

**MINUTES OF OCFEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
HELD MARCH 28, 2024**

The following Minutes are a summary of Board action and proceedings. For a full transcript please click on the link below or visit the ocfair.com website.

[https://s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/ocfair.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/09091002/24\\_03\\_March\\_Board\\_Transcript.pdf](https://s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/ocfair.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/09091002/24_03_March_Board_Transcript.pdf)

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Kovacevich, called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

**2. MISSION STATEMENT**

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by OCFEC Chief Business Development Officer, Michele Capps. Roll call was taken by meeting secretary, Summer Angus.

**4. DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Chair Kovacevich, Vice Chair Bagneris, Director Pham, Director La Belle, Director Bilezikjian and Director Jackson.

**DIRECTORS ABSENT/EXCUSED:** Directors Ruiz and Rubalcava-Garcia.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Michele Richards, OCFEC CEO; Ken Karns, OCFEC Chief Operating Officer; Joan Hamill, OCFEC Chief Business Development Officer; Michele Capps, OCFEC Chief Business Development Officer; Melissa Au-Yeung, Chief Administrative Officer; Jason Jacobsen, Director Planning & Production; Summer Angus, OCFEC Executive Assistant; Evelyn Nunez, OCFEC Communication Associate; Josh Caplan, Office of the Attorney General; Reginald Joseph, transcriptionist; Reggie Mundekis; Glen Johnson; Alice Haug; Lisa Sabo; Melissa Krawczyk; Gil Salazar; Leigh-Ann Kazolas; Brian Cummings; Aileen Anderson; Noelle Anderson; Denise Xagorarakis; Joanna Schielein; Macki Hamblin; Theresa Sears; Gibran Stout; Lauryn Mascarenas; Jody Enget

**5. MINUTES:**

**A. Board meeting held February 22, 2024**

Action Item

**ACTION:** Vice Chair Bagneris motioned and Director Bilezikjian seconded to approve the minutes from Board meeting held February 22, 2024. **MOTION CARRIED. AYES:** Chair Kovacevich, Vice Chair Bagneris, Director Bilezikjian and Director Jackson. **NAYES:** None. **ABSTENTIONS:** Director Pham and Director La Belle.

**9. GOVERNANCE PROCESS**

- A. Presentation of Women's History Month Proclamation by Community Affairs Committee**  
Information Item

Director Jackson, on behalf of the Community Affairs Committee presented the Women's History Month proclamation to Girl Scouts of Orange County (GSOC) CEO Vikki Shepp.

CEO Richards also introduced GSOC Board Chair Christine Scheuneman and GSOC Chief Operating Officer Christina Salcido.

## **6. MATTERS OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

Glen Johnson, Centennial Farm Foundation (CFF) President, announced that CFF has a fundraiser planned for April 26 - sporting clay and barbeque at Raahauge's Shooting Enterprise in Corona. Johnson described CFF's purpose to raise support for Centennial Farm educational activities. He mentioned CFF's revised website [www.centennialfarmfoundationOC.org](http://www.centennialfarmfoundationOC.org). He praised OC FEC's staff for support and cooperation.

Reggie Mundekis pointed out Communications Lab's attendance at the meeting (a public relations firm). She commented on the December 2023 Board meeting of which Communications Lab also attended and cautioned them on meeting decorum. She asked for a polite and effective meeting.

## **7. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**A. Standard Agreements:** SA-045-24IO; SA-046-24IO; SA-047-24IO; SA-048-24IO; SA-049-24IO; SA-050-24IO; SA-051-24IO; SA-055-24SP; SA-056-24SP; SA-062-24SP; SA-063-24FT; SA-064-24SP; SA-065-24SP; SA-066-24SP

i. Standard Agreement Amendments: SA-225-23YR A#1

**B. Rental Agreements:** R-003-24; R-013-24; R-021-24; R-037-24; R-048-24; R-070-24; R-072-24; R-075-24; R-076-24; R-077-24; R-078-24; R-079-24; R-080-24; R-085-24; R-086-24; 24 IO-FE 01; 24 IO-FE 02; 24 IO-FE 03; 24 IO-FE 04; 24 IO-FE 05; 24 IO-FE 06; 24 IO-FE 07; 24 IO-FE 08; 24 IO-FE 09; 24 IO-FE 10; 24 IO-FE 11; 4 IO-FE 12; 24 IO-FE 13; 24 IO-FE 14; 24 IO-FE 15; 24 IO-FE 16; 24 IO-FE 17; 24 IO-FE 18; 24 IO-FE 19; 24 IO-FE 20; 24 IO-FE 21; 24 IO-FE 22; 24 IO-FE 23; 24 IO-FE 24; 24 IO-FE 25; 24 IO-FE 26; 24 IO-FE 27; 24 IO-FE 28; 24 IO-FE 29; 24 IO-FE 30; 24 IO-FE 31; 24 IO-FE 32; 24 IO-FE 33; 24 IO-FE 34; 24 IO-FE 35; 24 IO-FE 36; 24 IO-FE 37; 24 IO-FE 38; 24 IO-FE 40; 24 IO-FE 41; 24 IO-FE 42; 24 IO-FE 43; 24 IO-FE 44; 24 IO-FE 45; 24 IO-FE 46; RA-EQCEdwSto-24; RA-EQCJodGho-24; RA-EQC001-24; RA-EQC002-24; RA-EQC003-24; RA-EQC004-24; RA-EQC005-24; RA-EQC006-24; RA-EQC007-24; RA-EQC008-24; RA-EQC009-24; RA-EQC011-24; RA-EQC012-24; RA-EQC013-24; RA-EQC014-24; RA-EQC015-24; RA-EQC016-24; RA-EQC017-24; RA-EQC018-24; RA-EQC019-24; RA-EQC020-24; RA-EQC021-24; RA-EQC022-24; RA-EQC023-24; RA-EQC024-24; RA-EQC025-24; RA-EQC026-24; RA-EQC027-24; RA-EQC028-24; RA-EQC029-24; RA-EQC030-24; RA-EQC031-24; RA-EQC032-24; RA-EQC033-24; RA-EQC034-24; RA-EQC035-24; RA-EQC036-24; RA-EQC037-24; RA-EQC038-24; RA-EQC039-24; RA-

EQC040-24; RA-EQC041-24; RA-EQC042-24; RA-EQC043-24; RA-EQC044-24; RA-EQC045-24; RA-EQC046-24; RA-EQC047-24; RA-EQC048-24; RA-EQC049-24; RA-EQC050-24; RA-EQC051-24; RA-EQC052-24; RA-EQC053-24

- i. **Rental Agreement Amendments:** R-058-24 (Amend. #1); R-070-24 (Amend. #1); R-072-24 (Amend. #1)

**C. Commercial Rental Agreements:** IMCOM-01-24; IMCOM-02-24; IMCOM-03-24; IMCOM-04-24; IMCOM-05-24; IMCOM-06-24

**D. Concession Rental Agreements:** IMFO-01-24; IMFO-02-24; IMFO-03-24; IMFO-04-24; IMFO-05-24; IMFO-06-24; IMFO-07-24; IMFO-08-24; IMFO-09-24; IMFO-10-24; IMFO-12-24

**E. Independent Amusement Rental Agreements:** IMIA-01-24

**F. Platinum Rental Agreements:** 24706; 24708; 24710; 24712; 24715; 24719; 24722; 24727; 24730

**G. Active Joint Powers Authority Agreements (New):** 032-23-506010; 032-24-560354; 032-24-560374

- i. **Active Joint Powers Authority Agreement Amendments:** None.

**H. Judging Agreements:** 24 IO-JA 01; 24 IO-JA 02

**I. Correspondence:**

Communications to the Board from members of public related to OCFEC business are identified below and included with the Board materials (available on the OCFEC website). Note that this agenda item includes only those communication(s) that were sent to the entire Board and CEO before the publication of this month's agenda. The deadline for correspondence to be included on the April 2024 agenda is April 12, 2024.

- i. None.

**J. CDFA Correspondence:**

Communications to the Board from the California Department of Food & Agriculture Division of Fairs & Expositions regarding relevant topics at Fairs and Expositions.

- i. None.

- End of Consent Calendar -

CEO Richards pulled Rental Agreement R-079-24, stating the agreement is not yet complete.

**ACTION:** Director Labelle motioned and Vice Chair Bagneris seconded to approve the Consent Calendar with Rental Agreement R-079-24 removed.

**MOTION CARRIED. AYES:** Chair Kovacevich, Vice Chair Bagneris, Director Pham, Director La Belle, Director Bilezikjian and Director Jackson. **NAYES:** None. **ABSTENTIONS:** None.

## 8. CEO UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CEO Richards reported the following:

- Introduced the new Chief Business Development Officer, Michele Capps
- Busy March for the year-round events calendar
- Every Day Passport went on sale March 1
- Summer Concert series on sale now and has generated over \$3M in ticket revenue to date
- 2024 OC Pride Festival coming to the OCFEC October 5 after Pride Parade in Costa Mesa
- On March 8 she, CBDO Joan Hamill and Director Rubalcava-Garcia attended the Women in Leadership Conference
- Evy Young, OCFEC Director of Agriculture Programs, attended the California Dairy Council board meeting where she accepted an award for Centennial Farm's Let's Eat Healthy program
- Centennial Farm staff attended Ag Day in Sacramento where Karen Ross, California Agriculture Secretary attended their booth
- During office moves, an OC Fair pin from 1948 was found
- Board meetings will be moved to the City of Costa Mesa's Community Room, starting April, during the Administration Building project

CEO Richards gave a Community Equestrian Center update:

- Notices went to EQC tenants on February 26 and March 15 that new rental agreements would be going out to cover the period between April 15 through June 14
  - Current rates to expire June 14 – rates will be changing
- First horse show at the EQC to be held June 15 & 16
- Ranch After School Program to move to the EQC in the fall
- OCFEC EQC Supervisor Teresa Dayton attending training program to become certified to provide equine assisted therapy programs
  - For work with lead therapist from North Orange County Veterans Center for equine therapy for veterans and their families
- OCFEC entering into a MOU to provide hands on learning for college veterinary tech students
- Other programs being planned: public tour programs, school and community walkthrough exhibits and more

## 9. GOVERNANCE PROCESS (continued)

### B. Review of New Equestrian Center Rental Rates and Vote on Whether or Not to Approve

Action Item

CEO Richards reviewed the Board's vision for the new Community Equine Center (EQC) that includes public educational and support programs operated and managed by the OCFEC staff – a vision that opens the facility up to wide participation by the Orange County community who may not otherwise have access to horses. She stated that per Board discussion, the plan is to establish two different programs at the EQC – boarding and training, and community

programing. She presented how the program activities will be separated at the EQC to ensure safety of privately owned horses and control public access to those barns.

CEO Richards stated staff was directed by the board to determine what the actual EQC expenses are to avoid a “gift of public funds” issue to ensure the District's expenses are covered. She presented the new boarding rates based on 100 horses to close the gap between the District's costs and what the current boarding rates are.

CEO Richards presented the Facilities Committee and staff's recommendation of a three step phase-in rate increase schedule:

| Stall Type                                   | Current Rate as of 4/1/23 | 45% Increase on 6/15/24 | 10% Increase on 10/1/24 | 10% Increase on 1/1/25 | District Expenses |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 12'x12' Single Box Stall (shavings included) | \$644                     | \$934                   | \$1,027                 | \$1,130                | \$1,103           |
| 12'x24' Double Box Stall (shavings included) | \$1,023                   | \$1,483                 | \$1,632                 | \$1,795                | \$1,503           |

Other Fees for Boarders/Trainers:

- 10% rate increases on June 15, October 1, and January 1 (phased in):
  - Tack Room/Office
  - Trailer Parking
  - Lockers
  - District owned storage units
- \$400 per month facility usage fee for trainers

Reggie Mundekis discussed Orange County's economy as survival of the fittest. She asserted many equestrian facilities go out of business because they can't make money. She argued there is downward pressure on prices, that revenue streams are kept artificially low where owners go into the hole and have to sell and get out of the equestrian business. She spoke in support of acknowledging actual costs and eliminating the gift of public funds issue; and creating equitable community programming and use of public property for the public. She spoke in support of the Board and staff

Alice Houg, read a letter from EQC trainer Lisa Rathfelder stating she came to the OCFEC EQC after hearing the Board and staff had committed to improve public programing activities at the fairgrounds EQC. She spoke in opposition of the rate increase, asserting it will drive the trainers out who provide lessons to kids in the community. She asked the following: what horses will be used for public programming; who will be paying for it; and asked the Board to direct staff to work with the equestrian community to find a better solution. She argued that people that have their horses at the EQC are using them for public programming for kids receiving lessons. She discussed cost and upkeep of horses and how the rate increase may force their decision of having a horse or not. She asked the Board to reconsider the rate increase.

Lisa Sabo, EQC trainer, asserted a yes vote on the rate increase would close her riding school. She asked how can someone vote on this without seeing the

activities. She alleged that none of the Board members have seen the activities going on at the EQC in the afternoon. She asserted other equestrian centers are running at a profit. She urged the Board to look at the cost, to lower the costs and to run an RFP for an equestrian center management operator.

Melissa Krawczyk shared her daughter started taking riding lessons during the pandemic. She discussed all the things her daughter has learned through her lessons on how to care for horses, safe riding and achieving her dream of jumping. She spoke in opposition of the rate increases arguing that she will not be able to afford lessons for her daughter and it may force trainers to close their programs if they cannot afford the increase.

Gill Salazar, Mustard Seed Ranch non-profit, urged the Board to look at other options, suggesting increasing the number of stalls from 100 to 125 alleviating some of the costs. He spoke in support of the new community programs OCFEC is going to provide and offered his help and support in that endeavor.

Liegh-Ann Kazolas criticized the Board's original decision of approving the Lopez Works contract for despite equestrian opposition. She discussed and criticized rates in the Lopez Works contract. She discussed bringing some of the expenses in-house by using OCFEC equipment. She called for the termination of the Lopez contract. She asserted higher rates would result in less public access to the EQC.

Brian Cummings, faculty member at UC Irvine, spoke in opposition of the rate increase. He criticized the Board's decision to allow the EQC to operate at a deficit as they learned the business. He criticized the boarding rates presented for being incomplete and offered his own chart. He questioned what horses will be used in the public programming plan. He criticized there was nothing in the presentation regarding cutting costs. He urged the Board not to approve the item.

Aileen Anderson spoke in opposition of the rate increase arguing it will make the OCFEC EQC the most expensive in Southern California. She asserted the increase will not decrease the cost for lessons and will not enable free or low-cost programming. She questioned what horses will be used for programming when there are no longer trainers at the EQC. She criticized the Lopez Works contract asserting that it is deeply flawed. She urged the Board to continue this item and direct staff to engage with public forums.

Noelle, EQC user, spoke in opposition of the rate increase asserting it would make the EQC the most expensive facility. She asserted the increased rates will affect the cost of lessons. She asked for a Board review of the Lopez Works contract and the release of an RFP for an EQC operator. She also requested the Board immediately move to formalize a vendor relationship with the onsite trainers and work together on the vision for the EQC.

Denise Xagorakis, EQC boarder, shared her children ride at the EQC. She reiterated points from EQC user Carolyn Beaver, wherein she spoke in opposition of the Lopez Works contract stating it is not financially sound which

contradicts the Board's strategic plan. She urged the Board to exercise governance, reject the contract in its current form and revise the bid.

Joanna Schielein, Newport Mesa Pony Club and EQC boarder, shared information about the Pony Club program at the EQC. She shared that she appreciates OC FEC's want to make horses more accessible to the public but there are already programs taking place at the EQC. She urged the Board to support the current existing programs. She spoke in opposition of the rate increase, asserting the increase will limit public access to horses.

Mackie Hamblin, trainer shared she is partnered with Mustard Seed that works with at risk youth. She discussed the Huntington Beach Equestrian Center and its operator Mary who has run that equestrian center profitably for thirty-eight years. She discussed the decline of public boarding stalls from 3,700 to 784 over the past twenty plus years. She spoke in opposition of the rate increase and urged the Board to push the item or vote against it, and run an RFP for an EQC operator.

Teresa Sears reviewed that she was asked by staff and Board members to help with the re-imagining of the EQC. She discussed her research, experience and input. She stated the two separate operations of a boarding facility and equine programs for the public must function together in a synergistically, that they are dependent on each other for success. She did her own budget assessment and asserted there is no need to raise rates. She urged the Board to put out an RFP for management of the EQC and give Lopez Works a thirty-day notice.

Gibran Stout discussed the difficulties of running a business in Southern California. She argued that the current rates are on target. She criticized that cutting costs have not been talked about and conversations are being held behind closed doors. She asserted the rate increase needs to be vetted further and not to make a hasty decision.

Lauren Mascarenas, EQC user, asserted each price increase has directly impacted her passion of riding at the EQC. She urged the Board to review the current contract to identify cost savings and reassess procurement process for competitive pricing. She added the trainers at the EQC represent women owned business in Orange County and ask the Board for their support.

Jodi Enget, non-profit Mustard Seed Ranch Executive Director, shared how her organization helps provide mental health services that incorporate horses for youth and young adults at no cost to their clients. She discussed how there is a need for horses in urban areas to keep them accessible and affordable for their community. She shared they rent horses from Mackie at the EQC for their program and need her to stay in business. She asked the Board to consider that in their upcoming decision.

Board and staff discussion ensued, items discussed:

- Love of horses
- Wanting the EQC to succeed
- Complex issue with running a state facility:
  - Prevailing wages and California contracting rules

- Dropping the contract not easy to do
- Future plan to leasing horses for the public programming that staff is currently building
- If the cost of maintaining the arena be carved out of the current Lopez Works contract and brought inhouse
  - In-house modeling showed higher cost
- OCFEC to cover the cost of public programming and take that burden off private business
- The Board came to the bifurcated model decision in December to have visibility, transparency and control of public programming for public benefit
- Lopez Works was the only bidder for the Invitation for Bid for the contract
- The new fee structure presented was based on price per horse, not based on the number of horses
- EQC is great to have, not a must have
- The OCFEC EQC is the only state owned EQC facility which has a lot of requirements to do business with the state, that a city or a privately own facility would not have
- Board tabled the RFP for an independent operator in favor of OCFEC staff continuing to operate the EQC
- Having an independent operator, the Board would not have direct oversight into public programming
- Gift of public funds issue – need to be honest about the cost and pass along to the tenants
- Board made a clear decision in December to assume the public programming responsibilities, programs like at Heroes Hall and Centennial Farm
- Support spoken for the fee to trainers using the arena for lessons
- Following public bidding requirements
- Support of staff and costs presented
- Questions regarding splitting the maintenance contract
- Time frame for an RFP for a private operator
- District to look at reducing costs on an ongoing basis and pass along the savings

**ACTION:** Director La Belle motioned and Vice Chair Bagneris seconded to approve the new Equestrian Center phase-in rental rates as presented.

**MOTION FAILED. AYES:** Chair Kovacevich, Vice Chair Bagneris, and Director La Belle. **NAYES:** Director Pham and Director Bilezikjian.

**ABSTENTIONS:** Director Jackson.

**C. Review of Construction Bid for Administration Building Expansion Project and Vote on Whether or Not to Approve Additional Funds if Needed**  
Action Item

CEO Richards stated four bids were received for the construction of the Administration Building expansion project, all falling below the budget approved for the project and there is no need for the Board of Directors to take action to consider and vote on additional funding. She continued stating staff will continue to work with the Facilities Committee on the project and keep the Board of Directors apprised of progress.

CEO Richards stated there is a plan for a groundbreaking ceremony after the April Board meeting.

No action taken.

**D. Review of Amendments to Board Governance Policy 3.03 (Board Member Code of Conduct) and 3.06 (Board Member Orientation and Training) to Reflect Changes to CA Food & Agriculture Code Regarding Mandatory Training and Vote on Whether or Not to Approve**  
Action Item

CEO Richards presented staff's and Governance Committee's recommendation to approving the following amendment to Board Governance Policies 3.03 (Board Member Code of Conduct) and 3.06 (Board Member Orientation and Training) to reflect changes to California Food & Agriculture Code Section 3956:

- *California Food & Agriculture Code Section 3956 requires that newly appointed Board Members may not start serving until all required training is completed. In addition, seated Directors must complete all mandatory training within 90 days of expiration and are subject to removal if they do not comply with these requirements.*

**ACTION:** Vice Chair Bagneris motioned and Director Jackson seconded to approve the amended language to Board Governance Policies 3.03 (Board Member Code of Conduct) and 3.06 (Board Member Orientation and Training) to reflect changes to California Food & Agriculture Code Section 3956 as presented. **MOTION CARRIED. AYES: Chair Kovacevich, Vice Chair Bagneris, Director Pham, Director La Belle, Director Bilezikjian and Director Jackson. NAYES: None. ABSTENTIONS: None.**

**E. Presentation of Draft Plan for Upcoming Strategic Planning Process and Vote on Next Steps**  
Action Item

CEO Richards stated with the current strategic plan scheduled to expire at the end of 2024, it's time to begin the process for the development of the next strategic plan.

She asked the Board to consider and discuss the following in order to provide staff with direction on how to proceed:

1. Does the Board prefer that the process be facilitated by CEO Richards or an outside facilitator?
2. Since so much groundwork was already done with the last strategic plan, it is estimated this effort would take less time, approximately 3-4 hours. Would the Board prefer to devote one hour out of each regularly scheduled Board meeting over the course of three months, or to schedule 1-2 sessions outside of regularly scheduled Board meetings?
3. The senior leadership team has already done some pre-work which will be helpful in the upcoming strategic planning process. Staff is recommending

that the new strategic plan be focused on key growth strategies for the OC Fair & Event Center.

4. Staff is again recommending that the Board develop a new strategic plan, then provide for public feedback and suggestions before final approval.
5. Staff is also recommending that once approved, the strategic plan be shared with community partners, elected officials and Orange County leaders, business partners and the public using various communications channels.

CEO Richards asked the Board for direction on format and timing of the meeting.

Board discussion ensued; items discussed:

- CEO Richards' comfortability facilitating the meeting
- Support for CEO Richards facilitating the meeting
- Support for stand-alone meeting outside of a regularly scheduled Board meeting
- Support for new growth direction for the strategic plan

Reggie Mundekis spoke in support of staff facilitating the strategic plan process. She also spoke in support of looking for new revenue streams and building year-round events business as discussed.

Director La Belle suggested the Chair and CEO go to Scottsdale to meet with car auction promoters at Barret-Jackson and try to get them back at OCFEC or something like that event.

**ACTION:** Director Bilezikjian motioned and Chair Kovacevich seconded to approve CEO Richards facilitate the next three-year strategic plan; the meeting to be held as a separate meeting, outside of a Board meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**  
**AYES:** Chair Kovacevich, Vice Chair Bagneris, Director Pham, Director La Belle, Director Bilezikjian and Director Jackson. **NAYES:** None.  
**ABSTENTIONS:** None.

**F. Vote on Whether or Not to Approve Language for Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month and Arab American History Month Proclamations**

Action Item

Director Jackson on behalf of the Community Affairs Committee, presented the committee's recommendation of the language for the proclamations honoring Arab American Heritage Month and Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, stating the Arab American Heritage Month be presented in April and Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month be presented in May to a prominent member of each community during the respective Board of Directors meetings.

**ACTION:** Director Jackson motioned and Director Pham seconded to approve the language for the Arab American Heritage Month proclamation and the Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month proclamation as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.** **AYES:** Chair Kovacevich, Vice Chair Bagneris, Director Pham, Director La Belle, Director Bilezikjian and Director Jackson. **NAYES:** None.

**ABSTENTIONS: None.**

**G. Preview of Imaginology 2024**

Information Item

Joan Hamill, Chief Business Development Officer, presented a preview of Imaginology 2024.

**H. Committee / Ad Hoc Committee / Liaison Report**

Information Item

To assure compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, Committee reports are only for the purpose of the Committee chair, Ad Hoc Committee members or Liaison to provide a verbal update. Should the Board want to discuss any Committee work item not already on the agenda; those would need to be agendized for a future Board meeting.

- i. **Leadership Committee** (Chair Kovacevich, Committee Chair; Vice Chair Bagneris)
- ii. **Financial Monitoring and Audit Committee** (Director Pham, Committee Chair; Director Bilezikjian)
- iii. **Facilities Committee** (Director Ruiz, Committee Chair; Director Bilezikjian)
- iv. **Governance Committee** (Director La Belle, Committee Chair; Chair Kovacevich)
- v. **Community Affairs Committee** (Director Rubalcava-Garcia, Committee Chair; Director Jackson)

Chair Kovacevich, on behalf of the Leadership Committee, reported:

- Committee met on March 13 to plan for the March meeting
- Next meeting is April 10

Director Pham, on behalf of the Finance and Audit Committee, reported:

- Committee met last week and reviewed the February financial reports (he presented the financial reports)

Director Bilezikjian, on behalf of the Facilities Committee, reported:

- 2024 CapX projects are ongoing, 2023 projects are done
- Master Site Plan (MSP) Phase 1 - discussion about a groundbreaking ceremony after the next Board meeting
- MSP Phase 2 letter of understanding (LOU) executed
  - Working on RFP for the architecture engineering firm
- Next meeting is April 3

Director La Belle, on behalf of the Governance Committee, reported:

- Committee discussed possible efforts to modify state code provision that precludes OCFEC from operating a swap meet
  - Work with counsel to address
- Modification to rental policy for nonprofits – to enable non-profits a possible reduction in rental rates

- CEO to work with Counsel to develop a policy

Director Jackson, on behalf of the Community Affairs Committee, reported:

- Met via email selecting Vikki Shepp, GSOC CEO as the recipient of the Women's History month (Item 9A)

CEO Richards recognized Cesar Chavez Day with his partner Dolores Huerta and Women's History Month, noting some achievements of women in agriculture.

#### **10. CLOSED SESSION (Closed to the Public)**

The Board adjourned to closed session at 12:01 p.m. and resumed at 12:20 p.m.

Items to report out of closed session: None.

#### **11. UPCOMING EVENTS PREVIEW**

Joan Hamill, Chief Business Development Officer gave an update on upcoming events at OC FEC.

CEO Richards congratulated Joan on her retirement.

#### **12. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MATTERS OF INFORMATION**

Board members made concluding comments:

- Happy Women's History Month
- Excitement for Imaginology
- Congratulations to Joan Hamill on her retirement
- Welcome to new CBDO Michele Capps
- Thanks to Board and staff leadership
- Thanks to staff for all their efforts
- Happy Good Friday and Easter
- Productive meeting
- Focus around changes at the EQC
  - Pursue ways to cut costs

#### **13. NEXT BOARD MEETING: APRIL 25, 2024**

#### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nick Kovacevich, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michele Richards, Chief Executive Officer