

OCFEC Board Meeting Feb 22, 2024

Nick Kovacevich Good morning everyone. And welcome to the February Board meeting. Calling the meeting to order. The mission of OCFEC is creating equitable community access to agriculture, entertainment, cultural and educational experiences. And if we could have Josh lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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, now we'll move to roll call.

Summer Angus Chair Kovacevich?

Nick Kovacevich Here.

Summer Angus Vice Chair Bagneris?

Barbera Bagneres Here.

Summer Angus Director Pham?

Summer Angus Director LaBelle?

Summer Angus Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

Natalie
Rubalcava-Garcia Here.

Summer Angus Director Ruiz?

Robert Ruiz Here.

Summer Angus Director Bilezikjian?

Tanya Bilezikjian Here.

Summer Angus And Director Jackson?

Dimitria Jackson Here.

Summer Angus Thank you.

Nick Kovacevich Thank you Summer. Next, we'll move to item five minutes. If anyone would like to make a motion to approve the January meeting minutes.

Dimitria Jackson	So moved.
Tanya Bilezikjian	I'll second.
Nick Kovacevich	Summer.
Summer Angus	Chair Kovacevich?
Nick Kovacevich	Yes.
Summer Angus	Vice Chair Bagneres?
Barbera Bagners	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director Rubalcava-Garcia?
Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director Ruiz?
Robert Ruiz	Abstain.
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 I'm going to request so we move something up to the front here, I, Agenda Item number 8a. I'm going to go ahead and turn it over to CEO Richards to make a presentation.
Michele Richards	We have a very special presentation this morning on behalf of the Community Affairs Committee, so I will turn it over to Director Rubalcava-Garcia and Director Jackson to make that presentation. Perfect.
Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia	You want to read it?
Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia	Is it on? Okay. On behalf of the Community Affairs Committee, we'd like to welcome everyone to this special presentation showcasing the talents of young artists in Orange County and their expression of diversity, equity and inclusion. continuing the work started by past Community Affairs

Committee members including chair Kovacevich, Director Ruiz, Vice Chair Bagneris, and Director Pham. We worked with staff to launch a student art competition highlighting the diversity, equity and inclusion.

- Dimitria Jackson The competition was promoted leading up to and during the 2023 OC fair, through social media and with art teachers throughout Orange County as students aged 13 to 17. The committee reviewed all the entries and chose the three you'll see today. Each winner will receive a certificate and a check for \$500. In addition, the winning artwork we featured throughout the fairgrounds and online as a community message to uplift diversity, equity and inclusion. Now for the presentations. We'll begin with our third place winner. That's Vincent Pham. Vincent, yes please. And here's his artwork on the screen. Vincent's a ninth grader at Fountain Valley High School. He's here with his mother, Christie and his dad, Andy Vincent, please join us at the podium.
- Vincent Pham My painting represents a world where individuals coexist peacefully with one another. It doesn't matter what you look like what your background is, or gender. I put a lot of effort and time in creating an environment where people can come together and interact with one another. I have used paint and colored pencil to depict OC and have put orange trees in the background to represent Orange County and it's beautiful land.
- Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia Thanks for you. Here's just a certificate of achievement. No. And I'm seeing here is yes, please we'll take photos.
- Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia The next presentation is second place which goes to Clair Chong, an eighth grader, an eighth grade 13 year old and she attends Jeffery trail Middle School in Irvine. She is here with her mother Clair are with her mother and she's going to join us to read her statement.
- Clair Chong The artwork that I've created features different cultural foods and people with different ethnicities and races while also adding the Orange County historical landmark the Santa Ana water tower. There are also minor details in the background including a lighthouse, some palm trees, a surfboard, and a sun with some cool sunglasses showing that Orange County is a tropical area most of the time being really sunny. I also inserted some different cultural foods and Orange County agriculture onto the artwork. If you also look closely, there is a large there's a large orange circle which can be a sun but it's actually an orange symbolizing the hot air balloon from the Great Park.
- Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia Thank you Clair, if you and your mom Janine would like to join us over here for a picture and a presentation of your certificate and your check.
- Dimitria Jackson Get mom on TV...we're good...

Dimitria Jackson	Okay, and now for our first place winner, eighth grader Seylah Bae. She's like premier Middle School and potentia she's here with her mother Susan.
Seylah Bae	I created this artwork on a digital art program called Clip Studio Paint. This artwork represents the diversity in Orange County and the characteristics of nature that this region is known for. I included many different ethnicities in this artwork to portray the unique characters and identities of the people who live in Orange County. I also chose to draw landscapes scene of the region on one of the girls chests to represent the heart of Orange County and the impact the beauty of the land has by drawing a swirl in the shape of an infinity symbol. I represented the idea that community will conduct us forever despite our differences finally I made a gradient background from orange to blue to the pic the sunsets and beaches in Orange County.
Dimitria Jackson	Here's your certificate.
Dimitria Jackson	Oh yes. Okay, what is it a group shot about winners do...
Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia	You know when students please come together? Yes, that's what we're trying to do.
Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia	Yeah, for sure. That's good
Joan Hamill	That way, So aren't you...
Barbera Bagneris	You can just Photoshop me in...
Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia	I think we'll do one more. Congratulations everybody.
Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia	So if we can give these students one final round of applause.
Barbera Bagneris	Director Kovacevich because before you go on, let me just say, to watch this project from beginning to end and see it come to such a beautiful ending with these beautiful pictures that are provided by these young people. I am just so thrilled and happy and thank directors Rubalcaba, Garcia and Jackson for continuing this effort and doing such a great job.
Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia	And I was just gonna say that concludes the presentation for today and thank you on behalf of the Community Affairs Committee, it was an honor to review all of the different artwork that was submitted for this art contest and it was a pleasure to choose the winners. Thank you.
Nick Kovacevich	Okay, thank you. And now we'll move to Agenda Item number six matters

of public comment. Public comment is 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 comment items at this time as law requires formal notice. Prior to any action on an agenda item. Speakers are requested to fill and submit a comment card at the meeting Secretary prior to the start of the meeting are limited to 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 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. Again, speakers are limited to three minutes. So we do have some public comments. First of all start with Reggie Mundekis.

Reggie Mundekis Hi, good morning. I'm Reggie Mundekis and thank you for the opportunity to address you this morning. I am following up on the conversation that would start at the last board meeting about getting more vegetarian and vegan food at the fair and other events. I am a vegetarian, I'll eat dairy and eggs. So I've had to go on the quest for finding things that are easy to make. Grab and Go things, which is what we need for the fair and for the food service here. Some of the things that I am enjoying or share with you. There's a store in Westminster veggie wholesale v-e-g-e wholesale, they sell mostly food that's made in Taiwan, because there's a strong vegetarian culture in Taiwan because of the Buddhist community. They have every kind of flavor of meat and fish that you can use for Asian noodle and rice bowls. So if you're already making, you know teriyaki rice bowl, they have a product that you can just swap one to one, no cooking because many of their products are already flavored and they and it's called veggie wholesale because they sell to restaurants. So that's one resource. Another idea is middle eastern food is Karim's, falafel in Anaheim. It's a family run restaurant, and they sell their food frozen. They have frozen falafel. You just throw in the fryer and some pita bread, some hummus, some tahini, you got a sandwich. They are also willing to work with people on large frozen food impossible other wholesale issues. Another unexplored area, which I think could be big for fair food is Indian food. India has a lot of vegetarians for religious reason. They also have a lot of people who don't eat eggs for social reasons. We're just gonna leave it at that. So India also has a type of food called chats c-h-a-t-s, which means snacks. India is the country where everybody eats something different. So chats are sold at train stations as Grab and Go meals. There's a cookbook about their snack foods that if staff wants to borrow, I can let them borrow it. wide range of things vegetarian, vegan, sweet, sour, even things from meat eaters. And I just also want to leave you with one important piece of information today. February 22 is national Margarita day. So wanted to share that very important fact with you. So have a good one.

Michele Richards	Do we have a proclamation?
Nick Kovacevich	Okay, great. Thank you. Thank you, Reggie. And then next we have Mary Slouka.
Mary Slouka	<p>Good morning. I'm, I'm happy to address the board I'm I want to talk about the closure of the Equestrian Center. I hear you've been discussing this back and forth. I've been a professional horse trainer in Orange County since 1970. I was here when the original fairground wooden stalls burned down and we had horses running all over Costa Mesa. And when they rebuilt the fairgrounds for what it is today. I feel it's very important to keep this facility open to the trainer's to the general public. It's been an icon here in Orange County for 70, 80 years. I am a direct competitor of the Orange County Fairgrounds, I have a commercial stable in Santa Ana Heights. And I've been there since 1970. So I feel that this is a good opportunity for children. And for adults to get recreated. It shows all of Orange County, it's not just a trainers to trainers, yes, they make money here. But the few people that services area come from all over Orange County. And if this facility closes, the nearest public facility that you can go to, that's anywhere near this capacity is Huntington Beach are down up down in San Juan, it would be a terrible tragedy to not have this service offered here in Orange County where we have so many affluent people that can use it. And we have people that cannot afford a horse that can come and take lessons and enjoy the sport. I've taught children for 55 years, and I can tell you, the best investment a parent can make is getting a horse for a young boy or young girl because when they get to high school, they are too busy. Competing, writing, loving learning all those responsibilities of horses, to go to the mall and Bop around with their friends and get into trouble because the first thing the parent will take away is the horse and the lessons and those two things that children would rather die than lose. And so it's a very, very good way to teach a young child six, seven years old all the way to high school, because I teach them from five to high school. They're responsible, they're caring for an animal that is 1200 pounds. It's an incredible opportunity. I tell parents you spend your money on the horse now and you'll spend less money on rehabilitating your teenager to has too much time and too much money to get into trouble. Thank you for your time.</p>
Nick Kovacevich	Thank you Next we have Gibran Stout.
Gibran Stout	<p>Good morning. I just want to thank you again for your vote at last meeting to come up with a new publicly focused model for the Equestrian Center. I just wanted to also let you know that we're going to be holding a free community open house with riding and vaulting exhibitions at 12pm. That will be 12pm on March 10. So if any of you are in the neighborhood, encourage you to come and see what our our small little community</p>

things look like. And I really loved what one of the artists said earlier Salem Bay She says community will connect us forever. And I really that really resonated with me. I really liked that. So, yeah, community will connect us forever. So please come and join with us. Thank you.

Tanya Bilezikjian When is that, Sunday?

Gibran Stout Yes.

Nick Kovacevich Thank you, Gibran. Summer, do we have any additional public comments on Zoom?

Summer Angus We do not.

Nick Kovacevich Okay. That concludes the public comment general public comment. Agenda Item. Next we'll move to Agenda Item number seven, which is the consent calendar. All matters listed on consent calendar operational matters about which the board has governing policies implementation of which is delegated to the CEO. There'll be enacted in one motion, there will be no discussion of these items prior to the time the Board of Directors votes on the motion, unless members of the Board staff or public perspective, request specific items to be discussed separately and or removed from this 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 to the chair to address the board. Do any members of the board have any comments on any of these items or would like to discuss before we move? Okay, great. We have a motion.

Robert Ruiz So moved.

Natalie
Rubalcava-Garcia I'll second.

Nick Kovacevich Summer.

Summer Angus Chair Kovacevich?

Nick Kovacevich Yes.

Summer Angus Vice Chair Bagneres?

Barbera Bagneris Yes.

Summer Angus Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

Natalie
Rubalcava-Garcia Yes.

Summer Angus	Director Ruiz?
Robert Ruiz	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director Bilezikjian?
Tanya Bilezikjian	Yes.
Summer Angus	And Director Jackson?
Dimitria Jackson	Yes.
Summer Angus	Thank you.
Nick Kovacevich	Okay, great. Moving on to item number eight governance process. This item eight B is a vote on whether or not to approve text for Women's History Month proclamation. And I'll go ahead and then turn this over to CEO Richards to introduce.
Michele Richards	All right. At last month's board meeting, you might remember that the community affairs committee recommended presenting a proclamation from the board to a member of the community for that month that was being celebrated last month was or this sorry, this month is Black History Month. And the presentation was to from the board proclaiming Black History Month at the OC fair and Events Center to Bobbie MacDonald representing the Black Chamber of Commerce in the black community. So next month, March is Women's History Month. So the committee talked about that. And I'll turn it now over to the committee to discuss what the plans are for next month.
Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia	Thank you CEO Richards yes so director Jackson and I met with the CEO Richards and Joan to discuss what the language would look like. And it is before you guys today for review and discussion and we are open to any amendments or changes that you would like to provide anything to add director Jackson?
Dimitria Jackson	No, I think you summarized that pretty well.
Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia	So I mean, we can for the record, I'm happy to read it. So I'll read the first two. So vote on sorry, whereas the 32nd District agricultural Association, the district mission is creating equitable community access to agriculture, entertainment, cultural, and educational experiences. And whereas the district's vision is Orange County's Town Square, the safe place where the community gathers and finds value. And whereas the district recognizes the importance of honoring the month of March as Women's History Month, and whereas the district recognizes the pioneering women who were influential in the development and advancement of women in all fields and professions, and who have positively impacted the rights of

women in our community and my to turn it over to Director Jackson.

- Dimitria Jackson Sure. And whereas the district celebrates the contributions of many women who have demonstrated successful leadership throughout the organization, including in senior roles and on its board of directors, and whereas the Board of Directors of the 32nd District agricultural association is committed to uplifting and empowering women and girls and supporting equal opportunities so that all can succeed and prosper. And now therefore, the Board of Directors of the 32nd District agricultural Association, proclaims the month of March as Women's History Month. During this month, we will continue to recognize all the contributions and accomplishments of women past and present with the purpose that are encouraging all women to achieve their full potential.
- Michele Richards So the committee is recommending approval of that language, which would then be created into a beautiful proclamation and the Committee on behalf of the Board will present that to a prominent woman leader in our community.
- Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia So yeah, and I just want to say on behalf of our committee, thank you to staff for developing the language that will go into the proclamation. And Director Jackson and I had the opportunity to also review and make some suggested edits that that are before you today.
- Barbera Bagneris This is Director Bagneris. I'd like to move that we accept this proclamation.
- Tanya Bilezikjian I'd like to second.
- Nick Kovacevich All right. We have a motion and a second. Summer. Please do roll call.
- Summer Angus Chair Kovacevich?
- Nick Kovacevich Yes.
- Summer Angus Vice Chair Bagneres.
- Barbera Bagners Yes.
- Summer Angus Director Rubalcava-Garcia?
- Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia Yes.
- Summer Angus Director Ruiz?
- Robert Ruiz Yes.

Summer Angus	Director Bilezikjian?
Tanya Bilezikjian	Yes.
Summer Angus	And Director Jackson.
Dimitria Jackson	Yes.
Summer Angus	Thank you.
Michele Richards	Thank you.
Nick Kovacevich	All right. Moving on to Agenda Item 8c, these are the committee reports. This is an information item. And I would like to start with the leadership committee, which is myself and Vice Chair Bagneris. So I can, in her absence, go ahead and read our brief report, which basically states that the Committee met on February 7th to plan this agenda for today's February board of directors meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 13. Next, we'll move to the Financial Monitoring and Audit Committee in Director Pham absence, I would ask Director Bilezikjian to proceed.
Tanya Bilezikjian	Will do. Thank you. So Director Pham, and I met with Michelle and Melissa on February 15, to review January. So revenue came in above budget by \$416,000. And a little more. And this is due to some scheduled events performing better and then also to events that weren't in the budget. So those were simply pluses that also operating expenses for the month of January were favorable to budget by \$371,000 and \$11. In their year to date, we are favorable to budget by \$823,723. So we're starting off here very, very well. cash on cash investments are \$56 million as of the end of January. So we'll continue to meet next meeting is scheduled March 24.
Nick Kovacevich	Okay, great. Thank you. Next, we have the Facilities Committee, Director Ruiz if like to proceed.
Robert Ruiz	sure. Thank you. Yeah, we had a meeting on February 7, me and director Bilezikjian and staff, you know, provided some really good insight in on what's upcoming here with the with fair, especially the master site plan, we also discussed the largest storage project that's going on along with the storage problem we have here. So as we move on with future meetings, we're gonna discuss that, you know, that come up with solutions that will work for everybody. So we also discussed the Pacific Amphitheater dressing rooms, which I think it's long overdue. I'm really excited about that, how that's gonna look once that is done. And we also discussed Well, later on CEO, Richard will provide a an update on the upcoming board of directors meeting in regards to that. So great meeting, lots of topics were discussed. And like I said, we'll have more discussion as we move forward in regards to the Equestrian Center as we move forward. Our next

meeting will be kind of what is the next meeting? I don't see it here. It's on the sixth of next month. So we'll bring you back more information if we discuss the equestrian center again. Thank you. Unless Bilezikjian wants to add anything else?

Tanya Bilezikjian No. Thank you, Director Ruiz.

Robert Ruiz Thank you.

Nick Kovacevich Thank you guys, a lot going on in the Facilities Committee. So commend you for the efforts. We do have actually some public comments on this item. So I'll introduce them at this time. First we have Leigh-Anne Kazolas.

Leigh-Anne
Kazolas Hi, thank you for allowing me to speak today. It's before I dive in we all I want to reiterate my another shared excitement for the community Equine Center vision. We're a little concerned about the proposed using of the small if it's the same as 28. The language is vague in the in the agenda item. The proposed use of the small green space adjacent to the arena first as a storage yard for shipping containers as it seems to be a bit in opposition to the board's plans and goals for broader public access. So why is that arena? If this is what you're talking about beside the arena, why is it that green space important but if you have horror shows or mounted police demonstrations or an open house, that's where the public needs to sit? Where would you else would you put bleachers, so even daily now there are people watching their kids and friends, right, they come up there towards the community groups watch their horses from out there. For people who want to see anything going on in the arena, that elevated green space is literally the only place to see the arena. Well, the arena is like a large rectangle, right? It's got two short sides. They're too small, it'd be like watching your kids football game for the endzone only at the other long side of the rectangle is a very active driveway. But it's set three feet below grade. So if you're standing there, or sitting there, you're gonna just all you see is horses hooves. So Mack is passing around. So some photos. One of them was last Saturday, the OC vaulting session that people were working on. The other one is our Halloween event when we brought in some seniors, the concrete ramp on that east side is the only way for people with mobility issues are in a wheelchair to access that elevated viewing area, and to see all of the activities going on in the arena. And there's just such little green space everywhere those mature trees are lovely. The bougainvillea is a lovely pleasant backdrop and to disappear and to see that disappear would just be sad. What's the song lyric, they paved paradise and put up a parking lot. And this issue has history. Again, it's unclear if this is the same plan. You know, but the decisions were made and the decisions that were reversed the last time this came up. But we're also just wondering how can we collaborate on

this, we have lots of great ideas, that green space would actually make a great revenue generating event space. The Huntington Beach Equestrian Center has a small green space for meetings and weddings that involve horses, the ranch program, and others can have their food growing projects up there. And we've always thought it would be a great public wellness space to have free arena side yoga classes. There's just so many ideas and so much potential. So hopefully the Facilities Committee can work with staff, the daily users, the community programs and partners that you're bringing in. All of the proposed activities require a place for the public, especially those with mobility challenges to gather and view the arenas and enjoy the space because your vision is for more public use, and not less.

Nick Kovacevich Okay, thank you. Next we have Carolyn Beaver.

Carolyn Beaver Good morning, I'm, excuse me, Carolyn beaver. And like Leigh-Anne said last month, certainly, we're as equestrian is very excited about the proposed community centered Equestrian Center. And that concept that the board has approved to offer meaning meaningful experience to a broader segment of our community. We're not clear on what the plans are, or maybe for the use of that green space that Leanne just talked about. But I did want to share that that is a really important area for the community to be able to use to be able to observe, not just for shows, but also for parents to watch their children come and ride. And as we think of more and more people coming to be able to have that experience. It's just really important to have that that little bit of green space that we have to be able to watch a horse show otherwise, where would where would parents be able to stand and watch their child learn to ride you it would just be such a shame to ruin that space with containers on that space. It also that space does also contribute to the safety of the horses and riders. Because as you know, horses are flight animals and can get scared from noises or sudden movements. And having containers right next to where they ride seems like a rather scary proposition. And we want to make sure that we have a safe experience for all riders, particularly for those learning to ride. And quite frankly, for senior writers like myself. So we just recommend that further work be done to imagine the best solution for your vision of a community centered Equestrian Center and solve the needs of the fairgrounds. And we really like to be able to work together with the staff and the facilities committee to help give ideas that will work for everyone involved. Thanks so much.

Nick Kovacevich Thank you. If no additional comments from the board, I'll move to the next committee report. Okay, the Governance Committee did does it has nothing to report this week. So finally, we'll close with the Community Affairs Committee, who we've already heard from today.

Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia	Yes, and we the only thing that I will mention that's on this report is that we met on February 14, and everybody is aware of the Women's History Month proclamation. Thank you to our fellow board members for approving that. And then the student art competition. And then we also have a presentation for Black History Month.
Michele Richards	Actually, not a presentation but just a recognition that we We are currently celebrating Black History Month. We are proudly flying the Pan African flag that was per a board vote last year. So the flag is up. And there's an extra day this month to celebrate Black History Month. Right. Awesome.
Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia	Do you have anything to add?
Dimitria Jackson	No, I think she mentioned that the fact that we're trying to determine who that representative will be for Women's History Month, so we float around a few names and we're just looking for confirmations at this point.
Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia	Yeah, and just in celebration of Black History Month and I just also want to recognize Director Bagneris for champ being the champion behind the Pan African flag that now flies every February.
Nick Kovacevich	All right. If no comment from directors we'll move on to closed session item nine. Please give us a break while we go into closed session and we'll be out as soon as possible Thank you.
Summer Angus	Barbara, you should be notified that you're going to be moving into the breakout room.
Nick Kovacevich	Okay, the board is now back from closed session we met in closed session and have nothing more to report. Moving on, we will go to Agenda Item Number 10, which is the CEOs operational announcements. An update.
Michele Richards	Right, just a few updates. Thank you to Chair Kovacevich and Director Ruiz for attending last week so see Business Council annual dinner. And joining at our table was staff. But also, the gentleman on the left was the special guests that we invited. Michael Tao is the district director for assembly member Cottie Petrie Norris. He was here earlier and I'm sorry. Oh, there he is. And Michael, I just announced you. Thank you so much for being here and for attending the dinner with us as well. And this the assembly member is a good friend and a great fan of the OC fair I should mention to the gentleman on the far right is Anthony Brennaman. He is the CEO of the OC Sports Commission. And we work with the Sports Commission on bringing sporting events to the OC fair and Events Center. So it was a really good dinner. Turning to the right, are you ready to see some great shows this summer? So we sure are and ticket sales for headline ads at the Pacific Amphitheater are off to a great start. We've got

Los Tucanos coming prior to the fair, Chris Young Walker Hayes Bonnie Raitt, we just signed Big Time Rush. Cool in the gang and four nights of revolution four nights, one show is already sold out. Can you believe that? Wow. Yeah, they have a huge following here in Orange County. Tickets are on sale now. And speaking of tickets, fair admission and everyday passport sales start March 1, just a week or so away. And it is just 148 days until the 2024 OC fair opens and we can't wait. The lower left hand corner is did you did you see us on KTTV channel 11. A couple of weeks ago reporter Bob DeCarlo you see him with the microphone to the left I visited Centennial farm and channel 11 several features during the morning news about our garden classes at the farm. And there's Bob with Evy and Joan and our Centennial Farm staff. So I'd like to thank the communications department Terry and her team and our Centennial Farm team for putting on a great presentation for channel 11. Just a couple of operational updates as well. Several of our department employees are on the move as we relocate to new temporary spaces in preparation for the construction of the administration building. Communications Terry and her team are now in the ranch building. Marketing is in the Silo building at the farm. Part of our entertainment team and Ken are in the maintenance area. And the other part of our entertainment department. Dan is in the production office at the Pac Amp all by himself. We have to check on him once a day to make sure he's still alive there, and more departments will move into temporary mobile offices sometime in April. With all this rain, I wanted to report that our property fared pretty well. During the storms. We've experienced some localized flooding, but it's quickly drying up. The grassy areas have never looked better or greener. The berm is live and the animals that Centennial farmers are doing just fine. And the woman on the lower right hand side, I would like to introduce as Michelle Capps, our new Chief Business Development Officer. I don't like to talk about Joan retiring but she is and Michele will be joining us as of March 11. She comes with a very strong background in executive roles in marketing sales, sponsorship, communications, PR and advertising. She has worked for Palace entertainment in the past, which operates Palace parks and Boomers, if you remember, and Knott's Berry Farm and Soak City she oversaw 22 different parks in the Cedar Fair, Knott's Berry Farm portfolio, she starts with us on March 11. And she will be here at the next board meeting so we can introduce you in person. And yes, her name is Michele with one L. So we're going to have to figure out how to how to I said do you have a nickname something you know, because that could be a little confusing. So I may be known as Richard's and she may be known as Capps moving forward, but we're very excited to have her and another couple of weeks and you'll see her in person here at the March board meeting. I did want to provide, as I said, a monthly update on our progress with ramping up public programming for the Equestrian Center. So we are working on meeting the board's expectations. But we want to also address the needs and concerns of

current borders and trainers, we could develop this initial timeline, knowing that things are fluid, and they could change. But this is kind of a timeline we're working on. We believe that we can accommodate all the current borders and trainers as we ramp up the public programs. But there will be need for unnecessary changes to the rental fees and periodic challenges with the availability of the facilities as we try to manage both both programs together. So for the board direction. And to avoid the gift of public funds, we have to adjust the fees so that those expenses are being covered. So we will our staff is working on that right now a letter will go out next week to the users of the Equestrian Center to let them know, while their current rental agreements and on April 14 for the board directive that that will be moved forward to June 14, to give that 90 days notice. So new rental agreements will extend the use of the property per the board direction at current rates. And users will be given 90 days notice that there will be changes to the fees effective June 15, as well as the availability of the facilities as we ramp up the public programming in June, we will we're planning to host our first or show open free to the public. We also plan to install that storage sound wall that will fix some of our our storage issues and provide a sound barrier between the Equestrian Center and the fair and other activities that go on in the parking lot. So beginning in June, through June of 2025, new rental agreements will reflect the new fee structure based on full coverage of expenses as directed by the board.

Michele Richards Moving to September of 2024. So between June and September, we want to create designated boarding space for privately owned horses. So as the influx of public comes on the property that there's a safety and security barrier between the privately owned horses and the private activity versus the public programs that we'll be activating. The first one will be in September. In conjunction with the new school year, we are moving our ranch after school program to the Equestrian Center, we're bursting at the seams at Centennial farm and their strong demand for additional programs there as well. So the ranch after school program is a program that we put together for kids that would otherwise go home to empty houses where parents work. And so this is a great program to teach them about many aspects of agriculture and including about horses. So that program will be moved in September. Those kids meet twice a week after school. But we're also talking to some area nonprofits that serve the needy families in our community about opening the program up two days a week for those families to come and experience the ranch program as well. In November we'll develop our 2025 budgets so we'll be able to put numbers together for some of the other public programs, which we will begin introducing at the beginning of 2025 Starting with an equine exhibit a walk through exhibit and a tour program at the Equestrian Center. We're working with veterans resources in the community to bring veteran therapy groups to to the equine center, and then all throughout 2025 We'll be working with

colleges and technical schools that offer veterinary tech programs and veterinary medicine programs to use the facility as like a living lab for example. Still in conversation with the mounted units in Orange County, about doing demonstrations and and possibly boarding will ramp up equine assisted therapy with certified therapists and then host student equestrian competition. gents as well. So that's our update for this month. Happy to take any, any questions. Okay, and I'll turn it over to Joan for a quick update on on events.

Joan Hamill

All right, few events coming up to close out the month of February. We have three great events taking place this weekend. Jurassic Quest is the 23rd to the 25th. We have the gem fair, and then the OC Home and Garden Show all this weekend like I had mentioned, and then kicking off in March, we have the bridal and wedding expo on the second, and then the Pacific Coast sports fishing show March 7 through 10th. And then, a new show to our property I believe is the impalas magazine, OC Super Show and this feature is low writer cars, trucks, bicycles, and more. And that's on March 17. That should be a really great show. And then we also have the Apartment Association of OC event taking place on March 28. Every Thursday, today, we have the Farmers Market market taking place out in our in our parking lot. And then our garden classes and workshops at Centennial farm. We have a few that are coming up that you can see here. The first one on the 24th is back backyard bantams, your guide to urban chicken keeping and in addition, this show is pretty interesting. These are smaller breeds of chickens, so they're perfect for raising in your backyard. They're petite and charming and they are prolific eight producers and found out that this is sold out so that the coverage that we got from Channel 11 really paid off so we had some you know star chickens out there and so I think that sold the show out and then on March ninth we have make it and take it food preservation with us CCE master Garden Master food preservers, and that class is sold out, very popular. And then on the 16th we have our urban hops, and this is rabbits as a diverse agricultural journey. And in addition to showcasing 52 Rabbit breeds, participants learn the fundamentals of raising healthy rabbits. And this is ideal for 4H and FFA students as well as the general public. Lots of information about raising, raising rabbits of different varieties and also includes the process of ethically sourced angora, that should be a lot of fun.

And then also continuing at Centennial farm. And at heroes Hall, we have our junior farmer steward and discovery days, as well as our ranch program, of course, open free in the afternoon, all these programs are free. With the exception of the garden classes, some of those have a fee to cover expenses. But just to visit the farm, obviously, it's free. And then through March 31. We have the valor and virtue exhibit that features Jewish American Medal of Honor recipients just one more month for this

exhibit. It's been very well received. I'd invite everyone to come out and see that exhibit if they haven't yet. And oops, I'll turn it back over to Michelle, that completes.

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Nick Kovacevich All right. Thank you, Joan. Look forward to getting at least one more presentation from you next month. All right, thank you a lot, a lot of good stuff going on. We'll try to make some of these events myself. As the slide says the next board meeting will be March 28th. So we'll see you guys next month's thank you all for coming in and zooming in as well. And we'll do number 11. Now the Board of Directors matters of information. We'll start with Vice Chair Bagneris who's on zoom.

Barbera Bagneres And so glad that I could be in the meeting here in Houston, Texas. And it's a lot warmer here than it is where you are. So I'm excited about that too. In great meeting, Nick, if you want to beat Newton's record, I think you might have done it today. But we appreciate you continuing that effort. And great to see everybody even from afar and always thank the staff and all the employees at the fairgrounds for all the great work that you do.

Nick Kovacevich Thank you, Director Jackson?

Dimitria Jackson Just kind of echo what Direcotr Bagneris said and thanking everybody the staff make us shine and make us look good. These meetings so I appreciate that. And I just love being In the community affairs committee, I was so wonderful today to give certificates and checks to students who embrace the challenge. And I'm so happy that they submitted their entries, we had a lot of really good entries to choose from. And I just really enjoyed that opportunity to present them and their families and take photos with them. So that was great. Love my committee.

Nick Kovacevich Next in your committee, yeah, Director Rubalcava-Garcia.

Natalie
Rubalcava-Garcia Thank you, I just want to say that I'm so sad about Joan. So I will, I know she will be here another month. But I think that she's irreplaceable in my eyes. So as long as I've been on the board, it's been a pleasure to work

with her. But I also just want to say that I enjoy being on the Community Affairs Committee, it has been a pleasure to get to know Director Jackson better and to just work on initiatives that are important to the board. And so that has been something that's been really rewarding to me. And then I'm just going to remind everybody that it is Girl Scout season, so please buy cookies, from our little entrepreneurs in training and help make their experience positive one. That concludes my comments.

Nick Kovacevich Great Bilezikjian.

Tanya Bilezikjian Here we go. Yeah, echoing every everything that has been said already, it's been a short time, but a really wonderful time getting to know you. I appreciate everything that's done all the events that we have the opportunity to attend and in engage with the community. I really appreciate what you guys do on your committee is the human side, right? We've got facilities, we've got finance, we've got leadership and government governance, but it's really, it's that soft side that is, can be so hard to get right. And I feel like you guys are really being proactive and getting it done. Right. So it's a pleasure to see your your presentations every month. As far as the Equestrian Center, you know, we're we're hard at work, working very, very hard to, you know, keep everybody happy, I'm really proud of the work that you and your staff are doing. And it's just gonna take some give and take by everybody. And I think that that's kind of where we're at right now, I'm really excited to know that all of the current borders are going to be able to stay. I think that's a wonderful adjustment. And then you know, everything is going to just expand and grow as as we get through it. So that's it.

Robert Ruiz Thank you directories. Yeah, I'll just keep mine short. First of all, I just want to do congratulate I'm sorry to give my condolences to your 49's. Yeah. And again, I just wanted to thank Michelle on his staff for all the great work that you guys do. And I'm really excited for the upcoming fair, it's going to it's it's going to be a good time, and I just want to wish director Labelle the best in his recovery. I know he's not feeling well. That's why he couldn't be here. And I just want to wish him the best. And that's that's going to be it just everyone have a safe and nice weekend. Thank you. Oh, I'm sorry, one more thing. This is my first meeting in person. They're going to be this quick. Count me and then.

Nick Kovacevich Well, I see see what you did there to recover after that. Got it. Me, Robert. I was gonna say, as everyone saw, my Niners came up short, but I was going to commend other fans for not rubbing it in until about 30 seconds ago. So but you know, I gotta move on to focus on basketball season, looks like the clippers are ahead of the pack when it comes to California teams, but I'm still confident my warriors will rally back half of the season. So I just want to do to close with, you know, thank you guys for

showing up and physically here and you know, on zoom with my vice chair, Director Bagneris, but more importantly, showing up consistently in the work that we're doing here. So I think this sport has been really off to a great start this year. You know, working together here and these meetings working together in your committees, we can see that in the reports. And, you know, of course, staff always doing a tremendous job and really carrying it the rest of the way. You know, they do they do the bulk of the work and, you know, we provide the oversight and direction and input. So it all seems to be working well. We're only in February, but I want to keep this trend going for 2024. So thank you guys all and see you in March. Meeting adjourned.