be contacting Michelle to arrange a tour of the production facility. Probably the week after Thanksgiving, which is the high production week. The Boys and Girls obviously are involved in, heavily involved in doing that as well as volunteers and some paid staff.

[01:09:30] I've taken the tour myself and I would encourage those of you that can venture out to Chino Hills as I may even go with you. As I've shared with Michelle, I've taken the tour in the past. The Boys and Girls basically collect the materials that go on the reefs on an ongoing basis over the year.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[01:09:53] And they're a work product that ends up in the reefs. The tour I've taken there before is... The only thing missing in the wreath bar is being Crosby singing White Christmas. It is an absolutely delightful experience.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[01:10:14] Those of you who can do that can make the tour. Also, I want to thank everybody for the birthday wish. It was my 80th birthday. Everybody tells me it's just a number, but my body is not quite so sure.

**Doug La  
Belle**

[01:10:29] So anyway, thank you all. And again, congratulations to Newton, Nick, and Barbara. And I look forward to the upcoming budget session.

**Barbera  
Bagneris**

[01:10:39] I need to see your driver's license. Dido, thank you, director of Pham. You've done an outstanding job.

**Barbera  
Bagneris**

[01:10:51] And we appreciate your leadership. And you're the director of preposits. And we know you're going to be a great chair. And like you said, I enjoy working with you. And so I know you're going to have a lot of great things to do in this next year.

**Barbera  
Bagneris**

[01:11:03] And if you stick around, I'll be able to be the vice chair and chair. So just thank everybody. Thank the staff. And I want to compliment that design, that the pumpkin is the whole. So cute. And that is so perfect to come from the Orange County Fair.

**Barbera  
Bagneris**

[01:11:19] And you guys are the most creative people I know. So thank you for that.

**Michele  
Richards**

[01:11:23] That summer's work.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** [01:11:26] What do I do? All right. Yep, I will also echo everything everybody has said. I know I'm new here, but nice job for the last meetings

**Tanya Bilezikjian** [01:11:34] And I certainly plan to stick around a lot. I have to make my way around the table and eventually take one of these seats. Mostly because I want a gavel.

**Newton Pham** [01:11:44] Yeah, its really cool

**Tanya Bilezikjian** [01:11:44] So that's really something. But I just wanted to say, partly by way of letting you guys get to know me a little bit, sustainability and resilience are really two passions of mine.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** [01:11:58] And I'm so excited that we're looking at things like water conservation and the fair. And I have so many other thoughts and ideas that I can't wait to really dig in. Talk with Michelle and talk with all of you.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** [01:12:12] Obviously I'm probably very aware of what we can't. But yeah, it's so great to be here and I'm a civil engineer and to have this massive property to just think about and be part of and hopefully work with Ken and anyhow, thanks for having me, It's been good to be here

**Dimitria Jackson** [01:12:34] Hi, thank you for going the other way, I appreciate that. Giving me time. And yes, congratulations on your, it's been a year, right?

**Newton Pham** [01:12:43] Yeah.

**Dimitria Jackson** [01:12:43] Thank you for your service. We only had two meetings together, but I appreciate your leadership.

**Dimitria** [01:12:47] I'm looking forward to serving under our new designated chair and vice chair. I'm happy to be here. I really am, I'm happy to be part of this group.

**Jackson** This is a staff is amazing. The board's amazing, it's such a passion members of the community I've seen for the past months.

**Dimitria** [01:13:03] So far as I've seen, as I've been here two times. So I see you're here, your dedication is very strong, you're very committed. So I appreciate that and  
**Jackson** I'm just happy to serve. I guess we're saying what we do.

**Dimitria** [01:13:16] I'm a lawyer, I'm a real estate broker and I actually have a  
**Jackson** background in sustainability. So I, but I hear those numbers and how you put it together and kind of makes a visual with the water bottles and it's a nature.

**Dimitria** [01:13:27] So I think that's awesome. Because people can recognize the impact  
**Jackson** that they're having on using a station versus bringing your water bottle to the fair. So I'm looking forward to the team service. I'm happy to be part of this group and I'm looking to learn more and contribute more this organization.

**Newton** [01:13:46] Thank you. Thank you. I know right, you brought the water bottle  
**Pham** but you just brought it up as I was here. It's your idea. Oh man. Oh man. Oh man. Oh man. But I'm all for it. Yeah. Now this has been a, you know, I appreciate the support of everyone.

**Newton** [01:14:04] It's been actually a really good year. Appreciate the staff for all the  
**Pham** hard work. It made it really, really easy for me, the support of the other board members, and the members of the public for not being too hard during this year.

**Newton** [01:14:18] You know, I've been on the board for a while, and due to timing and  
**Pham** whatnot, I've just never worked out, as far as chairing but I actually learned a lot this year, and I kind of wish I did it a little bit earlier to be honest with you.

[01:14:29] So, lots of learn, worked with Nick this past year as well. Definitely

**Newton**

a good hands, strong leader, very pragmatic, and you know, you've done a

**Pham**

barber for a long time, so I think I'm looking forward to it, the coming year.

With that, meeting adjourned. Thank you everybody. Thank you.