

## OCFEC Board Meeting January 25th, 2024

**Nick Kovacevich** Good morning, everyone. Before we call the meeting to order, I'm going to actually turn it over to the Community Affairs Committee. Director Ruby color Garcia and director Jackson to make a Black History Month presentation to Bobbie MacDonald who is here the president of the Black Chamber of Commerce. So go ahead.

**Dimitria Jackson** Good morning everyone. On behalf of the 32nd da We are delighted to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Bobby McDonnell, President and Executive Director of the Black Chamber of Commerce of Orange County. As we proudly present our proclamation for Black History Month Mr. MacDonald's multifaceted leadership spanning from the business sector to his commendable service as a US Navy, Vietnam veteran, and a member of the ninth and 10th horse cavalry Association, Buffalo Soldiers, exemplifies his commitment to excellence. Under his guidance, the Black Chamber of Commerce has forged impactful partnerships, and consistently supported small business owners. Mr. McDonald serves on the board of the Heroes Hall, veterans Foundation, and PBS SoCal Board of Trustees. So please join us as we present him with our proclamation for on behalf of the black community for Black History Month, I'd like to share some words from the proclamation that we're about to present to Mr. McDonnell.

**Dimitria Jackson** It says further resolved at the Board of Directors of the district hereby reaffirms the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and non discrimination as core institutional values of the district and OC fair and Event Center, further resolved that the Board of Directors hereby reaffirms its policy prohibiting discrimination by the district on the basis of any characteristic protected by law, and in proclaiming Black History Month at the OC fair, and Event Center. Expressing notice that this prohibition applies to discrimination against any person on the basis of their race, ethnicity, or nationality. And the board of directors hereby directs that the Pan African flag be flown every February, henceforth, alongside all official flags that are displayed on the district's property as a symbol of the district's belief and the equal dignity of all persons who visit the fairgrounds, and the district's commitment to welcoming and including people of all backgrounds and identities to the OC fair, and Event Center. So, on behalf of the 32nd Da, once again, we'd like to present this to Bobby McDonnell, on behalf of the black African American community in Orange County.

**Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia** Maybe we can get one with the full board? But I also just want to add, I want to thank Director Bagneres, because she really led the charge last

year to not only fly the black, the Pan African flag, but also to adopt the proclamation language that we used in the proclamation here. And as the chair of this committee, we have worked together to really highlight the months and the different recognitions that we give to other groups in our on behalf of the Board and the Orange County Fairgrounds. So this is the first proclamation that we've ever given to anybody. So we're really proud to be able to present this to Bobbie MacDonald on behalf of the African American community in Orange County, and we look forward to presenting to other groups throughout the year. So thank you.

**Bobby McDonald** Thank you, on behalf of the Black Chamber and their board and the community, thank you very kindly for this. It's even more special this year, because on February 24, will be the 40th anniversary of the Black Chamber here in Orange County. Alright, so this is really really special because it comes in our 40s anniversary we love the the fairgrounds we love needless to say Hero's Hall and all the things we've done within the way we've had grown and how it's one of our better museums here in the community. And it's been fun to bring all the ethnic groups and chambers and veterans around for this on behalf of the veterans and happy everything we're doing here thank you so much for understanding how our community works and being part of the community thank you.

**Dimitria Jackson** Get a photo everybody what do you want you by the flags over here yeah...

**Barbera Bagneres** Gotta hold it up...

**Nick Kovacevich** Okay And with that, we will call the meeting to order. Item two, the mission of OSI FEC is creating equitable community access to agriculture, entertainment, cultural and educational experiences. And if I could ask Director Pham to lead us in the pledge.

**Everyone** 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.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you. Item four, roll call summary. Could you please.

**Summer Angus** Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** Present.

**Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneres?

**Barbera Bagneres** Present.

**Summer Angus** Director Pham?

**Newton Pham** Here.

**Summer Angus** Director La Belle?

**Doug Le Belle** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

**Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia** Present.

**Summer Angus** Director Ruiz? Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Here.

**Summer Angus** And Director Jackson?

**Dimitria Jackson** Present.

**Summer Angus** Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you item five. Minutes. We do have minutes from thee December 14th board meeting. And we are looking for a motion to approve those.

**Doug Le Belle** So move.

**Barbera Bagneres** Second.

**Nick Kovacevich** Summer?

**Summer Angus** Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneres?

**Barbera Bagneres** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Pham?

**Newton Pham** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director La Belle?

**Doug Le Belle** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

**Natalie** Yes.

**Rubalcava-Garcia**

**Summer Angus** Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Yes.

**Summer Angus** And Director Jackson?

**Dimitria Jackson** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** Item six matters of public comment public comments allowed on issues not on the current agenda. However, no debate by the Board shall be permitted on such public comments and no action will be taken on such public comments at this time. So I'll require formal public notice prior to any action on an agenda item, speakers are requested to fill out and submit a comment card the meeting Secretary prior to the start of the meeting are limited three minutes. comments will be accepted on all other agenda items at the time each item is listed on the agenda. 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 to the start of the meeting and identify the agenda items on which you desire to address the board. And again speakers are limited to three minutes. Do we have any general comment cards?

**Summer Angus** Not on zoom.

**Nick Kovacevich** Nope? Great. Moving on to item seven consent calendar. All matters listed on our consent calendar are operational matters about which the board has governing policies implementation of which are delegated to the CEO. They will be enacted in one motion there'll be no discussion of these items prior to the Board of Directors votes on the motion unless members of the Board, staff, or public request specific items to be disclosed, or sorry to be discussed separately and or removed from the section. 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 the chair to address the board. Okay, so we do have the consent calendar. Is there any discussion or a motion to approve the consent calendar?

**Barbera Bagneres** I move the consent calendar.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Second.

**Nick Kovacevich** All right. We have a motion a second summer.

**Summer Angus** Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneres?

**Barbera Bagneres** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Pham?

**Newton Pham** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director La Belle?

**Doug Le Belle** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

**Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Yes.

**Summer Angus** And Director Jackson?

**Dimitria Jackson** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** Okay, item number eight governance process. I am going to turn this item over to CEO Richards. Unless we do have any public comment on this item, which I don't see on Item 8A. Go ahead.

**Michele Richards** Okay. All right. This is an item that was tabled last last month and carried over to this month. The Board of Directors approved the initial 30% conceptual designs for the administration building at the September board meeting. And then the 60% conceptual designs at the November meeting. Staff has continued to work with our consultants at LPA to advance the project. And what we'll be walking you through today are 90% design concepts. We are down to the nitty gritty details at this point. But we thought that the board and the public would enjoy seeing how things are shaping up. So when we left, last left off, we saw this drawing and it's been it's actually been detailed a little bit more I'm going to call your attention to that green horizontal strip down the middle of the the space if you look on the left hand side of of the the

drawing that is the footprint of the current administration building, the right hand side is the design for the expansion, that area down the middle, we call it the town square, that is what's going to join the two buildings together and create lots of great collaboration space. So let's take a little walk down that town square. So we're going to start at the east end, which is that direction, right? This is the employee entrance. It's a second front door, and we purposely didn't want it to look like a back door, it's a second front door. And remember all of that outdoor meeting and break spaces, which will be very cross functional, at fair time as we swelled to over 1500 employees. So we're going to walk through that door. And we're we're going to be on the east end of the town square. So if you look, immediately as we walk in, you see the employee lobby and break area. If you look at the drawing in more detail in the upper right hand corner, you can see where we're at, it's a big open space. For small group seating, it creates a comfortable indoor space for breaks and lunches for our staff. And not only the folks that work in this building, but everyone will use this new extent expansion. It features polished concrete floors. And you'll see on the left hand side that green area that is for wall graphics, celebrating agriculture, and these are just a couple of examples of large wall graphics that would celebrate agriculture on the inside of of this space. Notice the light fixtures at the top of that space. Does that remind you of anything? See the drawings at the top, a little like the Ferris wheel right. And again, this these are spaces that all employees will use from all over the grounds. Again, as we walk forward, past the entrance, we come to the semi open collaborative collaboration spaces. These features move of feature movable and permanent soft walls for pinning up draft work writable glass panels technology to support our employees work moveable furniture to create custom groupings. And notice the clear story at the top the ceiling and those windows along the top that's going to allow a lot of natural light bringing the outdoors indoors, this will be a space that will be used extensively by staff if as we create and as we plan our our events and of course the annual post seafair. So on either side of that collaboration space or traditional enclosed meeting rooms or conference rooms, something that we are in very short supply of now, as a reminder, this building was will support everyone not only existing employees, but the various departments which will be moving into the building. And really every department which will use the space for planning and collaboration so you can imagine it'll be bustling. So we are going to need some quiet space. So if you look to the left and the right of that open collaboration space, there'll be enclosed conference rooms that will include technology writable glass and pinnable walls for planning and collaboration, but more of a private enclosed space for larger groups. Okay, walking beyond that, we come to a smaller meeting space, we're calling it the fishbowl because it is open, which will replace the Arlington room. That's the conference room right across the hall. But

it will be fully private so that private meetings could be utilized as well. So now we get to the employee kitchen as we keep walking down that town square. This is not a kitchen for eating in but it's for meal prep and storage. It includes a sink, refrigerator, microwaves garbage and recycling. And just beyond this back wall is the mailroom and the Office Supply Center. And just beyond that, now we get to the west side. The lobby the real refashioned lobby on the west end that will feature proper secured entrance and vestibule so there's not a security mechanism for our lobby now. A real functional space for our receptionist to large screen digital monitors want to feature our board of directors and want to rotate property information and marketing. And if we were to walk out that west entrance front door, so sort of in front of where the woman is seated, then we come to the west side entrance. And you might be asking yourself, well, why does that look different than what it is right now, you can see that we've added that security vestibule, and plenty of additional ADA parking and Evie parking. So that kind of takes you through that central interior, obviously, offices on the left and right of the town square, but it's really starting to take shape. I'll turn it over to Ken right now to just give a few details about what signs sort of where the project is, in relationship to our meetings with the consultants and kind of where we go from here.

**Ken Karns**

Thanks, Michelle. I'll give a little quick history. If we recall, going back a whole year ago, and approving the project and we develop the LOU with CCA. In April we develop the RFP and and worked through that process of scoring and, and finding LPA series of design and needs assessment meetings through June and July. And you saw the 30% design in August, October the 60% design where we're well well past now 90% design, we're looking at all m&e structural architectural drawings, we anticipate now that well, we have started the secret process the submissions to the California Division of State architecture, and state fire marshal, you'll see advertising hopefully, by the end of the month or the beginning of February, mandatory job walk will happen. We'll complete the 100% design bids due by March mid March, hopefully, then issue a contractor intent notice to award any budgetary issues coming back to the board. And and we'll proceed we're in the midst of working through all really fine details on it and AV and security and furniture. And the big thing we're doing right now the coordination of the move of all the teams and where they're all going to end up to get out of the way. So I can say maybe in a year and a bit, we might have slipped about three weeks, which isn't too too bad. So we're still targeting completion. April May 2025. So if things are going well.

**Dimitria Jackson**

I have one quick question. You mentioned that the Catholic will sorry, the kitchen area was for preparing meals. Where's the dining area? I know there's some space outside but is there also indoor dining as well?

**Michele Richards** There is, that that would be that very first space when you come inside. Okay, so that's where employees will gather meals.

**Dimitria Jackson** Thank you.

**Barbera Bagneres** Likewise, where's the boardroom that we're going to be meeting in? We ended we ended Okay, I just didn't see it in there. I just making sure.

**Michele Richards** You want me to go back and check it out?

**Ken Karns** The boardroom is gonna get a little little facelift.

**Barbera Bagneres** Okay, just a little.

**Ken Karns** Yeah, yeah.

**Michele Richards** So if we go back to the first drawing, you'll see see the green area in the lower left hand corner?

**Barbera Bagneres** Okay. You just didn't call it out?

**Michele Richards** Yeah.

**Dimitria Jackson** That's where we'll be. No more meetings.

**Doug Le Belle** Okay, great. Quick question. If I might, Mr. Chair, please. Can refresh my memory? I think it was at the 30% review stage or maybe 60. We, the board approved an additional appropriation for the project. Are we still on track? Is that still what LPA and CCA are are hoping for?

**Ken Karns** Great question. So yet the total budget approved is 30 million. And we are continuing to design to that budget. \$64,000 question will be, what did the bids come in at? But yes, we are not over design.

**Doug Le Belle** Just want to make sure we can get carpet in your office. That's we got to cut something way ahead of time. Just kidding up.

**Michele Richards** So staff is recommending approval of the interior conceptual designs and then along with approval to continue working with LPA on the project.

**Doug Le Belle** So move.

**Barbera Bagneres** Second.

**Nick Kovacevich** Summer?

**Summer Angus** Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneres?

**Barbera Bagneres** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Pham?

**Newton Pham** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director La Belle?

**Doug Le Belle** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

**Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Yes.

**Summer Angus** And Director Jackson?

**Dimitria Jackson** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** Okay, great going to Item 8b, presentation of 2024 budgets submittle letter. This is an information item. And it was submitted by the Governance Committee, but I will allow CEO Richards to give some background here and present this matter.

**Michele Richards** So as we have done the last several years, the Upon submittal of the budget for the new year, there is a budget submittal letter that goes along with it. And our chief admin officer Melissa Au-Young has developed that letter. So this is an information item. I'll have her just walk through the highlights of that letter, which is in the packet.

**Melissa Au-Young** Yes, thank you. I have a very brief report related to this agenda item. So this agenda item represents the final piece of the budget development process that began in September. The budget transmittal letter which can be found included as an attachment to the staff report provides a summary of the 2024 adopted budget as well as highlights and items of note from the budget. The budget process projects a total of 59.6 million in revenues, and 54.7 and expenditures, with projected net proceeds for

the year 4.9 million. This 2024 budget also includes 3.25 million in funding for the district's capital expenditures, and major program projects programs. Lastly, we did also highlight a number of the notable work efforts anticipated for 2024, including development of the five year strategic plan, undertaking the expansion of the administration building, which is phase one of the MSP and the equestrian center operations. So this item is a informational item only and does not require a vote, but I can answer any questions the Board may have at this time.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Like when I know we voted to increase sales to 50,000 per day on Sundays. And I forgot to ask this one before how, how many people visited on some of the really high days before the limit was put in place?

**Michele Richards** There were weekend days where we swelled up to 85,000 people in a day.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** It was like a whistle. I would whistle right there. Wow. Okay, thank you know what, I felt so crowded.

**Michele Richards** It was not a great experience for our guests, or our staff, or our neighbors.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Yeah, sure. Thank you.

**Barbera Bagneres** We haven't lost any money.

**Doug Le Belle** I'd like to compliment Michelle and Melissa and the entire staff. The letters excellent. We started doing this I think three or four years ago. I think it's an excellent way to communicate and keep our mission on track. So thanks very much for an excellent job. Great.

**Nick Kovacevich** Okay, great. So with this item, are we taking a vote on this information information item? Alright, moving on to Item 8C, then this is a vote on whether or not to approve amendment to sponsorship policy 4.10 to allow sponsorships from some categories of liquor. And again, this came from the Governance Committee, but I'll let CEO Richards explain.

**Michele Richards** Yeah, I'll tee it up. And then I'll turn it over to the Governance Committee for any additional information board policy 4.10, which addresses our sponsorships at the property. There's a section that reads to be consistent with the 32nd DAA is family friendly focus. Sponsorships in the following categories are not permitted. And it lists tobacco or vaping products, cannabis or CBD products that contain more than 0.3% THC and hard liquor or spirits. And that last one is

what we're looking at. It's somewhat vague language that doesn't really give the staff a hard and fast measurement or metric. In addition, with the introduction of a lot of popular adult beverages, such as hard seltzers, for example, they've added new and very popular choices for our guests. And there's a lot of interest in sponsorship of those products. So we are recommending an amendment to the policy that would specify the percentage of alcohol by volume which is a measurement that can be you know, indicated right on the drink of sort of that dividing line is 40% ABV. So anything less than 40% is not considered, you know, 80 Proof, hard liquor anything over 40% falls into that hard liquor category, just to give you an idea of content You know, those seltzers range from, you know, four to 5% ABV wine is about 12% ABV. So this opens us up for a category of sponsorship that we haven't had before, those beverages are served at the OC fair as well. So we'd like to clarify the language to create that, you know, that limit that makes it very easy then for staff to, you know, to manage what is true hard liquor and what might be some of these other popular beverages that our sponsor will brand brands. So, we are recommending the language sorry, that the language would read that it's that third bullet that hard liquor or spirits, so this would not be permitted hard liquor or spirits that are 40% alcohol by volume or ABV or higher. So I don't know if the Governance Committee has...

**Nick Kovacevich**

Nothing for me, said well, and I think it just kind of common sense policy change here to add that.

**Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia**

What did the policy read before?

**Michele Richards**

It read just like it, it just said hard liquor spirits.

**Nick Kovacevich**

So it was because the seltzers are technically made with hard liquor.

**Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia**

And that's a 40%. That's a lie. Okay.

**Nick Kovacevich**

They're like 5%, but that the alcohol component. Beer, it's not wine, it's could be deemed hard liquor. So we just want to clarify that. Okay. You know, hard liquor is, you know, 40% or more, and seltzer that are, you know, 5% or the percent, you know, those would work it out. They could advertise for them.

**Newton Pham**

How did we derive at the 40% threshold? Is that just kind of the definition of hard liquor is that...?

**Michele Richards**

Yeah, it represents the threshold for 80 proof.

**Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia** I mean, I think I'm okay with at least clarifying what the language is 40% seems high. I'm not a hard liquor drinker. So I was like, wow. But I think and this is maybe a different policy for the governance committee to consider in the future. But perhaps we make it some sort of a requirement that there has to be a promotion of safe consumption or responsible consumption along with some of these alcohol beverages because we're a family friendly fair. I just think that that probably should be something that's included.

**Dimitria Jackson** Did we have any alcohol sponsors in the past wine or beer? Or were they all excluded?

**Michele Richards** No, we do have wine and beer sponsors. At the fair.

**Dimitria Jackson** Okay, so this exception is really just applied to the seltzers, or the hardest seltzers...

**Michele Richards** Or similar drinks like that, that, you know, that do contain alcohol, but, you know, no, nowhere near the 40% in fact, even less alcohol content than a glass of wine.

**Dimitria Jackson** All right, thank you. I'll make a motion to approve.

**Barbera Bagneres** A second.

**Nick Kovacevich** Summer.

**Summer Angus** Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneres?

**Barbera Bagneres** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Pham?

**Newton Pham** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director La Belle?

**Doug Le Belle** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

**Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Yes.

**Summer Angus** And Director Jackson?

**Dimitria Jackson** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** Okay, great. So now moving on to Item 8D, this is a vote on whether or not to promote change to policy 2.03, which is a conflict of interest policy to update allowable gift limit from a single source to reflect the new FPPC, allowable gift limit. Yeah. And Michelle can explain what happened there.

**Michele Richards** So our, the way the policy is written now, it actually states what the, you know what the FPPC limit is, which prior to 2023 was \$500. In a year from a single source, it's been raised to \$590 that usually adjusts every two years. So to keep us from having to come back every two years and amend this policy. We're recommending language that would be more generic in nature, in the italicized paragraph, so specific examples of potential conflicts of interest include, but are not limited to situations where an employee or board member receives compensation gifts favors entertainment, personal advancement, or other benefits of more than the allowable Fair Political Practices Commission limit from a third party which is engaged in or seeks to engage in a transaction with a 32nd DAA so basically, it it's a more generic, more generic language that just We'll keep this policy up up to date that we will always comply whatever the current with whatever the current FPPC limit is.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Sounds like another common sense modification. Yeah.

**Barbera Bagneres** I moved the recommendation.

**Nick Kovacevich** Summer.

**Summer Angus** Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneres?

**Barbera Bagneres** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Pham?

**Newton Pham** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director La Belle?

**Doug Le Belle** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

**Summer Angus** Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Yes.

**Summer Angus** And Director Jackson?

**Dimitria Jackson** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** Okay, thank you. Now moving to item 8E. This is a presentation of board input on the vision for public programming at the equestrian center and a vote on direction to staff. I will turn this one over to Joan, actually, but we do have some public comment. And I think it might be make sense to do it afterwards...

**Michele Richards** For sure. Yeah. And I'll be making the presentation. Yeah. All right.

**Nick Kovacevich** Sorry, Joan. We'll go to CEO Richards. Let's do the presentation, then we'll do the public comment. And then we'll do the board discussion.

**Michele Richards** Okay, very good. So, at the board meeting last month, you all remember that you voted to cancel the RFP for an independent operator of the Equestrian Center and instead directed staff to propose a new model to serve the wider public and meet the board's strategic goals. The board had a discussion regarding that prior to the vote. Staff listened very carefully to the discussion. And during it several members of the board shared a vision that they had of the equestrian center with a variety of educational and recreational programs that would be free or low cost to the general public. So we have created a vision graphic, and basically want to reflect back what we heard from that, that discussion, and then ask for the board's approval on that vision, and then direction to move forward to begin planning those public programs. So this is the graphic that's been created. And I'll start at the top. These are all the component pieces that were discussed during that board meeting will start at the top with hands on equine experience for tour groups. So after school youth organizations, school classes, senior groups, and other community groups and the general public will be able to visit the

Equine Center during designated days and hours to learn about and interact with horses. Just like the Centennial Farm and Heroes Hall model. This program would be developed and led by our experienced exhibits and education staff. And we've already heard from various after school youth programs, educators and others about their enthusiasm for a structured program like this. These tours would be designated during certain days and hours as one component of the public programming offered at the center. So kind of going clockwise. Another program that was discussed was equine and agricultural exhibits. Through static exhibits and multimedia presentations, the public will be able to learn about the history and heritage of horses and their contribution to California agriculture, particularly in Orange County. Our award winning exhibits and education teams, the same people that create the materials for Centennial Farm, Heroes Hall, Imaginology, and the OC fair, are ready to create engaging fun and informative exhibits that during open public hours would be enjoyed by adults, kids and families from all over Orange County. Continuing to three o'clock Equine Assisted activities partnering with an established Equine Assisted certified therapeutic riding program in Orange County. The equine center could offer services to the community complying with the professional association of Therapeutic Horsemanship or PATH standards by using PATH Certified Therapeutic Riding instructors and safety guidelines. Many in the community could be helped by receiving Therapeutic Riding instruction by certified trainers using industry standard safety guidelines. We've already heard from programs in the county that serve at risk youth and veterans for example, who would be very interested in this type of program. The vision would include small regional horse shows that are open to the public. With some facility adjustments the equine center may have the opportunity to host small run General competitive horse shows that could be enjoyed by the general public. We are in discussions with some small regional horse show promoters who are interested in considering our facility for weekend horse shows and competitions. staff would need to assess what kind of facility improvements would be needed for this activity, but it could be a source of revenue that could help support the facility. Riding instruction by hired or contracted trainers, contracting with or hiring an equestrian equestrian trainer or trainers and partnering with city and county resources the equine center could offer low or no cost riding lessons to those in need in our community. A suggested model would be a partnership with a trainer or trainers that when hired or contracted with would provide low cost or no cost lessons through a structured program with the city or county serving low income families in exchange trainers would be provided days and hours throughout the week to service private clients. Emergency large animal evacuation we continue to serve as an evacuation site through our partnership with the county and that would

continue in this new model. Partnership with city and county mounted units. There are several law enforcement mounted units in Orange County that could both board horses at the Equine Center and offer periodic free demonstrations to the public. Currently, the law enforcement mounted units from various Orange County cities and the Orange County Sheriff's Department all train together in Norco outside of Orange County, there could be an opportunity to board some of those horses at the center, use the center for Training and conduct public training demonstrations open free to the community. And then of course, we believe there will be room for some boarding of privately owned horses. So once the public programs that I've mentioned are planned, and an overall programming schedule is established, remaining boarding opportunities can be offered for privately owned horses. We would recommend, however, that the board adopt a policy for operation of this part of the center to ensure that all costs associated with boarding are privately owned horses can be absorbed by the owners and not the district. So we have already done some outreach and we've received contact from many industry and community resources that have expressed interest in assisting us with building that vision. There are several that are listed in the staff report. Theresa Sears, thank you I saw Theresa here. Thank you for your offer to help and Doug Loftstrum as well can serve as a resource. We've had referrals from various education sectors that are interested in help us the city of Costa Mesa, the staff and the mayor said we want to be a part of this and we have resources to help the Shade Therapeutic Riding Center in San Juan Capistrano through the their CEO, Dana Butler Moberg has offered to be a resource, various horse show promoters. And then we've already spoken with city and county law enforcement mounted units as well. So we think that over the next few months, our path forward would look something like this, that we would continue to develop programming and partnership with those resources, we would develop a plan for execution. Centennial Farm and Heroes Hall did not get built overnight. So we need a plan to introduce these programs will need to recommend an operating budget and then develop a timeline for rollout. So right now we wanted to, again reflect back that vision that many of you spoke about, in fact many members of the public spoke about to and then of course we would keep the board apprised on a monthly basis. So at this point, we're looking for recommendation on the vision or any additions to add comments to it, and then direction to move forward.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Let's go ahead and have the board discussion. We'll just, there's two public comments. We'll do it at the end. That's okay with everyone? And thank you, CEO Richardson I'll make the first comment. It's a very impressive vision and you know, coming out of the last meeting which was which was difficult right and hearing from so many people like seeing that graphic and knowing that we've kind of nailed you know, all

the key components that we heard about just makes me feel really good about the future of this equestrian center. So I'm I'm very excited. And again, thank you for all the thought you guys have put in thus far. I know, it's still the beginning of the process. But it seems like we're really on the right track from my perspective. So I'll turn it over to my colleagues.

**Barbera Bagneres**

Yeah, Director Kovacevich, I agree. I'm excited about this, I said that as my closing remark at the last meeting, it's a new vision is something new change is always tough. But I see this going somewhere big, this could be the model of what others can look to. There are not a lot of equestrian centers around anymore, a lot of them are closing, they're having difficulties, and we're setting the model for what can be done. And the community focus, I couldn't be happier. So thank you for your vision on that and your work. And I look forward to moving forward with this.

**Tanya Bilezikjian**

I know the Supervisor Folley had offered her support as well, is she's somebody that we've reached out to yet?

**Michele Richards**

Yes, yes, I reached out to her last week. And it was really interesting after we consolidated the board's input to go back and look at her the letter that was sent I know to the to the board, and then her public comment. It's very much aligned with with her vision as well. So waiting to hear back from her office, she invited to connect us with her policy advisor. So we'll be continuing that discussion.

**Tanya Bilezikjian**

Great. And then one more question. You mentioned some facility adjustments for horse shows. Can you talk a little more about that? Well...

**Michele Richards**

Definitely. bleachers for the public to, to sit in. I don't know. Joan, do you have any details at this point? Yeah, there will have to be some adjustments to accommodate a larger public, public crowd. But we'll know more, you know, as we explore what the promoters are, are needing, okay, yeah.

**Tanya Bilezikjian**

And then I have one more. For me, safety is so incredibly important around horses. And these are very big animals. Not a lot of people know how to walk into a horse facility and be safe around them, they might stick their hands and try to pet them and get bit or walk behind them and get kicked. Is the vision that people can just drive in and walk around at any time?

**Michele Richards**

No. And really, you need only look at Centennial Farm. People can walk right in. But we've got barriers. And we have you know, docents there that are overseeing when the public comes to Centennial Farm. So

yeah, that's a very important component of this.

**Natalie  
Rubalcava-Garcia**

I just have a couple of comments. So I just want to thank you guys for turning this around so quickly, because I think the vision offers some factual elements to the narrative that we've been hearing about, you know, the, our objective to close down the Equestrian Center, which was not accurate. It really just shows that we have a vested interest in making sure that agriculture as well as equestrians have a home here at the fairgrounds. So seeing the comprehensive vision that you brought here today, I think is commendable and such a short turnaround. And I think it would be wise for us to share this information, you know, through some sort of press release, or just so that people in Orange County are aware of the fact that we are looking to enhance access to the Equestrian Center at the Orange County Fairgrounds and not eliminate the Equestrian Center.

**Michele Richards**

It's being released today.

**Natalie  
Rubalcava-Garcia**

Awesome. Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Spot on. Yep. Any other comments?

**Doug Le Belle**

Several comments, Mr. Chair, if I might, first of all, excellent report. Michelle, you did a great job. I think you summarized the issues that we discussed at the last board meeting. I have a couple of thoughts. First of all, one of the things that came out one of the speakers mentioned, and I believe this individual was a former county employee, but he indicated that there was a master plan that the county had of rail systems. And one of them was tied into potentially tied into the equestrian facility here. I think to have a trail that we could then mark it so to speak, is part of our programming would be excellent. And I would like to see staff reach out to the county and identify if that in fact, is the case and where it stands in their system and maybe we can pursue that with supervisor Foley and the other board members. I think having that as a part of our program would be definitely an asset. Secondly, I think Natalie raised it at the last meeting. I love the idea of the mounted units. And if they're in Norco today, why can't they be in In, in Chino Hills, not Chino Hills, Costa Mesa, Costa Mesa now and I think we could have a number of programs that could be geared around that. Another thought in the past, we've had the Budweiser Clydesdales here, and that's been a significant part of, I would have friends call me saying are the clydesdale's going to be here this year, et cetera, et cetera. And

some people just came to the fair to see them. That might be a good sponsorship opportunity to reach out to them. Let them know what we're doing. I like the, the committee idea that you have come up with Theresa Sears has been an active participant in this sports activities for as long as I've been here, which is a long time. And she brings a lot of experiences. Doug Loftstrum, also, I don't know if that means a future cattle drive is I think Barbara and I were the only ones here when we had a cattle drive. But Doug made beyond his cattle drive days, I don't know. But anyway, between Theresa and Doug, they bring a lot of ideas that they can help Michelle and the staff implement. So again, great job on the on the Stafford board. And I think that gets us going in the right direction.

**Newton Pham**

Yeah, I mean, I guess my questions and more logistical side of things and just know what this looks like a lot that's going on. So what is what's our considered timeline? What are we kind of thinking? I know, it's pretty early. Yeah. And then what are we doing in the interim? While we're enacting this plan? And how does it relate to the Master Site Plan? Are we going to put it looks like there will be some capex requirements and things like that? Are we moving that forward? Or how are we thinking about it?

**Michele Richards**

Right. So the Equestrian Center is not included in the current Master Site Plan. So we would see it as a separate, you know, any improvements that needed to be made would be, you know, we would come to the board with a separate budget request with that, or expense requests. In terms of timeline, we're going to need more time to step away. Right now, the borders have been notified that their current contract has been extended to June 14 per the date that the board discussed. So we'll want to, I mean, the goal is to try to have at least initial plans in place by then so that we can communicate to the board and the public. But we'd like to bring, you know, our progress back each month, to the board so that everyone is clear about what what we're doing. These would be the next steps. So stepping away developing that timeline, looking at an initial budget, you know, have a plan for it for executing. One thing that I would request is I know that the leadership committee, I think under your chairmanship, Director Pham sort of provided that support to staff as we were looking at this issue. We'd like to continue working with the board committee, and maybe it stays with the leadership committee, so that in between board meetings, we have an opportunity to, you know, to get committee input and then make recommendations to the full board.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Yeah, no, actually, I want to respond to your comments to Director Pham. I agree with CEO Richard's, obviously. But I think some important things from my perspective are the timeline is, I think,

important to continue continuity, right, because we definitely don't want to limit access here. We want to expand access. So if there's a interim period where access is eliminated, I think that would be a failure on our part. So I think our goal in timing should be we're definitely not going to get everything rolled out June 14, right, but to what can we do, you know, June 14, immediately to keep some continuity. And if there's, you know, capex that needs to be done to have more shows, those won't be done June 14, those will be done at a later date, but we can start at least with a foundation and build from there versus like stripping it down to zero. So that's what I'd like to see. And as CEO Richards mentioned. You know, this is going to be something that is brought in front of the board monthly. I also want to make sure that you know that there's some oversight and guidance that can be provided more frequently than that right through a committee. So I agree that we should appoint a committee. I feel, personally that the Facilities Committee would be very well suited for this. And so if there's no objection from the Facilities Committee, I would recommend that they, I would appoint them. I guess it's up to me, right. Yeah. And so I would appoint them to oversee this on a more regular basis. And of course, bringing it back to the full board on a monthly basis. And then I think we're all kind of aligned on, you know, we've got the June 14 date, let's use that to get as much live as we can, as close to that date and build a roadmap for the rest.

**Tanya Bilezikjian**

Alright, on behalf of the Facilities Committee, we accept.

**Nick Kovacevich**

All right.

**Barbera Bagneres**

So director, Kovacevich, my first thought was, well, let's leave it here for now. But I think we've done our work. I think we've gotten it to this point. And it's appropriately in the Facilities Committee. So I appreciate your willingness, take that and your appointment for it. And then we get to walk and chew gum, because in July is the fair. We'll continue moving these two things from together. But that's the kind of staff we have, and we rely on you to make those things happen. And we appreciate

**Doug Le Belle**

Director Kovacevich. Chair Kovacevich, based on Newton's comments. Just one added thought. I know it's a few years down the road. But in the master plan, we have an educational facility that's envisioned to be built. Obviously, after we get the Admin Building done, and we get the restroom facilities done and some things that Pac Amp done. I think that as we look to the planning of that facility, we need to make sure that we not only incorporate in opportunities for classroom programs for Centennial Farms and Heroes Hall, but also for our equestrian programs. So again, that's somewhat down the road, but might as well

get it out of the table and get it in the thought process now. Totally.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Okay, so I'll go ahead and make a motion to Oh, sorry. I forgot public comments. I knew that would happen. All right. Public comment, please, we have Reggie Mundekis. And we have one on zoom.

**Reggie Mundekis**

Good morning. I'm Reggie Mundekis and thank you for the opportunity to address you on this item. I support the plan for the new community Equine Center, I see this plan is being very flexible and community focused. It's something that preserves access to equine activities for a large number of people. It's also something that is sustainable in the long run. And part of that is because of its flexibility. It can be it's, it's built upon the idea of Centennial Farm, but expanded I like the idea of having Mounted Police Board there horses here because that makes more sense for them. Because when they need to use the horses, they might not have time to go to Norco to put the horse in the trailer, and then drive back on the 91 depending on the time of day, which may be 20 minutes or two hours. So having them down here is much more sensible choice. So thank you very much for this plan. I look forward to the implementation of it. I think that it's fair, it's equitable, and it's the right thing to do. Thank you.

**Carolyn Beaver**

Good morning. And thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I'm Carolyn beaver. And among other roles, I am an equestrian. And I've been boarding at least one horse at the fairgrounds equestrian center for over the past 10 years. Today, I'm speaking not only on my own behalf, but also on behalf of other equestrians and trainers that I've spoken to over this last month. And I want to say that we very much appreciate the direction that CEO Richards has proposed. We think that it's the right direction. We're very encouraged by that direction. And, and also by your comments, today, and it is nice to have a chance to actually have some input to those comments as well. So we do appreciate the inclusion of public boarding as one of the many benefits because as you know, there are fewer and fewer stalls available in Orange County. And we think that that's really important. And we are hopeful that we'll be able to work together as borders and trainers on this. And so that's something that we would encourage and welcome that opportunity. We think this is a great place to start and really appreciate the direction that management and the staff have proposed. And we look forward to working collaboratively with all Have you to help more people experience the joy of horses. Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Thank you, Carolyn. And I think we have one last public comment on Zoom.

**Summer Angus**

Yes, Noelle Steele when you're ready.

**Noelle Steele** Okay, thanks. Can you guys hear me okay?

**Summer Angus** Yes, go ahead.

**Noelle Anderson** Great. Thank you. All right. My name is Noel and I just had a couple of high level comments on the staff report that I'll just go through in order. But again, just to echo Carolyn's thoughts, thanks for giving us this opportunity to speak on the Equestrian Center. One of the things I wanted to bring up specifically related to the Mounted Patrol and horse boarding is that this use might not be entirely compatible up compatible with those listed in the visioning, just because police horses go through vigorous desensitization processes, gets using training using really loud noises, smoke sirens, just so horses can serve in urban environments or crowd control. So this type of training really couldn't occur. Well, riders are are engaging in like traditional English equestrian disciplines are well like horse shows are happening or therapeutic riding services are provided. So that's just one thing I wanted to flag. And I think that a lot of these items listed envisioning are, are really great. But one thing I wanted to flag as well is that we only have, we only have three riding arenas. So if use is going to be expanded in every single one of these categories. Staff might meet might need to start evaluating expansion of the facility because public use and access is so important. But this is it's only a seven acre facility. And unfortunately, it can't be all things to all people as it stands right now. So maybe focus can be narrowed accomplishing one or two programs really well instead of trying to accomplish everything all at once. My next thought is that we don't need to recreate the wheel here, the trainers and borders have invested greatly into this facility. And I think a priority can really be to retain talent and experience you already have on site. So the vision could also formally outline the commitment to existing users, and formalize that relationship where public use is already occurring. I think a reason why people were so upset in December is because so much good work is already happening at the center. But then the staff reports and documents don't always acknowledge it. So that just makes the people feel unheard and left out of the decision making process. So just flagging that in future documents would be a great addition that I think people would really, really be excited to see. And last is just kind of an overarching suggestion just based on some research that I did this week. There is boarding and boarding at several other fairgrounds state owned fairgrounds in the state at Del Mar, Pleasanton, and Sacramento. All of these facilities offer short term and long term boarding services for racehorses specifically, so arguably like racehorses probably serve less of a public use than boarding as it exists at the fairground right now. So I'm just wondering if staff could investigate those existing contracts to understand how private racehorse owners can board on state property while remaining in line with the public use purpose of

the Fairgrounds in the state. just in summary, I urge the board to to continue outreach with the existing equestrian center users so we can collaboratively work together towards the future solution.

**Summer Angus**

Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Thank you, and Summer. Does that conclude? Public comment? Okay, public comment is concluded. So back to the board i Is there any discussion? Or should I proceed with my motion?

**Doug Le Belle**

Question,, I'm very comfortable with the entire report probably would be in order if we want to pursue something with the county to give staff direction to work with the county on the Master Site Plan, and see if there are opportunities for incorporating that into our program?

**Michele Richards**

On the county's Master Site...

**Doug Le Belle**

The county's Master Site Plan. So I would move that we accept the report and that we direct staff to proceed with working with the county to identify options relative to their master plan of trails and systems that can be incorporated into our equestrian programming.

**Barbera Bagneres**

Can that be included with the recommendation here?

**Nick Kovacevich**

Yeah, absolutely. So yeah, I think it's motion to approve the board the vision that was presented to the board. We want to ensure within that, that we're pursuing it with local partners and county with the facilities committee's oversight, and that, you know, we're continuing to get the updates here on a monthly basis.

**Doug Le Belle**

I'm good with that. But I want to make sure staff is clear that the objective is to not only work with the county but seek the county's approval if they in fact do have a trail system that ties in with ours, that that be prioritized by the county and be included in their programming efforts. So...

**Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia**

Or maybe not approval but commitment to...

**Doug Le Belle**

Natalie's Correct, yeah, that's where I'm trying to get to so the counties offered to help through supervisor Foley, let's take advantage of that offer to help. So, absolutely.

**Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia**

I second your motion.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Thank you. We have a motion. We have a second. Summer.

**Summer Angus** Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneres?

**Barbera Bagneres** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Pham?

**Barbera Bagneres** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director La Belle?

**Barbera Bagneres** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

**Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Yes.

**Summer Angus** And Director Jackson?

**Dimitria Jackson** Yes.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** Okay great. Now moving on to Item 8F. This is an introduction to 2024 OC fair theme. And I will go ahead and turn it over to Joan this time for real.

**Joan Hamill** Yeah, and we have Marie Torres from our marketing department is handing each of you a fair button so can can put that on get spirit. Good morning, with 2024. Now upon us, it's the perfect time of year to be looking forward to everything the year has in store. And with it the 2024 OC fair, you're right there. So exciting to be presenting today on behalf of our organization, celebrating summer community traditions, and making memories is what OC fair does best. We in this room and beyond can all attest how incredible the OC fair is. But let's take a look at what our community the guests that we serve have to say about the fair. We also work it's a place where traditions live and are created an annual summer destination. The OC fair as a community constant, it can always be counted on time and again. The OC Fair has a prominent

place in OC history. A timeless classic memories, it's always about the memories that are created at the Seafarer, isn't it? Hey, here's a long one here. The electric atmosphere of the OC fair stimulates cultivation of a vibrant community. Fun. The joy of coming back for all of your fare favorites, and whatever this may be the animals the education exhibits, concerts, entertainment, shopping, rides, and thrills, new experience and of course the incredible fair fit. And we heart the OC fair think that really says it all. So when just 176 days from today, we'll all be looking forward once again to timeless traditions. This is the junior livestock auction and OC fair staple. Good fun at the carnival. Cheers. Good friends. Yes, the brouhaha will be coming back in 2020 for new friends. Good laughs with comedians at Pacific Ampitheater. Running for running for fun and a good time. pig races always a messy thrilling rides. Achievement and always bringing out the best the fares competitive program. Stage time comes contest time and time to get your groove on. You go it's great. See we have taking selfies with friends at the fair. Okay, I got a little Okay, always the best of the best. This is the Future Farmers of America receiving an award. You go we heart the OC fair. Good answer. This is the avian bowl in our junior lives in our livestock program. Sometimes you don't see these these small moments there but they're not small for the kids that participate. These are big moments. Besties and so many smiling faces at the fair, bubble time. talented musicians playing some really good dance music. eating contests a fair tradition of the Seafarer is a time for cultural heritage. Chicano heritage celebrated in the month of August will return good tunes fun times. Time for a good laugh. Iconic live this one. This is the board and Centennial farm. Excuse me heroes Hall veterans Foundation Board Chair Michelle, Director Pham and Secretary Karen Ross. And it was her first visit to the OC fair this past summer, so hopefully she'll be coming back. Raise your hand if you're having fun at the OC fair. Always a sense of discovery and wonder at the petting farm. All new experiences can be enjoyed for all. And I love this image. It's priceless. You can always count on your friends and your family that I don't know about that gentleman in the very bottom who plugging his ears. Always something interesting to learn about animals in agriculture that you might not ever see except at the OC fair. And such good entertainment, always.

### **Joan Hamill**

So with no further ado, we are delighted to share with everyone that yes in only 176 days the 2020 OC fair and the theme. Always a good time will take place July 19 through August 18 Creating summer community excuse me celebrating summer community tradition and make traditions and making memories pack out concert tickets are now on sale right now with many more to come. Single Day general admission tickets and everyday passports will be going on sale next month. And fare fans are invited to sign up to be on our mailing list to learn more

about exciting 2020 For OC fair offerings and to be notified when single day fair admission tickets and everyday passports will be going on sale. So stay tuned. So here's to the 2024 OC fair always a good time July 19 through August 18

**Doug Le Belle**

Can't wait. All right question of Joan if I could, Joan is it too early to know what deep fried Gourmet food, Charlie Chicken...

**Joan Hamill**

It's being concocted in the minds and in the kitchens of all of our concessionaires. So I don't have any I don't know how many Tibbets will roll that out as per their English.

**Doug Le Belle**

Thank you.

**Michele Richards**

Do you have any suggestions? Director La Belle?

**Doug Le Belle**

Oh, no, not good ones. That's great.

**Nick Kovacevich**

All right. Thank you, Joan, and staff appreciate the introduction. I look forward to all of the great things you come up with for this year. Next, we'll move to item 8G, which is the committee reports. I believe it's fairly short, these reports but we'll start with the Leadership Committee if Vice Chair Bagneres would like to deliver that.

**Barbera Bagneres**

Thank you so much. Okay, so we did meet multiple times. Over the past since our last board meeting. We reviewed the RFP for the management operations equestrian center facility. That was our special project. We also joined the CEO and staff at the annual Thanksgiving Potluck, which was awesome. I enjoyed that. And we met on November the 27th, to plan the agenda for this for the December Board meeting. And as we know that that meeting was long, but I think it went well. As you see the outcome of what happened from that meeting. And on 12 One we met with the CEO, and legal counsel, we got to give the public funds and all those issues are now behind us. And we're going to we met again on the 10th to plan the agenda for this meeting. Our next Leadership Committee is scheduled for it 2/7.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Wonderful, thank you, Vice Chair. Next we have the Financial Monitoring and Audit Committee. Committee Chair Director Pham.

**Newton Pham**

Sure. Yeah, we'll keep it somewhat brief because Michelle will likely go over a lot of the numbers during her operational matters. But we did meet on the 18th of January to kind of review the December 2023 Financial Reports. We'll just have the gist of it is revenue exceeded budget by one for about \$400,000 primarily due to a lot of events that outperform budget or gain concessions, as well as a you know a slight bonus allocation and concert presale fees. expenses were also favorable

to budget and our ending cash balances is relatively healthy. You know, we also met with an overview with them our district's cyber insurance policy, recent cyber incident and current cybersecurity efforts.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Okay, thank you. Next we have the Facilities Committee, and I believe director Bilezikjian will take this issue.

**Tanya Bilezikjian**

So Director Ruiz and I met on December 6 Feels like a long time ago, a lot of holidays in the way that we mainly talked about upcoming capex projects, both 2023 completed a little bit more, kind of finishing up in 2024. And then also looking forward at 2024 capex projects. We spent some time talking about the Admin Building, which we all saw today. So we'll report on that. And then we also talked about the phase two project, which is for this year, which includes the Midway restroom and showers. So quite a bit of planning and design still coming up for that also looking at budget, but it does sound like there's enough budget set aside to finish the project. And then we also have the Pac-Amp dressing rooms project also coming up. So we'll be meeting again on February 7th.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Okay, great. Thank you. And then next, the Governance Committee Director La Belle.

**Doug Le Belle**

Nothing further, we have the two items, Mr. Chair that we previously considered enacted on I have nothing further at this time. We I think Natalie raised a good point. And we'll go back and take a look and see if there's something we should incorporate into one of our policies that really emphasizes, if you will, why we're here and it's, you know, family friendly sort of thing, make sure we've got that T crossed and I's dotted.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Absolutely. Thank you, Director LaBelle. And last we have the Community Affairs Committee, who's also started the meeting with some positive award. And please give us report.

**Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia**

Thank you. And thank you for the opportunity to present the proclamation today. We Director Jackson and I have been very busy, we've met twice, with with CEO Richards. And I just want to highlight a couple of things. And then I'll turn it over to Director Jackson to see if she has anything in addition to add, and I believe Michelle might have some additional things to present. So we did meet to discuss enhancing the presentations, which you all experienced today with the first ever proclamation presented on behalf of Black History Month. And we would like to continue this trend. So we will be working with staff to identify the right organization to bring in to present these

proclamations to throughout the year. We also have, we're interested in enhancing the organization's relationship with local elected officials and having them come in and talk about some of the events they have going on in their city. And if I might recommend our former chair and also board member, Ashley Aiken is the mayor of Anaheim. And it would be great maybe to start with her. I know maybe Costa Mesa would be the natural first because we reside in the city. But with her history and connection to the fair, I think it would be respectful to ask her to come in first. And it is the largest city in the county of Orange. And then we also talked about entries first from students for one of our mural competition. Thank you, I could not think of the word. So I'm gonna go ahead and turn it over to Director Jackson because she can share we had a robust discussion and we also came up with some direction moving forward.

**Dimitria Jackson**

So right that we did. The deadline for this contest was January, excuse me, December 31. of last year, we had several students who I think was middle school through high school and maybe with just high school entries. And we had a chance to review the submissions. And they were lovely, beautiful submissions. We have a lot of talented youth in our community. So it's great to see that. And we had a chance to actually determine like the first place second place in third place. Are we going to share those tonight?

**Michele Richards**

Not today.

**Dimitria Jackson**

Okay, that's okay. But they're beautiful. I'm sure you'll love them. And we're going to figure out where they're going to be displayed. So we talked about featuring them around the fair on our website, maybe imagine Knology on video panels throughout the fair in the coming Well, this Oct 2024 fair. So yeah, so that's kind of where we are. We're really excited about that and making that connection continue connection to the community. That was my first proclamation a little nervous today, but I'm really glad I had a chance to present it to Bobby McDonnell on behalf of the black community in Orange County. So that was really wonderful. And I appreciate that opportunity.

**Michele Richards**

If I could add about the student competition. So you're right, the very lovely entries. A suggestion was made by the committee that perhaps we invite the first, second and third place students to come and receive their product because there's prize money involved in it. That we will try to get them here for the February Board meeting so we can make that those presentations in Person.

**Natalie  
Rubalcava-Garcia**

Thank you. That concludes our report.

**Barbera Bagneres** I'm glad to know used to have video panels in that discussion. Yes.

**Nick Kovacevich** All right, thank you and just to clarify some are no public comment on this item right? No. Okay great. So that moves us to closed session. So we will now go into closed session and be back as soon as we can.

**Nick Kovacevich** Good all right. Thank you. We have reconvening from closed session we had considered advice from counsel and have nothing else to report. So, moving on to item 10, the CEO operational updates and announcements.

**Michele Richards** Just a few updates. January 3rd through the sixth the annual Western Fairs Association convention took place in Anaheim. We always like it when the convention is local so we can send lots of our staff thank you to Vice Chair Bagneres and Director Bilezikjian for attending some of the events throughout the week, which included dinners with industry partners, staffing the OC fair booth at the convention showcase and attending educational sessions, we had an opportunity to get most of the game together following the achievement awards dinner, which included Vice Chair binaries in the middle in the red jacket, and Director Bilezikjian right behind her. Then following the close of the Convention on Saturday, we were very honored to host a group of about 60 convention attendees from fairs all throughout the western US who got a behind the scenes tour at PAC-Amp. Heroes Hall and Centennial Farm. And then they joined a fun evening at Winterfest. Many thanks to Dan, Carolyn , and Evvy for being our tour guides and to Mark Abner and Juan at OBG for providing food and fun for the visitors. So that photo in the lower right hand corner, we're sitting on the edge of the stage at at PAC camp. So everyone really enjoyed that. And speaking of Western Fairs Association, the OC fair took home a boatload of awards, you can see our first second and third place awards. So we were very, very well represented in the awards category. Anybody ready for some concerts at the Pacific amphitheater? All of these shows are on sale. And all I can say is watch your emails because we've got some great shows that are dropping within the next couple of weeks. It should be a very, very exciting, exciting season at the Pacific amphitheater. So earlier this month, about 40 members of the Let's eat healthy program through the California Dairy Council held their annual staff conference at Centennial farm. Their visit included an opportunity to participate in the junior farmer tours and see firsthand how the let's heat out that let's eat healthy program has been integrated into our Centennial Farm Junior Farmer tours and at the end, the Dairy Council presented us with this very cool check for \$8,000. And very nice grant from the Dairy Council which will help us include those programs. Yes. All right. Are you anybody familiar with internet radio here? Yep, yep. Now Oh, see, fair and Event Center has our own internet radio

station OC Fair Radio. Not only does the station feature an awesome collection of classic rock and other favorites, but it will serve as a new way to let our guests know about concert traffic updates, ticket information, upcoming pack amp and hanger performances. So are you stuck in traffic on your way to the Pac-Amp concert and want to know the easiest way around? Listen to OC fair radio? Are you a huge pack amp fan and want to get advanced ticket information? Listen to OC fair radio. You've been listening to OC fair Ray radio when everyone came into the room. So Google, OC fair radio or you can go to the PACamp.com website and click on the link the very safe link to to access and do we have no do we have three you wouldn't so played in your car played on your computer while you're working played at home just play it OC radio. All right, and Joan is going to do a quick intro of our events coming up and then we can wrap it up...

### **Joan Hamill**

property. The Brit convention, a LEGO fan event. This is billed as the greatest LEGO fan event and it takes place in the Costa Mesa building. The brick convention is filled with interactive, creative and educational activities for the whole family hands on educational fun for all ages, there'll be building zones, dozens of large scale and miniature Lego models and displays professional Lego artists, vendors, selling and everything Lego and much more. Also, this weekend, and this time in the hangar is the SoCal world guitar show. buy, sell or trade music related items, including new used and vintage guitars, but also amplifiers, sound equipment, pedals, drums, parts, books, clothing and more. There'll be authors appraisers, vintage dealers, retail stores, builders, foreign and domestic buyers, collector collectors and professional musicians. It's going to be jam packed. And then on Wednesday, January 31, from six to 8pm. Newport Mesa Unified School District is presenting the College and Career Fair in the Costa Mesa and Santa Ana pavilion. This event is open to all seventh through 12th grade students and their families career path development. And then upcoming next month we have repticon the third and the fourth as well as the great train show in the Costa Mesa building. And that's for model train enthusiast. The first fight club Oh see if 24 of 2024 takes place on Thursday, February 15. And we also have I got a little out of order. Sorry about that. We have a flow grappling event on February 9. The Ted festival have a big fat fan favorite is February 9 to the 11th and then SoCal swordfight 2024. This is a returning event. And this is the largest historical your European Martial arts event in the world. And farmers market every Thursday from nine to 1pm. And then at Centennial farm we have our garden classes. The first is this Saturday, and that's fruitful pruning. registered participants will learn all about how to prune fruit trees for maximum tree health and yield with our gardening expert and Senate Centennial farm volunteer Isabel Barkman. And then on the 10th of February, we have the chocolate

bliss Valentine's truffle making with Centennial Farms own chef Bina as you can see both classes are sold out they sell out very very early. Once they're announced almost they get sold out. So anyway, I would invite everybody to check out the classes and sign up as soon as you possibly can. Less you miss out. And then Centennial Farm and Heroes Hall Centennial farm has been back in full swing and been very busy after the holiday break with junior farmer tours, Discovery days the ranch after school program, and it's just been such a busy place as we all know afternoon. Afternoons during the week are open free to the public as are the weekends from 10 to 4pm. And at heroes Hall the valor and virtue exhibit continues through March and his heroes Hall is also a destination during discovery days as well. You can see the child at the bottom right with her a dog tag that she made at a discovery Day event. can also visit the Santa Ana army airbase exhibit upstairs on the second floor of heroes Hall and then outside we have the serenity walk to a 4am Skyhawk which is pictured right there with the serenity walk not to mention the Medal of Honor courtyard as well as the walk of honor. And heroes Hall also is open free to the public Wednesday through Sundays 10am to 4pm. And this concludes my update.

**Michele Richards**

And that concludes our report.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Thank you. Now we have a board directors matters of information before we close out I'll start with Director route cover Garcia.

**Natalie  
Rubalcava-Garcia**

Thank you, I have nothing to report.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Okay. Director Jackson.

**Dimitria Jackson**

Oh, this just for say this was just a lovely meeting. I enjoyed it. I'm glad that the work that we're doing has had is having a positive impact on the community, at least in the room here today. So it was great to hear that. So also wanted to put the plug in for the fair. Can we get some vegan options this year? You know, I'm just using hungry. Agricultural, some vegetables will be nice other than corn. Corn is great, but just one of the options. So that's my plug.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Great Director Bilezikjian.

**Tanya Bilezikjian**

I think for me, I'm going to head over to the farmers market.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Nice. Nice director La Belle?

**Doug Le Belle**

Real quickly, two items. First of all, thanks to staff for very hard work on the the equestrian project. And congratulations to the chair for the 40

Niners Good luck on Sunday. And a real quick equestrian follow up item. Many years ago, I tried to do a lot of my bucket list stuff before I retired. So my wife and son and I went to New York City to watch the ball drop. We stayed at a hotel in New York City. And we had the opportunity to experience the million people that came in. And I have two memories of that one. It was very, very cold, Barbara. And number two was the NYPD police officer on the horse. And boy when he came by control was well in hand. So anyway, I just leave with that. And that's it.

**Nick Kovacevich** Great, thank you, Director Pham?

**Newton Pham** Nothing to report but Happy New Year. I don't think we got a chance to say that. Right.

**Barbera  
Bagneres** I had said in my note. Happy New Year. Happy New Year. Everybody also enjoyed the WFP convention. For the days I got to go in the events and always good to see our staff and how you know when you say you're from the Orange County Fair, it's a big deal. People know who you are. Also, I went to winter Fest and enjoy it and it was cold. No, you know, I just I don't know I don't do cold but that was fine. And I just want to thank the chair for his thoughtful leadership and guidance, really enjoying working with you. And you conducting these meetings today was more of a Newton Pham style meeting...

**Nick Kovacevich** That's the gold standard.

**Barbera  
Bagneres** I'll try to listen to the video, I will not be on site for the February meeting. So I'll be with my grandkids in Houston, Texas. So I want to wish you a Happy Valentine's Day. And also Happy Black History Month as you celebrate as you will. And these pictures that you guys show up phenomenal. I don't know what camera is taking these pictures, but they are so awesome. So thank you to the staff, as always, and I wish everybody a great rest of your January.

**Nick Kovacevich** Well, thank you Vice Chair Bagneres, you definitely covered a lot of where I was going as well. So certainly, Happy New Year to everybody. I enjoyed winter fest with my family. It was fantastic. So great to I'm hoping to get to the break event this weekend. My son will like that. And again, as usual, thanks to the staff for for all that you do. And you know, I think turning around last board meeting and to where we are today, just you know, a month later, is it feels really, really good. And I look forward to what we're gonna be able to do between now and and June on the Facilities Committee and that staff. But just kidding. We're all here to help. So really look forward to that. And thank you guys and director LaBelle. It's always a good time to, you know, talk about my Niners without Director Ruiz around. So there's one California team left in the playoffs. So hopefully everyone's rooting for us this this weekend that

they did.

**Doug Le Belle** Maybe my chargers will turn it around now.

**Nick Kovacevich** Hey, you know, former was our former coach. I think he's going to try to help you guys.

**Doug Le Belle** Yeah, that's right.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you guys. Everybody. Have a great yeah, great rest of your weekend weekend, and we'll see you next month. Meeting adjourned.