

OCFEC Board Meeting April 25, 2024

Michele Richards Thanks to the city for letting us use this room microphones that you're used to seeing the tables, you don't need them because microphones are built into this in this room, but it might be a little hard to hear, you know, in the audience, so try to keep it quiet and the board members know to project so that everybody can hear a little bit of housekeeping, the restrooms, if you walked out this door to the right and both through the double doors. The ladies room is on the left and the men's room is around the other side if anybody needs that. And we're just waiting for one last board member to get here. She's just a few minutes out and as part of the community affairs committee, she's going to be making a special presentation this morning so I think we'll get started on some other pieces I believe and we'll go from there.

Nick Kovacevich Good morning everyone, we will call the meeting to order today on Thursday April 25. First we'll start with all matters noticed on this agenda in any category may be considered for action as listed any item not so notice may not be considered. Items listed on this agenda may be considered in any order. at the discretion of the chair person. agenda item to the mission of OCFEC is creating equitable community access to agriculture, entertainment, cultural and educational experiences. Agenda item number three is the Pledge of Allegiance. Do I have a volunteer to lead?. All right, Director La Belle.

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.

Nick Kovacevich Thank you, Director La Belle, next we have our agenda item number four which is the roll call. Summer.

Summer Angus Chair Kovacevich?

Nick Kovacevich Here.

Summer Angus Vice Chair Bagneris?

Barbera Bagneris Here.

Summer Angus Director Pham?

Summer Angus Director La Belle?

Doug Le Belle Here.

Summer Angus Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

Summer Angus Director Ruiz?

Summer Angus Director Bilezikjian?

Tanya Bilezikjian Here.

Summer Angus Director Jackson?

Dimitria Jackson Here.

Summer Angus Thank you.

Nick Kovacevich Okay, great. Next Agenda item, number five, is the minutes, and we do have a public comment on the minutes. So if I could have Carolyn Beaver.

Carolyn Beaver Good morning. Can we hear Okay? So far from the speaker. So I'd like to provide a little context for my comments. I am a board member for three public companies and two non-profits. I've been a CPA for over 40 years. Currently, my license is inactive. I've been riding in the Orange County Fair Grounds for about 12 years. My comment are meant to inform the board provide information that you as board members may have heard or considered. I have reviewed the Orange County Fair and event center policy. Policy 3.05 of the policy manual states that a favorable vote of a majority of the members present, regardless of obstination, is required for approval. March 28th, 2024 draft minutes, reflect a vote of 3 in favor of a motion to approve the new Equestrian Center rental raise as presented, two against, and one Obstention. The motion was deemed to have carried despite the fact that it was not a majority of those present. And considered another example of a close vote, which was considered to have failed the September 28, 2023. meeting where a vote failed from the minutes set four aye's, two nays, and two obstinations. So there was not a majority voting Yes, and that vote was going to fail. So how can those two things be consistent? During the discussion following the vote in the March 28 meeting, the 32nd DAA Council Josh Kaplan stated typically if you have a quorum of the board and a board with nine members, the quorum is five. So five board members are present. And we're actually six that were present. A vote of three would pass a motion. A tie like a vote of three to three, the motion would fail. The vote here is three to two with one board member abstaining. So that motion would pass, but that's not consistent with the board policy on the President that I know that I noted. There were six directors in attendance with three aye's, two nays and one abstention that is not majority. So the motion should have failed. How do you address this now? Does this meet board policy?

Nick Kovacevich Thank you. Do we have any comment on the minutes?

Doug Le Belle We approve the minutes.

Barbera Bagneris Second.

Nick Kovacevich All right, Summer?

Summer Angus Chair Kovacevich?

Nick Kovacevich Yes.

Summer Angus Vice Chair Bagneris?

Barbera Bagneris Yes.

Summer Angus Director La Belle?

Doug Le Belle Yes.

Summer Angus Director Bilezikjian?

Tanya Bilezikjian Yes.

Summer Angus Director Jackson?

Dimitria Jackson Yes.

Summer Angus And for the record, Director Rubalcava- Garcia has joined us. Do you want to vote on the minutes?

Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia Yes

Summer Angus Okay, thank you.

Nick Kovacevich Okay, thank you. And just in time, we have both of our members of the community affairs committee and we going to move up item 9A in the agenda and turn it over to the committee and this is a presentation of Arab American History Month proclamation by our community affairs committee.

Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia So on behalf of the Community Affairs Committee, it is my great honor to recognize Nahala, we've actually known each other for almost two decades now. I've been

impressed with her work that she's done on behalf of the Arab community that also just refugees in general in Orange County, and Anaheim specifically, today I'd like to share Nahala Kayali is truly a champion of change. She grew up in Syria as a Palestinian refugee and at the age of 16, accepted a marriage proposal and opportunity to move to the United States. By the time Nahala children were teenagers, she found herself a single mother searching for supportive services within her community. She was shocked that no culturally and linguistically competitive, competent social services were available for her community in Southern California. With a book from the library, a nonprofit \$800 borrowed money from her mother and a folding table and chair she found discarded in the dumpster, Nahala establish what would become Access California, a community nonprofit serving 12,000 underserved and vulnerable individuals, including immigrants and refugees with over 65,000 services. Access California has helped prevent hunger and homelessness among refugees and immigrant families across Orange County. The trauma experienced by many newly arrived that I see violence victims is often something that she's able to help heal. But on behalf of the Community Services Committee, we would like to provide you with this recognition. I'm going to go ahead and turn it over to my fellow committee member. So she can...

Dimitria Jackson

Whereas the 32nd District agricultural Association's mission is to create equitable community access agriculture, entertainment, cultural and educational experiences. Where as the district stations Townsquare, the safe place where the community gathers and finds value. Where the district recognize the importance of honoring the month of April as Arab American History Month, whereas the district recognizes the Arab American community and their achievements in agriculture, arts, literature, sciences, medicine, and businesses entrepreneurship and ... celebrates Arab American community, and contributions to the rich diverse culture and heritage of Orange County. Further resolved, OC Fair and Event Center reinforces the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and non-discrimination as for institutional barriers that safety is an underlining value so that any one person in our community feel welcomed and their needs met. Further resolved in this position of the OC parent of incentive board of directors and staff to enforce the policy prohibiting discrimination of any person ethnicity, race, nationality or sexual orientation and to respond to all concerns. Now, therefore, the Board of Directors of the District hereby proclaims the month of April as Arab American history month at the OC Fair and Event Center. In honor of Arab American History Month for the 24 and 32nd District agricultural Association honors Nahala Kayali who as founder and executive director of Access GAO is helping prevent hunger and homelessness among refugee immigrant families who demonstrates that when you can restore power, they can become successful, contributing citizens. We celebrate her leadership, compassion and and commitment

to shaping Access Gao into a model of organization for providing direct services in Orange County community throughout the city.

Nahala Kayali

Good Morning I am so honored and thrilled to receive this proclamation. And please raise your hand if you have any Arab American friends. Whether neighbors, friends, public officials, teachers, principals. We are one thread of the fabric of the United States. We came to this country our new home in the 18th century. And we contributed to the republic of United States and worked with public officials, teachers, doctors, and public servants. And this is our new home. Yes, I founded this organization. I did not have experience, Only 9th grade level. I got married when I was 16. But this country has given me a lot. What I did here, I can not do anywhere in the world. Thank you for United States for giving us the opportunity to be part of the American dream.

Nahala Kayali

This organization, serving the community. Yes, the focus is on Arab because there's no other organization serving them, but our job is open to all . And we are contracted, I started with a folding table but now we are only three staff. We have wraparound and mental health immigration services, case management, to refugee social services, and we receive people from around the world. We have 22 languages that we like to meet the client where they are for us to be able to serve them and we are thrilled to be in Anaheim. Anaheim city have been very great to us. Since day one. As Natalie said we know each other for over 20 years. We've been searching the community and now our focus on homelessness. And we've been serving the refugees since 2011. We are the only contracted agency with social service agencies to serve the refugees and they come from around the world. They come from Ukraine right now the influx of Ukrainians, we have to hire case managers from ... We always hire the community that we've seen as refugees. We've been doing amazing, amazing work and the focus on homelessness. But I can assure you since we've been on contract, 2011 Social Service Agency none of the refugees became homeless. We have been trained to help them to get them into the workforce right when they arrived. We will do a full assessment and we teach them English. We have an in house computer training job development. We do everything that we can we so can be able to involve them into employment service, and they are good to receive a certificate within a few months. So thank you very much for inviting me and this is really amazing. And please I invite you all to visit Access California services. And two years ago we received a building from the City of Anaheim to stand alone with two beautiful buildings. And we had the grand opening under the leadership of our mayors and city council members to approve that building. We invite you and you will be seeing this on the wall. We are so proud to receive it and please visit us and visit our website. Thank you very much. I'm honored to receive it. Thank you.

Nick Kovacevich Okay, thank you very much. That was a great presentation. Next we'll move to actually do the CEO announcements ahead of the public comment so you get the lay of the land from CEO Richards, please.

Michele Richards Sure. First, I want to thank the city of Costa Mesa for making this community room available for our board meetings while our administration building is under construction for the next year. So this will be our home for board meetings for the next year. Costa Mesa, your great neighbors and we appreciate the city staff and all their help in getting this set up. This past month the team was busy moving "Alpha Valor" and "Virtue" exhibits and moving in a new exhibit which opened at Heroes Hall yesterday. The Vietnam wars through the art and photography of Ed Bowen, features letters, memorabilia photographs, and more than 30 paintings and sketches produced by combat artists, Ed Bowen during and after his tour of duty in Vietnam. I'll be back later in the meeting to tell you more about this special exhibition. And speaking of Heroes Hall, the Medal of Honor in the courtyard at Heroes Hall the medallion got a bit of a facelift last week by this special crew who meticulously refreshed the painted details of the metal. We invite everybody to come and take a look early day. Then, later in the agenda, I'll do a full recap of imagineology 2024. But I wanted to thank the board members who were able to come out and support and enjoy the event, Vice Chair Bagneris on the left with Director Rubalcava Garcia. And that's also Director Bilezjikjian in the middle of the photo. And that's Chair Kovacevich's shoulder as he holds his son Cannon to watch the H2 Grand Prix pro student racing competition, which I'll tell you more about later and I know he loved it didn't he, he loved that event. Okay, and as I've been doing every month, I wanted to provide an update regarding the Equestrian Center and our plans to introduce our community equine programs. First, we are hearing a lot of misinformation out there and I wanted to take this opportunity to clarify some facts for the board and the public. First of all, this board has never discussed taping over the Equestrian Center.

Brian Cummings Think the folks on Zoom can't hear you. The OC...

Josh Kaplan Michelle, this is Josh. We can hear the room again now.

Michele Richards Sorry. We apologize for that. Can everyone can hear online now? Thank you. Okay, secondly, LWR your Lopez works does not manage or operate the Equestrian Center. The Orange County Fair Event Center staff manages and operates the Equestrian Center, LWR was contracted specifically to feed horses, clean stalls and maintain arenas. Thirdly, the Equestrian Center was not profitable under the former operator. There were many facility expenses which the former operator was not responsible for or did not cover. And while the former operator generated revenue to the district revenue does not always equal profit expenses like the fire alarm system, the

desilting basin, the full sense of utilities used by that facility were not covered by the former operator. And there were other property related operational expenses at the equestrian center that were observed in other budgets that the previous operator was not responsible for or did not cover but they were equestrian center expenses nonetheless. The annual footing maintenance was last completed the first week of March of 2023, not 18 months ago as some have suggested. Maintenance for this year is currently being scheduled pending any further rain delays. Now during the month, the March board meeting, the Board voted to approve new rates for the Equestrian Center to cover the district's expenses. During that discussion. I asked that if the staff was able to continue refining our numbers and found some cost savings. We would like to reflect those in rate reductions for borders and trainers beyond the rates approved by the board and the board agreed. So I'm very happy to report that staff was able to refine some of our numbers and reached out to contract appears to do the same. For example, we met with Andre Lopez the owner of LWI, who provide style cleaning, feeding and arena maintenance services. Owner Andre Lopez was extremely cooperative in that meeting and transparent in sharing numbers with us. And he wants to make sure the boarding and training activities succeed, he was able to restructure some of his expenses. We combine those savings with the cost savings we found. And I'm happy to report that instead of \$1,130 per month per standard 12 by 12 stall projected last month, we were able to reduce the rate by \$151 per month. So effective June 15, rental increases will be phased in in three steps. June 15, the rate will be \$756. October 1, it will be increased to \$868. And the final step January 1 at \$979 per month for a 12 by 12 stall. We're also able to make adjustments to the rent for Tack rooms and trailer parking. In addition, staff continues to evaluate expenses, including pricing for feed and shavings. And should we find additional savings, we will pass those on to our borders and trainers as soon as possible. And we will be issuing a more detailed information to orders and trainers along with a new rate sheet by next week. All that said, I cannot emphasize enough the bold community vision this board and staff have for the new community Equine Center. Henceforth, and moving forward will be rebranded "The Ranch". It's time to start talking more about the ranch, just like Centennial farm and Heroes Hall we're not built overnight, the ranch will take some time to develop. But we're making great strides. At the extension of our agriculture education programs. And in support of our mission. The ranch will be a place for all in the community to come and learn about horses. To have hands-on experiences with horses and receive the benefits of interacting with horses. And yes, also reporting and training opportunities that is not going away. I'm asking the community and all of you here to join the board and staff in celebrating our plans and supporting us in this effort. And I look forward to sharing more as things develop. And that concludes my report.

Doug Le Belle

Chair Kovacevich, could I ask a couple questions of jump? The board has very clearly said we are moving in a new direction. And that new direction is going to expand our efforts to broaden our public outreach programs. Those programs will obviously in some manner, shape or form contact to the full board for policy decisions. Would you anticipate those being sometime in the October, November timeframe along with the budget for the ensuing year?

Nick Kovacevich

Sure.

Michele Richards

Yes, we have a lot in between now and then a lot of other activity but we're moving forward and I will continue to give monthly updates at board meetings. But we should be able to come back in the fall during that budget process to have a more refined vision and details regarding division.

Doug Le Belle

Just to have a little bit of background if I might. Mitchele mentioned the Heroes Hall. Vice Chair Bagneris, myself, Director Ruiz and I believe Director Pham. We were on the board when that process began. It didn't happen overnight. Ken will disagree with me the easy part was getting the building built. That was a slam dunk. We spent, we as a board spent numerous hours in conversations with staff relative to programming to operations. What you see there in terms of Heroes Hall happened over a period of 24 months. Matter of fact, it's still evolving. It's still happening. And I would encourage Michelle over the next six months or so, too. And obviously this is the prerogative of chair not myself, but I would encourage Michelle to have a very active interaction with the leadership committee, the Chair and the Vice Chair. There going through the over the next 12 to 18 months, leading us through this process. So I want to thank you for all you've done, I think you've done an outstanding job. And, and I know that Tony was involved, and I very supportive of all the outreach efforts to try to answer your questions and make sure there's a very clear understanding of where we're at and where we're trying to get to. Thank you.

Nick Kovacevich

Yeah, just like to echo the comments there on the work that you guys have done. CEO Richardson staff, you know, I think we recognize this gift of public funds issue, we quickly kind of got the budget together and approve some rates that obviously, you know, we're increasing, but to satisfy the costs and eliminate that issue, we simultaneously last just last board meeting, approved the ability for you to really take a sharp pencil to take those costs, and unilaterally reduce those rates when we find savings. And here we are just 30 days later, saving \$150, \$151, can't forget the one. \$151 a month with potentially more to come. So I think that's really impressive. From my perspective, as chair, I think this is in really good hands with staff and leadership, as well as the Facilities Committee. And I don't foresee putting this back on the agenda until later this year as Director La Belle mentioned as we look toward the

future planning. You know, really, as I've said many times, I'm looking forward to the groups in the community that will now have access under this new model. To become informed. I know, I've talked with some people on the board about, you know, getting in front of some of the charities that we all work with, and getting them excited about them now having access to this ranch equine center that previously they may not have had access to, and they can directly now through the district. So that's going to be exciting to be able to do, especially as we go out and get fair tickets away, like we usually do before the fair. So I encourage other board members to take that opportunity. And, you know, at some point, we'll be having those folks coming in and talking about how great their experience has been under the new model. So really, very exciting and appreciate the work you guys have done and look forward to the continued progress of this vision coming to life.

**Natalie
Rubalcava-Garcia**

So I just want to thank CEO Richards for highlighting the fact that there has been a lot of misinformation out there regarding the Equestrian Center. And based on some of the signs that I see out here in the public today, it does appear as though there has been information that's not accurate. So thank you for setting the record straight today and making it clear that we're not eliminating the Equestrian Center from our portfolio of offerings to the public, but we're actually enhancing access to individuals who are not currently able to access unless they are going to the businesses that are operating there. So as part of the mission, I've been on the Board, I think for almost five years now. And part of our mission as we've gone through our vision and strategic planning has really been to enhance access and transparency. And I have to say that you guys have done an excellent job on the staff side and making sure that that is happening. I am so delighted to hear that we have the ranch, which is an extension of our agricultural roots. But we'll also provide access to Hispanic individuals or people who are less affluent than the individuals who currently have access to it. So with that, I just want to thank you for definitely making it more accessible. And I know that there's some people in the audience who think that we have not been transparent. But I have to say this process is not something that was rushed. This is about a three to four year process. We had several we actually brought back a former CEO who has an equestrian expert to work with the community. And with all those things, we've been able to come to agreement that we can expand the offerings there and make it part of our Master Site initiatives at some point. So I just want to give you and the staff, kudos for lack of a better word for just really putting some effort into making this something that can work for everybody. Initially, one of the things we talked about was eliminating all of the businesses, and then we realized that that wasn't the best way to go. And it wouldn't be in the best interest of everybody. So we moved that back. We allow we're currently going to allow private businesses to continue operating but just not as a gift of public funds. So I think that

we've made a lot of concessions to these different people who are utilizing the facility. and I look forward to inviting other members of the public in Orange County and the surrounding cities to access the Equestrian Center. So thank you.

Nick Kovacevich The other cause for...

Barbera Bagneris I just did everything that I heard. Misinformation and disinformation can kill us literally. And we need the facts. We have to operate with the facts. So I appreciate hearing that today. And hopefully the public is understanding what's being said. But we never said we shut down the Equestrian Center. So every time I get an email, the 240 and 400 emails, saying the same misinformation is really disheartening. And I hope that we can clarify some of that today with what you've heard.

Nick Kovacevich I think it's taking away from the excitement of the new vision, right. So I look forward to the day when everyone can stay on board with the new program. As I said before, change is always hard. So I get but we're moving forward. This item has been, you know, you mentioned you've been on for five years, I've done less than that, but I've never seen an item, we spend more time on the side. So we spent a lot of time I think we've gotten it right. So kudos the board there. And again, it's it's, it's now done, it's in great hands, and it's going to continue to progress under the leadership of staff and facilities committee. And the board will be updated. So that's that, from my perspective.

Tanya Bilezikjian ...Just work with me and the facilities committee with me and the time since I just said thank you.

Nick Kovacevich We do have one other comment on this agenda item. And that's from Gibran Stouts. So we'll take that before we move to the next item.

Summer Angus Thats for the podium, that's that's not for the room.

Gibran Stout First, I have some handouts. Thank you, Michelle for the update today. I would have moved on the agenda earlier. But I'm happy it's there. I couldn't agree with you more, at least in a lot of time on this I couldn't agree with you more. There's a lot of misinformation a lot of facts that are not accurate. I absolutely. Support and embrace my organization as volunteer riders as you may or may not know. Our mission is to bring low cost or free programming to our local urban youth. So moving for us not an option because the youth we want to serve are here. So if you were event last weekend we saw. So the fact that you say the Equestrian Center was not profitable, was frustrating to hear, because when I've done public records requests, everything I've received from you said that it was profitable. And yes, there are expenses in running facility, but those are capital expense expenses that every property owner

incurs and owning the property and the contract that the operator had did not require any capital improvements other than a few listed at the very beginning. So to then say that they were neglectful, I think is a little misleading. But again, I agree with that. We've got a lot of inaccurate facts and misinformation. The paving over the Equestrian Center. The 2018 Master Site Plan, had it paved over so that's where that comes from. And two date there was nothing in the Master Site Plan, there is no plan in the Master Site Plan for the Equestrian Center. And the Agraplex has no equestrian facilities. It's only about a little smaller than Centennial farm. And it is not been designed by people who have horses or even the livestock people do their volunteer to help from FFA in Orange County Farm Bureau. I'm puzzled by being granted "The Ranch" because the ranch program I'm actually very familiar with. It hasn't had horses for five years. And the organization we used to get horses from is moved to Texas and it only serves one school across the street. So is that program now going to be open to the entire school district. And where are you going to get the horses? I know you said leasing them but there is no horse leasing store that I know of. I don't know everything. And DFS your state insurance doesn't insure riding lessons insurance and that sort of thing. So I absolutely want to embrace and celebrate right up our alley like this is this is exciting, right? I want to support you. But we haven't had a friend. Thank you. All right, thank you.

Summer Angus

Thanks you, that times.

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you. Thank you. Gibran. We're gonna move to Agenda Item number six now, which is matters of public comment. We do have several folks from the public that wish to speak, so we I never received the comic card on public comment next. 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 comments. Such public comment items at this time as law requires formal public notice prior to any action on an agenda item. Speakers are requested to fill out and submit a comment card to the meeting Secretary prior to the start of the meeting, and are limited to three minutes. comments will be accepted on all other agenda items at the time. Each agenda item is listed on the agenda. Speakers wishing to address the board on items on the agenda are requested to fill in submit a comment card at the meeting Secretary prior to starting the meeting and identify the agenda items on which you desire to address the board again speakers will be limited to three minutes. So starting public comment we have I'm gonna call up three people to line up we have Theresa Steele, Carolyn Beaver and spirea. Im sorry, Aspacia. Okay, there was a ... sign up and we'll start with Theresa steel, three minutes.

Teresa Steele

Hi, first of all, I saw that number 959, they are... which is a fancy for 950. So, that's really an unacceptable number for these number people who are simply trying to eke out a living. You can see all the people here. They are not going down without a fight. I think that if this was your personal kitchen or your car, you would have went out and got three quotes or something. But instead I see people sitting in their tractor on their phone for 45 minutes an hour. They're doing nothing. It's super frustrating. I am not even, I ride sporadically. I'm not even a rider, my daughter is rider. But I'm just saying these people aren't going to go down without a fight. And if that 979 number, I could huff and puff and blow this place down. It needs a coat of paint at the very least. And I think that all these people saying oh we're gonna call it "The Ranch" and we're going to do this and that. Thats the... I've ever heard, do what they're gonna do. They're not fighting about the site of the facilities except for the footing. And I think it's okay to say we made a mistake and we're going to try to fix this. But instead, you just want to put lipstick on this... and I was gonna say a few other things but they need to change everything...

Nick Kovacevich

Carolyn Beaver.

Carolyn Beaver

So this does relate to what Michelle just spoke about, somewhat but I wasn't able to attend the March meeting, with review, approved and increase 75% in the board. I am pleased to hear that now it would be slightly less. But nonetheless, it's still very expensive and affects people's ability to keep horses here. It affects the trainer's ability to continue the lesson programs, which you've heard so much about in terms of the public benefit that people receive. So my concern is for one, that during your deliberations in March, I didn't see when I read the transcript. I really didn't see even one comment addressing the comments that people make. So I would like to think that you as a board do actually take that into consideration. With respect to the community program which is planned, which I think is great to have more community benefits. But my concern is that given this price increase for the trainers and their, the difficulty in for them to make ends meet with the school horses will lose the benefit that they're currently providing in the intervening time. And I think that's so important that that continues. You've been managing the Equestrian Center for 15 months now you've been talking about the community program, since it was approved in December. It's still we've heard no details about the public program that you say want to implement. what courses are you going to use? Who's going to care for those horses? Who's going to train the horses? Who's going to train the riders? Will there still be a riding program that you provide. Director Chair Kovacevich, you mentioned that you'd like to see a number of kids being able to ride that don't currently ride which is great. So who's going to do that and on what horses? Just last night there was a program on kcal nine about equine therapy for disabled children.

You mentioned that you have an arrangement with Shea therapeutic writing, which would be wonderful. We don't currently have the facilities for that. What are the specific plans for that program? Where's the annual budget for the programs you plan to provide go to shelf as mentioned that will be coming in October. It seems that that's a bit putting the cart before the horse to not have a budget for a program such as the ambitious when you plan to do not have that budget until October. There's an intervening gap. In order to provide public programs involving courses, all these details need to be addressed and experienced professionals need to be engaged to provide the services. You really haven't spoken very much to the trainers that are onsite that are available to assist you.

Summer Angus

Thank you Carolyn

Nick Kovacevich

Next, we have next we have Aspasia, and then we'll do Laura Maxinoski and Lisa Sabo. Laura and Lisa after this. Go ahead.

Aspasia Zouras

Okay so board. You know, I think what you what you just addressed was about profitability. Mary from Huntington Beach, the Huntington Beach Equestrian Center has shown that at the current board rates you would be making a profit of \$290,000. Now, I understand that it's hard you have a big swath of land here. So how do you you know, look at all the resources that every piece of it is using. And maybe you could say you know that you have allocated or or that there's a budgeting issues or discrepancies with the Equestrian Center, but you make a big profit generally at the OC fairgrounds, I mean, you make a ton of money. And so, you know, if you're just going to piecemeal it and say, Oh, well the equestrian center isn't profitable. I mean, let's look at other public run facilities like golf courses. If you were to pass on the cost of maintaining the grass and all the workers and the consumption of water alone, and you were to pass that on to the golfers, then it would it would not be feasible. And yet, I'm sure all of you who have been on public golf course or you know many people that have the point is is that you need to offer a diverse platform in Orange County and you are part of that offering you need to offer an equestrian center that is available to the public. That is reasonable to the public. And you know, the Equestrian Center represents a huge opportunity to the community already helping children having nonprofits come and benefit and it benefits physical and mental health impacts it impacts physical mental health. well being. So if we're talking about diversity, I'm sure that some of the funds generally from the OC fairgrounds could help to support such a great center like fairgrounds, and that board rate is is not fair. It's just not fair for you to pass that rate on to the trainers and the borders. Um, it is offering an important service. You know, honestly, it's about bad contracts. It doesn't matter what you're saying. So you are managing it not Lopez works, they are just the

ones feeding and cleaning. I mean, you're responsible. You're responsible for how you are spending money on that facility, and it's been proven time and again, through many meetings, that you can actually provide it at a lower costs. I'm sure maybe you need to raise the cost a little bit. I understand there's inflation's you know, sort of, you know, fiscal balancing, but you do not need to raise it by however much you are, this is on fair and I want to say you know, honestly, I am going to make it personal. I blame you Michelle Richards and I blame you Nick Kovacevich, because you are leading this group and you are leading the force here, and you're suppose to be a financial expert, Nick, and yet, if you were looking at the contracts that you have signed for helping...

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you. Next we have Laura Maxinoski followed by Lisa Sable, and then Reggie Mundekis.

Laura Maxinoski

This here is the of the Equestrian Center office. It's dedicated to the founding fair board members that back in 1973 created this place they are the heroes that allowed this place to become a launching pad for 1000's of people to access amazing opportunities since then, that wouldn't have otherwise had them. In the 51 years since this facility has produced many Olympic rings and people go who have gone on to be vets in the Mexican Olympic eventing team in 2011 as well, and is currently home to Brian Sabo, a trainer who coached Gina Miles to her Olympic silver medal in Beijing in 2008. He and his wife have a thriving riding school here filled with many happy children who hope to accomplish similar dreams if the door stays open for them. This place has a rich history impacting 1000's of lives and could have a very rich future if you allow it to. To save you can go somewhere else it's about an hour round trip to any other facility. private facilities can close at any time for any reason. Public grounds like this geared toward agriculture are the only places we have access to ensure public access into the future. Over the last year we've watched the decline of this facilities. Lopes works as a street sweeping happening to zero equestrian background and their work shows it. The stalls have not been welded on and incurred other circumstances hear about others dismayed to continue a contract like theirs is frankly ignorant, fiscally irresponsible, and starting to look a bit like sabotage. It's easy to a facility that's vacant due to over 50% or 75% rate increase and run down due to poor maintenance. To be clear the approval of this price hike and continuing to entertain this absorbing that maintenance contract is the death of this facility despite what might be spun here. Or elderly lesson horses will be forced to be sold quickly, likely to homes that have no loyalty to them, versus being more expensive and less useful as they age as you can imagine this was not end well for them. Do you want to be known as the board members who killed the equestrian center? Again, this is the what's going to happen to this place you will be the board members known for killing

the Equestrian Center and we will make sure that people are aware of it. This is still a chance to have to be turned around. You can still be the heroes that it was a mistake to vote in favor of this price increase but you can agendize this next month. You can rescind the vote. You can cancel the contract you can hold a full 30 Day RFP, not 10 days and abruptly close the door like last time. You need to hire somebody well qualified and versed and equestrian knowledge. We know there are multiple contractors waiting to bid and that you can again cancel the current contract. Do the fair thing rescind the vote, do right by the community be known for protecting what is good and wholesome. Thank you.

Nick Kovacevich

Lisa Sabo, followed by Reggie Mundekis.

Lisa Sabo

This is followed by Reggie Monday. Okay, thank you and thank you for working on the price working on the prices. I know at the end of last meeting actually Nick, I had printed it out here you said looking for ways to reduce costs. So I really appreciate that Nick, that and the staff and Michelle and everyone's working. I appreciate that meeting that we had two weeks ago on a Friday. But you have to understand I have no place to go. I have developed this riding school Nick years ago coming out of the first scan sale encouraged me to start a riding school which I had always taught at the top of Olympic level so now I've started the riding school I have 16 horses, and I'm panicked. Okay, I'm still panic because it's still a 65% rate increase. I sent two of em out on Tuesday. I am calling around sending these horses out because as of June 15 These horses are still gone. Because the problem is my client horses my training horses can probably stay going although everyone's looking for other places. But it's my riding school horses because my clients, whether they're Arab students, Chinese students, Japanese students, Mexican students, all different ages, all different races, backgrounds, some and many of them can only afford one lesson a week and they come, and but, they can't afford to for me to raise the rate 65%. Right because it's just to break even every month. I tell my instructors, all I have to do is get the red to meet the black. Right. So at this price increase in your still as of October 1st, we will be the most expensive Equestrian Center in Orange County. We have no place to go. You guys got it. It's interesting because this was made in December. This is equestrian centers have a 10 mile radius. These kids that are on these riding school horses have no place to go. They can't travel to these other places. But as far as ranch and tour programs, petting zoos, look how many are within a 10 mile radius? It's the we are people that make an impact. I really want to encourage you to continue to work. rescind the whole price increasing Mary at Huntington Beach has done a budget with Teresa Sears and she can at today's rates make \$290,000 a year at today's rates. So rescind the price increase, fire Lopez, let's get rid of him on a 30 day contract. Run another RFP get an operator in here that knows how to operate this

place like Mary does Huntington beach. Okay, and manage it yourself independently. Right now you're running for a farm worker so cleaner over at Centennial Farms at 18.50 an hour. You can do that at the fairgrounds. Okay, equestrian center and agendize this next month please put it on your agenda. Let's renegotiate. We want to work with you. We want to serve the public. My riding school serves the public and otherwise these horses are all going to be gone by June. 15th. Okay, then you have no verses to use to serve the public. Thank you very much.

Reggie Mundekis

Hi, I'm Reggie Mundekis and thank you for the opportunity to address you today. I am going to talk to you about vegetarian vegan food, which could be added to the menu served by thee onsite caterer, vitalization or what names they've changed it to. So as a vegetarian, one of the items I enjoy is Morningstar farms chorizo. It's a frozen product. And it's easy to prepare. When I have mines, I need some onions and peppers to it. I need some chilies to it, cause that's what I like it. You can also add potatoes, or raisins or dried fruit to it to make it like a big deal. You can use it for burritos. It make some great breakfast burrito. If you add eggs to it, that's vegetarian. If you don't put any eggs, its vegan, you can also add french fries or tater tots to the burrito, and that being said, you know a very popular type of Burrito, sometimes called the San Diego Burrito. I don't know if we had any breakfast burrito vendors at the OC fair. So if the onsite caterer moved into that, I'm gonna call it breakfast all day niche, that can be very popular with people especially when people are done at the Pac-Amp. And they want to grab something to eat before they go home. Ovations could offer breakfast at 10 o'clock at night. MorningStar Farms chorizo, eggs for people who want them. A couple of tortillas, maybe some refried beans. It's easy. You can pick it up. Once you pick it up. It cooks up minutes, by the way. You can keep for a couple of days in the fridge. So if they don't sell out that day, it's still good to sell the next day when they make the next batch. Just wanted to share that with you. I just want to add a few comments on the Equestrian Center issue because I've been here for so long. I live in the city of orange, and I am deeply disappointed and troubled by the level of misinformation that borders on out and out lies and malice that has been perpetrated by a by both persons at the Equestrian Center. And what most likely is coming from the public relations consultant communications lab. It troubles me because the principal of the communications lab is the Mayor Pro Tem of Orange. The board and staff have acted within their authorities powers granted them by state of California, including during the bidding process and for the record during the bidding process there was exactly one bidder, Lopez Works . And despite the equestrians claiming that there are so many of them out there. They weren't able to get invited on the contracted. So thank you very much, and have a great meeting.

Nick Kovacevich

We have now any Penny Eli McGregor and Harper Hildenbrand. together. And then

we have followed by Claire Graves, Alec Swanson. And then Leigh-Ann Kazolas. Please if you could line up just so we can move through with public comment without delay, because again, there is no board discussion or action on these items.

**Penny
Ely-McGrego**

Good morning Chairman and directors. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to speak to you this morning. do let the people know situation happening to the boarders and trainers at the equestrian center and their outraged. In less than one week, we've collected 1,270 letters and we brought copies of these letters. I should note that those 1,270 letters are just what we have received as of Monday. As this morning, more than 1600 letters have been emailed to each of you and it's only been a week. I want to emphasize before me for the community as testifies. Firstly, the community is asking you to rescind your vote to raise the rent on our horses, making a public equestrian center the number one most expensive in southern California. Secondly, we're asking you to cancel a Lopez works contract. You can do so legally within 30 days notice they're costing the taxpayers about \$100,000 per month which is more than necessary. It's time to stop the bleeding. Thirdly, we ask that you issue the RFP to an experienced operator is charging a fair price for that service. There are lots of operators out there who know how to do the job right. Finally, we asked you to hire temporary staff to serve the public at the equestrian center while the goes through the process of hiring content operators.

**Harper
Hilterbrand**

If you go to Lopez Works website, LWI clean dot com, they appear to be a very competent street sweeping company. They do steam cleaning, they do sand blasting and concrete grinding. But you know what is nowhere on their website? Equestrian operator. . It's not their fault, but that's not what they do. I don't blame them for wanting \$1,245 per day to water arenas, which takes about two hours. But that is what that but as the public officials in charge of our tax dollars, I do ask you to determine if that is fair and reasonable. And if it's not, the answer is not to raise the rates on the borders but rather cut the excessive cost of the operator. You say you want the Equestrian Center to continue but what is the value of an equestrian center if you drive all new equestrians and horses out.

Penny & Harper

Please listen to the people and work with us. We want to work with you to make this equestrian center the crown jewel. This will be your legacy and the final chapters to our horse riding. Thank you.

Nick Kovacevich

Again, please line up so that we don't have the gap here in the time. I'm calling everyone in advance. We have Claire Graves followed by Alex Swanson followed by Leigh-Ann.

**Claire Graves
Nick Kovacevich**

I'm gonna yield.

Okay, thank you, Claire. Next we have Alex Swanson followed by Leigh-Ann

Kazolas.

Alex Swanson

Hello, my name is Alex Swanson. I'm a rider and trainer at Sabo Eventing. As instructors, we talk a lot about improvement. My student posted for that service today. I saw them cannon for the first time. But what gets lost in that area of improvement is how the students grow as people. You watch kids go from not being able to figure things out on their own to recognizing problems and solutions to those problems without having to ask for help. Watch kids too scared to even get on their horse to go to Cannon. We will watch little kids telling silly stories become amazing, responsible young men and women. I'm 16 I'm not just a trainer. I'm also a student at Dunbar High School. As a student, I can tell you that I can go to school and learn that $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ and that mitochondria is powerhouse cell. And so my students can go to the fair. They can have a fun night, but they're probably not going to remember or, we can go to the Equestrian Center and learn valuable life skills like setting boundaries, resilience that we can become better leaders. Now, that's not to say that the fair is terrible and schools is useless, but when we're looking at things that are affecting and given to the public, the equestrian center is not even comparable. I can also tell you that as someone who has been falling onto the concrete and in the arenas, that there's a big problem. Both both felt the same. I had pain in my shoulder, my back and my hip for each side that I would fell on because they're two different sides from each time I fell. And I was surfing in those same areas. If I get the same amount of pain from pulling on the concrete that I do in the arenas, I think you can be figured out that that's a big, big problem that can lead to serious injury. What i'm trying to get at is that there's problems, Like the footing. You need to find people who are able to manage the footing in the arenas correctly for a fair rate. And the rates that we have right now even though they are reduced which is great are not affordable. You say that you want to have a lot of good programs here which is great, but there's no horses or trainers there to have those programs for. On behalf of the horses and the people who were not able to be here today. Thank you.

Nick Kovacevich

Next we have Leigh-Ann Kazolas, followed by...sorry, I always say that wrong. Denise Xagorarakis.

**Leigh-Ann
Kazolas**

This is a traumatized community. Right the Equestion Center's future has always been tenuous at best. And, including this board's surprise motion to close the equestrian center this past September. So I know that you're confused when we say that we're scared, especially with the district's publicly stated commitment to the community Equine Center. But what we see from our perspective is a series of actions since district taken over management that might indicate otherwise. It starts with devaluing the current public impact as a free low class programming and

community events that was done by years by current equestrians. It starts with rebranding language that applies privacy and exclusivity that simply is not true. And promoting assumptions. that the community is not diverse in every way. The equestrian center isn't in the \$230 million Master Site Plan and is the only space not slated for any repairs or upgrades. And then the last 60 months the facility has fallen into even worse state of repairs in the current staff response always seems to be we're waiting to see what happens. The number of public boarding stalls has now been cut in half. And those remaining boarders and lessons programs and camps and nonprofits can now only count on using less than 1/3 of the current space. One arena for 100 horses. And the community remains on high alert that the limit of usable green space will further be diminished by fair storage containers. What further space and public restrictions are coming? And I guess what we've been most worried about is that once this whole thing away to slow motion, close the facility and turn what has been done historically, a revenue generating one, into one that loses over a million dollars a year then put that burden on your tenants. It's what developers do all the time they raise rents so high, they force people out and they claim they play no part in the homeless problem. They claim it it's not our fault that they left. Raising the rates astronomically would force most of the most of the boarders out and what we worry about is this will lead to a recommendation by staff that the two or three ranch horses don't really need 7.5 acres, they'll suggest moving them to the Agra flex which was the 2018 plan by the way, and there was only two or three horses in a paddock for the public to look at while the Equestrian Center was destroyed. It's good to hear that a budget is in the works. We haven't heard many of the logistical specifics, but there are plenty of horses and experienced people currently on site doing amazing programs, but they haven't been included and we wonder why that is. We're happy to hear there is an actual plan for the use of the space for this ranch. And it's not just a shiny feel good distraction that might ultimately lead to a clean, guilt free ending. Please reassure it, never say we didn't close the Equestrian Center. Everybody simply left, it wasn't our fault.

Nick Kovacevich

Denise Xagorarakis followed by Sarah Klifa, then Macki Hamblin.

**Denise
Xagorarakis**

Hi, my name is Denise Xagorarakis I am a resident in Costa Mesa we do own a horse we board at the fair and I have two children that ride. I did want to speak today and say thank you to the board members who did come and listen to our concerns. It was the first time since I've been at the fairgrounds where I have been invited to meetings with board members to discuss the vision of the facility. And we're very grateful for that to be able to have that time. I am wondering, based off of the public programming that's being proposed because we have an income. We've been presented with an incomplete list from as a as a public, as I know that's being

developed our riding lessons going to be part of that program because I'm not going to be able to afford to keep my kids riding with the new rate increases. So and how do we access that amenity that's going to be provided by the fairgrounds because my kids are going to have to stop riding I won't be able to afford that anymore. If we stay here ,and if even if we leave, they won't be able to continue riding because we're going to be having to travel so far. So I'm curious what the new programming is going to look like and how it will continue to serve the kids. If the trainers all have to leave. So um, that's something that I'm looking forward to hearing from you guys. Also, there was a comment that was made by a board member today insinuating that the people who board their horses here are affluent enough to be able to do. So we struggle every month to make up fees that you charge. We struggle every month to make sure our horse has proper care. And sometimes we have to decide between who's getting the food, our horse or our family. So please do not just insinuate that the we're all affluent. We're doing our best. And we are looking forward to hearing your future programming. Thank you.

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you. Sarah Klifa.

Sarah Klifa

My name is Sarah Klifa. I'm a trainer and co founder of Changing Strides. Thank you for the opportunity to speak this morning. I want to thank the staff for their hard work on this issue and thank directors Bilezikjian and CEO Richards for the time they took to meet with us. I think it helped profoundly. And I think we'd like to encourage the board members to continue this corrective dialogue. I want to mention some current contract mentions of current contract problems with Lopez works. The following and in my experience with the barn has has been happening in the last six months to a year. The horses I care for are losing weight, getting hot sores from shoveled bedding. Going lame from unkept footing in the arena's in turnouts. Rocks and pieces of rusty metal are being found in the footing as a result of this neglect. Examples of rocks and metal have been shown to the staff on numerous occasions. As a jumping trainer and lesson provider lessons are getting shorter and with minimal to no jumping because of the footing is so dangerous to the horses and riders. By keeping an uneducated operator you will be subjecting your future proposal resources to the same inadequate care. In layman's terms, we're getting a Motel Six maybe a motel five service for Ritz Carlton prices. How can the board substantiate this? Another note, the waterfall effect of these certainly improved price hikes will still force trainers to go out of business, move out of the area and raise prices out of industry standard. Students will now lose their coaches, their mentors, their friends, community, safe space, place of refuge, emotional outlet, etc. All because they cannot afford the passed down price hikes. They cannot drive the distance to follow their trainers, all the current students, members of the public that ride here standard lose

everything and get nothing by these price hikes. How will the public programming take responsibility and effectively and safely fill the void of all the students that will be left out in the dark in June? There are no public lesson firms to take over this gigantic void immediately and perhaps ever. Increases will make it impossible for the current community nonprofit programs that had been in effect for years prior to continue. Public servants should praise the efforts of the stakeholders who have taken it upon themselves at their cost to give back to our community by supporting them. In previous discussions Chair Kovacevich had mentioned that the board intends to shoulder the public programs so we don't have to. But we do this because we love it. No one asked us to step up for our community. We decided to do that ourselves. Why hasn't the staff tried to collaborate with us directly? Every afternoon, every weekend, every vacation day, the Equestrian Center resembles a Boys and Girls Club all offered by the trainers. I encourage you all to come see it for yourselves. We understand the bigger picture and in support of it. And we are in support of it. But there's a major lack of understanding when it comes to how these decisions will be affecting our youth and adults in many more ways and what is being taken into consideration. They're also saying... thank you.

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you, next we have Macki Hamblin, followed by Gibran Stoat and Carol Graves.

Macki Hamblin

Hi, my name is Macki Hamblin. I do appreciate all of you being here. I'm here to follow up a little bit with what Sarah said about the current the footings and the dangers that reside at the Equestrian Center. I'm here to ask the board pull the current contract with Lopez Works at the Orange County Equestrian Center and run a new RFP to find experienced and qualified at the key point operator is stated in their contract that can be canceled within 30 days with or without cause. So I think the \$1.3 million loss is enough reason to let them go. I want to bring a massive safety issue to the board's attention. These are actual items that have come out of the footing that the equestrian center. You could pass those down please. These items are clearly dangerous and could cause severe injuries. No responsible equestrian operator would allow the arenas to get to this level of degradation. What would you do if it was your child, your granddaughter that fell on these objects or the horse that they love and care about? That is also falling on these objects. These objects are contaminated the footing from the tractors that drags the arena daily, twice daily for \$1,000 a day. The rain has stripped inches of sand from the arena as well. Like you heard from Alex who's been injured on those arenas without the sand is sand as a cushion the funding we can Splinter harder, putting work in current community members in danger. This is going to include that future ranch that we're all excited for and seeing and envisioning. We need to find a qualified operator by running a new RFP, someone

who understands how to optimize health and safety for horses and riders. Safety for our community, your kids, your grandkids, and everyone else who wants to experience these horses. Thank you for your time.

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you, Gibran Stout. Followed by Carol Graves and Duncan McIntosh.

Gibran Stout

We believed you. We believed you December when you made that motion, and we made that vote. That staff was directed to work with the board the public and stakeholders to come up with a new model. We were excited about this. We were looking forward to it. We're looking forward to meetings. We were looking forward to public workshops. We were looking forward to something that would give us hope that you were sincere in this vision. Now we know that you don't really understand how to do it. I don't know how to put on a fair. I don't know how to package things. There's a lot of things I don't know how to do. But I go to the people who know how to do. So I'm frustrated by this vague outline of a plan that was created in a vacuum because you've been listening to it. You're sick of listening to us. Right Director Bagneris? You're sick of hearing us right? Sick of it. Why can't we have Congress conversation? I've said this so many times. What is, what are you afraid of? What is staff afraid of? Like? I'm not afraid of change. I'm embracing change because what we've been doing it's making us all crazy. You guys have questions that aren't getting answered. We have questions that aren't getting answered and it's making us all crazy having this middleman. Can you please just have a public workshop and you can ask us those questions. And we can compare notes with oh, gosh, I got that wrong. Oh, okay, here's the facts. We share the same vision and if you don't come up with a better model, you're going to bleed money. You're not going to get the amount of units coming. Can you kind of read rates, unless you're gonna subsidize, oh, it's a gift of public funds. So there's a lot here to unpack. And you said in December, you directed staff to work with the board, the public and stakeholders, and that has not happened. That hasn't happened. Why? Why has that not happened? Today didn't have to be like this. This is frustrating. First off, all we had to do was sit down. I'm deeply assure Reggie's deep disappointment and deep, deeply disturbed that you've made these promises in these meetings, and then there's no follow through. And we have this outline for this great idea and it is a great idea. I want it to happen. It is wonderful. But there's this disconnect. And staff is great, but they don't know how to manage a horse barn and that's why the city of Huntington Beach has mounted units they put out an RFP and hire people. So there's solutions here and they're not hard and they're not complicated.

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you, next we have Carolyn graves followed by Duncan McIntosh, followed by Teresa Sears.

Carolyn Graves

My name is Carolyn, I have two daughters who have attended camps and benefited from other public programs at the equestrian center for years. So I want to make something very clear. None of this is personal. This isn't personal toward any one person. This is business, taxpayer funded business. But when one board member voted to raise our rates, he said the numbers are what they are. on that theme. I would like to present another set of numbers to you. In January of 2023. Over a facility that for well over a decade, made a 300,000 a year profit. In 15 months this facility went from making \$300,000 a year to losing a little over a million dollars. That's a \$1.3 million into the red of taxpayer money in 15 months. The fact that this has gone on under your watch and done nothing to stop it. It is fiscal irresponsibility with taxpayer money. Again, that is not personal towards anyone, but the numbers are what they are. And this has nothing to do with paying a prevailing wage. The problem is the \$1.3 million contract with Lopez Works. The fact that you want to take the consequences of this fiscal mismanagement and put it onto women owned businesses and nonprofits that operate at the center is just wrong. It's just wrong. Your decision to try and fit the consequences of mismanagement of public funds. of the women owned businesses, nonprofits who provide free and low cost programs for children at risk. People with special needs and many other members of the public who simply have to close our doors. But it doesn't have to happen. There's four things we can legitimately ask to be agendized for the next meeting. Cancel Lopez works contract, you can within 30 days give the notice for any reason. Immediately issue an RFP for an experienced operator, hired temporary staff until the new operators is found. Vote to rescind the price hike now 65% On stall rentals. In closing, I would like to personally thank Tanya and Michelle who took two hours of their time to just sit and talk to us person to person. I felt that it was extremely helpful and I would like to have more personal conversations with all of you. Today, I hope that you will do the right thing. Do the right thing by the taxpayers and stop the bleeding. Do the right thing. By the tenants in your facility and hire temporary staff until a suitable operator and rescind these crazy price hikes. And do the right thing by the public who benefits from all these programs available and promote the facility the way you do with other events. Thank you.

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you. Next we have Duncan McIntosh, followed by Teresa Sears followed by Brian Cummings.

Summer Angus

When you're ready.

Duncan McIntosh

Can you hear me?

Summer Angus

Yes. Go ahead please.

Duncan McIntosh

Okay, thanks. So first, I plan to ask five questions that offer five resources. If you avail yourself of them, you can cure some of the ignorance that creates the reactions that you're getting from the equestrian public. First, let me introduce myself. I'm one of the professional alumni of the fairgrounds having shown for Gail Harvey when he was writing in the World Cup and for Mickey Hayden when he was bringing along Richard Spooner, the kid who grew up from Huntington Beach, learning to ride on the Orange County Fairgrounds and won 100 Grand Prix. And with Lynn Dennis, from whom three of our students went on to professional careers, including Katie Riley, who's one of your trainers, I was looking at a picture from the 92 orange county championship show a special arena where your Ferris wheels and other rides are set up for the fair. And in the fair, we won a class with perhaps 800 People 10 or 15 people deep watching 60 of us going faster and faster. After I won, not bragging here but we had a good day on client of a rival trainer said you'll never be able to win with them. I'm in the class. These are great memories. Now my questions. Number one, does anybody on the board have similar fair glory day? Equestrian Center memories? Number two, Do you have a professional advisory board with the deep equestrian roots that we in the sport recognize? Number three, Have you compared business plans and budgets to similar size and scale operations function by function? Number four, has anyone procured horses for public riding purposes, more than one at a time? So you're familiar with expenses? And number five, Have you ever seen an example of an equity opportunity with horses such as you have as a goal, I'm going to insert a name here. Pat Kinnaman is a great resource. She gets something called the traditional Equestrian Center, the LA Equestrian Center. The five resources I started a company five years ago to deal with environmental issues because our family co founded NRDC, which wrote the Clean Water Act and you are a key part so you're covered under that. We consult with multiple locations going through generational transitions, including Rick Hansen Sycamore trails, who I advised them their water issues, we call it equestrian Public Affairs Associates. And and we advise the equestrian operation the winning bidder for the DAA property in Del Mar. We also assembled Earth Riders. An advisory board of equestrian, who are also have expertise, including the direct lead, the Director of Legal for the California Farm Bureau, lobbyist in Sacramento, newscasters, real estate brokers who sold multiple 300 horse facilities.

Summer Angus

Okay, thank you Duncan, that's time.

Nick Kovacevich

Next we have Teresa Sears, followed by Brian Cummings, followed by Marce Evans.

Teresa Sears

Good morning board. I appreciate the opportunity. I want to do a couple of things I want to correct the record and I want to talk about the public's role. And you know,

really everyone has a role in democracy. You know, democracy is super important. And as we know, it's it can be very messy. But there doesn't have to be adversarial relationships. But everyone has a role, including the public. And I will give you three examples of why that role mattered here at the fairgrounds. I have been here coming to these meetings for 24 years. And I will tell you, if it wasn't for the public if it wasn't for the public in 2008, This facility would not be here. The public was the key driver in saving this place. We had six board members that formed a private foundation that wanted to sell the fairgrounds to themselves. Okay, that is a long story but that is a story important for board members to understand. Second, Heroes Hall. Heroes Hall did not just go smooth. Heroes Hall. staff wanted to tear down the last barrack. You can look at videos you can look at minutes you can look at everything if it wasn't for public pressure. And one board member All it takes is one board member to step up and be a leader. That board member was Nick Caradino. He understood the idea, and he was a driving force to stop staff and he told them that the 11th hour we are not tearing down this barreck. We're going to figure out how we're going to turn it into something positive. That is why we have Heroes Hall. That history is super important. The third example is in about 2018 There was an epic eight hour meeting with a prior CEO had this novel idea to bond this place at \$170 million. And there was this long meeting and it was an ill conceived idea. Had we bonded that and gone that route to do that. That approach I can tell you during covid, this place would be owned by a bank. And that is a true story. So those three things it was the public that intervene every time to public today is intervening because they are putting up a red flag and they're saying this place is going to be gone. If you go the route you're going. So you know some of these women, I can tell you this, they will probably be our future leaders. I see this so differently. I am so delighted to see young kids and all these people come and they're exercising their rights. So please do what's best.

Nick Kovacevich Thank you Teresa, next we have Brian Cummings followed by Merce Evens.

Brian Cummings Okay, thank you. Can you hear me?

Summer Angus Yes.

Brian Cummings All right. So first, I want to thank Michelle for the updates on the cost, at the risk of sounding ungrateful. What took so long. The two weeks ago, Michelle and Tanya heard some of our concerns and suggestions for cost savings. And there's the first public engagement with the site users not restricted to trainers. So thank you for hosting us. Let's do more of it. We asked Michelle to meet with Lopez and request rate reductions as rates were completely unreasonable. And based on that dialogue, Michelle was acted quickly and secured another 150 per month of rate reductions.

This is good, but it's not nearly enough for a sustainable program in 1/3, the space. Number two, please stop saying use of public funds. As barber said, let's stick to the facts. And Reggie here is still wrong. A it's not a gift of public funds. That's not my opinion. That's the opinion of many judges in the state of California who've addressed the same issue over the past 10 years. With fairgrounds. It's not a gift of public funds, because that's not what's happening at Whittier Narrows. And finally, the board has never voted on whether supporting the Equestrian Center is a gift of public funds. Stick to the facts. If you want to say to get public funds, put the question back on the agenda and have the board vote on it. Number three, the board has been told repeatedly the contract is not cancelable. It is within the 30 day notice, quote cancellation, the state reserves the sole and exclusive right to terminate this agreement with or without cause upon 30 days calendar notice written to the sponsor. So we've been we've heard of these board meetings, the contracts not canceled it is what other things are being misconstrued. Number four, we still have heard no plans for how the public programs will be offered. With what horses and with what trainers? So we love the idea that's been presented these activities, but this is really the biggest issue on the table for the board and staff that have to address. Moving forward. We love Michelle's plans for riding for scouts, veterans children with special needs. But such programs need experienced low level horses, calm horses, and experienced trainers. You can't get these unicorns at Walmart. So rushing into cost savings and pushing out the current trainers could well result in never finding suitable horses and trainers needed support the board's dream for greater public access. If Lissa Sabo leaves with her group of lesson horses, due to increased costs, there won't be any lesson horses to provide these experiences. And finally, number five canceled the Lopes contract and either release a new RFP with sufficient time and advertisement to get good offers that didn't happen last time. Or hire temporary staff and run it yourself until you can secure cheaper services for the water trucks and manure removal vote to rescind the 75% increase in subsidize some of those costs since you're offering public programming. And finally, if the board continues to pay \$600 an hour for water truck, or three times the cost for manure removal, you're still gonna be open to the accusation of a gift of public funds are mismanagement of funds, even if you're offering wonderful programs, you still need to cut costs. Thank you.

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you. Merci Evens.

Marci Evans

Hi, I'm from the Orange County Farm Bureau, young farmers and ranchers and thank you to the staff and the board and the public for all the time spent on this issue. I've been following this issue since 2008. And I'm not going to repeat what a lot of other people have said but I agree with them. Frankly I ranch for a living Okay, and rebranding as the ranch is a complete misunderstanding of the public activities going

on at the equestrian center right now. If you want to have a ranch, we are happy to bring down some cows from Trabuco Canyon for you all but what's what you don't understand because you haven't listened or I'm not sure why but we're happy to help you without with this issue. Farm Bureau is by bar beef is as well as the general Orange County equestrian community. Ranches, the working Ranches are the history of agriculture of horses in this county and in California. But after World War Two horses moved into a sport and recreational activity because of the invention of the combustion engine. Okay, so by rebranding as the ranch, you're misunderstanding the role of horses and the role of your gem of a facility that you guys have there at the fairgrounds. It is a combination sport, livestock, public therapy and public programming facility right now, that already caters to Latino students, Asian students. That was our already mentioned, lower income students. So Farm Bureau and young farmers and ranchers would love to have an event there. I'm excited for expanding what you guys got. But you need to have you need to vote in May to stop the rate increase. Not that you don't need to increase the board that is a fiscal responsibility issue that you do need to do is figure out how to increase it, but increasing it in the manner that has been proposed does not make any sense because as was mentioned, by June 15, you will have zero horses at the fairgrounds and there will be nobody that will be able to do the public programming, except for these maybe a couple ranch horses that maybe the fairgrounds will own. But you will lose the recreational aspect that is so important right now and the role horses have played from agriculture to the public. I also like Duncan Macintosh and the alumni of the fairgrounds. I went from riding at the fairgrounds in medical school, my backgrounds in UC Irvine, to riding internationally at Olympic facilities. You don't understand what kind of a great facility you already own there and manage. And the California Taxpayers are and the district is who owns it. So so, you know, I think that's a really important issue. Please. In May, put this on the agenda. You need to not have an empty equestrian center come June 15 When the fair rolls around. The second issue I'm going to speak to I live in Silverado Canyon. Orange County Fairgrounds is a live large livestock evacuation center for all of Orange County, especially the canyons.

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you, times up. Next we have Kelly Babbs followed by Gibran Stout and Liz Radley on zoom.

Kelly Babbs

Thank you for having us here today. And I see him in front of you have a lifelong resident of the state of California the county of Orange in the city of Tustin. I also ride at the Equestrian Center. So costs are a main concern for me because I'm a taxpayer for the state, the county, and the city of Tustin, and I also want to said, ride too. Your mission statement is creating equitable community access to agriculture, entertainment, culture and education. And you're very excited about providing future

diversity that will come into the equestrian center but once the board going up to even your new proposed rates, what that's going to do is destroy the current equitable programs that are taking place through the trainers that are already there. I want to highlight I'm with on the on... equestrian. e host Girl Scout groups to come in to the Equestrian Center, learn about horses, groom horses, they love it. We do that once a month. We also provide very low cost lessons for children with military parents with PTSD. We, I want to ask how are you so excited about new equity when what you'll be doing is destroying the equity already being provided through our training courses that are already here. Your baby basically we destroying small women owned businesses also women who are here and who are at the Equestrian Center are very, very small women owned, disadvantaged businesses are perfect these new expensive these new costs will absolutely destroy. How is that equitable to destroy equity on one hand and provide equity. On the other hand. t's like that you know the face is black and white. One hand you're helping the other hand you're hurting it's not congruent because not match up. You're talking about the new children you're so excited about the new equity and the new people coming in to get this new programming. Those people are going to be the same people that are going to be disadvantaged be the existing people who have their businesses. They will be going from these trainers to your whatever these programs. It's the same people. There's not these troubles with the people coming in, that don't have access. It's the Girl Scouts. It's a military kids. It's me, I work three jobs to be able to take classes. I am not affluent, and that is very offensive. We all drive little, you know, middle of the road cars stuffed with saddles, pads, boots, and we work hard to be able to come and do lessons. What else did I miss? Sycamore trails which is I think a 20 acre facility...

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you, we have Kelly. Yes sir. Liz Radley on Zoom. Please go ahead. Sorry.

Barbera Bagneris

Hi, this is Liz. Can you hear me okay?

Summer Angus

Yes.

Liz Radley

I'm the president of the Glendale Rancho equine advisory committee in LA County. We were formed to work with and advise our city council on our residential, and most importantly, our commercial equestrian zone. We're impressed by the dedication of your current equestrian stakeholders and their knowledge. And really, highly recommend that you sit down with them at the table, rather than making the decisions when they are begging you to keep things equitable for all of the current equestrian stakeholders and those in the future. If you eliminate the dedicated people that you have now, simply looking toward the hope of finding new ones. You're really hurting your current stakeholders and local residents. You've got a lot of women own small businesses there as there are at every Equestrian Center. They give their lives to this,

it's not easy to just say, well, we're going to put the board up, because it's costing us too much. Please Let them guide you in how it can be raised in quality, how your costs can be reduced. So it can everyone. I do want to mention that at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center, also city owned in the middle of Los Angeles. And next to the many miles of trails in Griffith Park. We're currently paying \$636 for feed and clean for a 12 by 12 store. Maybe those prices will go up as they are as there is inflation everywhere. But the prices you're proposing a staggeringly high please help your current stakeholders help you to figure out how to make this work. And if that means replacing your current vendor, then so be it. Thank you.

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you. Nexy we have Wendy Leece followed by Nick Anas for the final comments. Wendy.

Wendy Leece

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the board. My name is Wendy Leece. I lived in Costa Mesa for 52 years. Thanks to the city of Costa Mesa for a better road, not so crowded. I was on the city council for eight years and also on Costa Mesa Schoolboard for eight years. I want to thank Teresa for reminding us about what happened in 2008. I was on the council and it was a grassroots community led effort. The questions really started with the rumor and that became true that the fairgrounds was going to be sold to the fairground board, and then developers and we collected signatures and I went up to Sacramento twice to lobby the officials out there that we didn't want to sell the fair. We wanted it to be open to the public. So this whole effort is there's a lot of perseverance among us. I don't own a horse I did when I was in high school. But I see the Equestrian Center as a longtime community asset for Orange, for the city of Costa Mesa. And what a couple of points I just want to finish with. I once I redid my backyard with a pond and I only got one bid and it was a big mistake. And it looks like you only got one bid with Lopez, and and that it didn't turn out so well. So get more bids get more RFP so that you can really evaluate what the services are going to are needed. Collaborate with equestrians. I would you know everything is going up, gas and food and everything, but what you're proposing is really unrealistic. And I know that the equestrians want to work with you on solutions and how you can work and collaborate together. The other thing I want to mention is I just retired from College Hospital teaching in the adolescent unit for eight years and also had to haul in order to it. I don't have to tell you about the mental health issues that our young people have because of COVID. There's the learning loss, the emotional problems, and so now it's not the time to end this era, the way that Equestrian Center runs but to look outside the box and no doubt that many more kids need to have horses and ride horses and the benefits that they will get in in healing from what happened to them during COVID. And it's not just a few kids, it's many kids. And I taught them at College Hospital because they wanted to take their lives.

There were other issues, other traumas but there are still many traumas that our young people have and I'm proud of the young people that are here today that are speaking up and our future leaders.

Doug Le Belle

Thank You. Final comment, Nick Anas.

Nick Anas

Good morning Chair directors. My name is Nate Anas, Chief of Staff to Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley and residents of Costa Mesa. I don't want to repeat what many of the previous speakers said but I echo the notion and reiterate that we really employ the directors to consider pausing any increase to the rates until we're able to do a full analysis on what we're able to potentially save. The county of Orange, We do a lot in RFPs in businesses and often times, I don't think we have that opportunity to really figure out how we can save money and from previous speakers said that's a real opportunity. And I think we should really start to think of how to treat really, this is an asset and we should I think the directors and the board have a real opportunity to market this asset. You know, a few months ago a supervisor Foley and a congressman Levin met with the Ridlin family because we are preparing for LA 2028 Olympics, and we're submitting a proposal to try to bring the equestrian Olympics to southern Orange County. And so this I think that fair could use this as an asset and an opportunity to highlight what's important for Orange County. And that's these folks here. And so I implore you, it is this is a jarring increase that's coming in June. I think we need to work together at the very least, pause increase. Just work together collaboratively in a room where there can be mutual discussion, because I think we all share that notion of protecting this as an asset not just for Costa Mesa, but Southern California. Thank You.

Nick Kovacevich

We're gonna move to the consent calendar number seven is listed on the consent calendar, operational matters and our support as governing policies implementation of which is delegated to CEO, they'll have enacted in one motion, there'll be no discussion of these items prior to the type of board of directors votes on the motion unless members of the Board staff or public request specific items to be discussed separately or remove a section. Any member of the public who wishes to discuss Consent Calendar items should notify the chair the board at the time requested and be recognized by invitation the chair to address the board. So we do actually have one public comment on this Carolyn beaver.

Carolyn Beaver

Actually, on the consent calendar, it was something other. So I just wanted to make a note that I did send an email to the board of directors on March 23. And that was not included in the information. Communication. And by the way, I sent that on March 23, pass the deadline, because it was responsive to the CEOs report. It wasn't posted until March 22, only six days before the March 20th meeting. So I just wanted to

make a note that that should be included in communication. So obviously, it wasn't in time for the March meeting that it should have been included in this meeting. So since it's not in this meeting to include it for the next few meeting. But I would like to make sure that that's on the record.

Michele Richards If I can just clarify for everybody because I know there have been a lot of emails being sent. So it does state on the agenda that this agenda item includes only those communications that were sent to the entire board and CEO. So we have no way of knowing if a course It was sent to the entire board, but I'm not copied on it or staff is not copied on it, we have no way of knowing. So I had to put that letter on on next month. Okay, he referenced it. But just so everybody knows if you're if you're going to send something to the entire board, copy the CEO as well, and that way it ends up on the next agenda. Okay.

Carolyn Beaver Thank you.

Nick Kovacevich Do we have anything that we need to pull from the consent calendar?

Michele Richards Okay. Yes, there are two contracts both with the Orange County Sheriff's Department SA080-24FT, and 081-24YR. There under standard agreements. That is our fair time contract with the Orange County Sheriff's Department and our year round law enforcement contract. We have not received the contract back from the sheriff's department still negotiating on that so we'll bring that back on the later consent calendar.

Barbera Bagneris I move to consent calendar.

Doug Le Belle Second.

Nick Kovacevich Summer, roll call.

Summer Angus Chair Kovacevich?

Nick Kovacevich Yes.

Summer Angus Vice Chair Bagneris?

Nick Kovacevich Yes.

Summer Angus Director La Belle?

Nick Kovacevich 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. Agenda Item number 8 was moved earlier, the CEO operational announcements, updates. And at this time I'd propose a short break to use the restroom. We're right at about two hours and then we'll move into item number 9 governance process. Thank you.

Nick Kovacevich Okay, we will resume after the break starting with item number nine governance process. We already moved up the presentation of Arab American History Month and thank you guys for that. Item number 9B is the annual consideration and vote on the number of discounted fair admission tickets and parking passes to allocate to Centennial Farm Foundation board members. And for this one I'll turn it over to CEO Richards.

Michele Richards So this is part of the MOU that we have with the centennial farm foundation and in return for the fundraising that they do in support of Centennial farm the MOU indicates that the Board of Directors, Fair Board of Directors votes every year to issue a number of \$2 fare admission passes and an F lot parking pass for each active board member. So as we've done for the last several years the staff is recommending approval have the same number of ticket allotments as we did in 2023 with the understanding that due to our construction, it may not be F lot. It might have to be a lot as you know as we try to manage the loss of parking due to the construction. So we're just recommending the same offer that we had last year for the Centennial farm foundation.

Nick Kovacevich Any discussion?

Barbera Bagneris So moved.

Doug Le Belle Second.

Nick Kovacevich All right, we have a motion and a second, Summer.

Summer Angus Chair kovacevich?

Nick Kovacevich Yes.

Summer Angus Vice Chair Bagneris?

Barbera Bagneris 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. Agenda Item number 9C was going to be a review of draft policy to provide enchain trade to nonprofits for Event Rentals and vote on whether or not to approve but we are not ready and we're going to reschedule this for a future board meeting. Right. Any additional color?

Michele Richards Color? No, just you know, we're we're looking at the the language there's a legal review going on. The the Governance Committee, we'll revisit that and we'll bring it back for a future board meeting.

Nick Kovacevich Okay, great. 9D is staff presentation of layout and operational changes plan for the 2024 OC fair. And again, I'll turn this over to CEO Richards.

Michele Richards Okay. And in turn I'm going to turn it over to COO, Ken Karns so just like last year...so just like last year, we kind of did a little preview of some layout changes so Ken's gonna go over some interesting new changes.

Ken Karns I don't know if they're interesting. So again, thank you for both you and yeah similar to last year, these updates are few the operational changes for the 2024. This is not

the June bear launch this just some operational things. The administration, construction and temporary administration offices are creating some changes and challenges.. For F lot. The team is working through the tightening up of the parking in that area. With that, you see the impact on our campground. The challenge of relocating up to 30 trailers for 2024 was tackled we are boring some real estate along the edge of the campground and green gate to fit a couple more trailers along with the compound required for the administration temporary office electrical power. The gazebo area was also repurposed and we are putting a couple of more trailers there. That area will be the future home of the expanded administration building emergency power as well as a possible site for one of the new midway washroom shower buildings in phase two. With the demolition of buildings 15, some rework of the OSI Wine Society along with some space for Crafters Village and Centennial Darm was created. All right, down in livestock, we are in year two of the barns being gone. Last year we replaced the barn to two separate tents as you see there. This year, there will be one large tent structure in that location. The introduction of the new orange gate in 2023 went extremely well and help balance out our gates with that and the impact of the campground changes at Green gate. We will be relocating the petting zoo back down to a previous traditional location at the east end of livestock lane. Yellow gate will become more of a back of house, employee gate in that area. We have electrical, water, and sewer services. So a few storage containers that you see there are being relocated to again accommodate a couple of more camping trailers. And in lot G, we are also working to accommodate the rest of the displaced trailers. So a lot of dominance there now. Board members who can keep the secret?

Michele Richards Public meeting Ken.

Ken Karns We are very confident we will have a new spectacular ride called overdrive looks like kind of like reimagined breakdance if any of you remember that ride or maybe a cross between a holiday bounce and a scrambler so we're excited. A super spectacular, not yet on California's soil so keep that in mind. But we remain extremely hopeful. We will see the debut at our parent of a brand new roller coaster called, Heidi, has a kind of a really cool Swiss scenery theme but, that's a secret. So, happy to answer any questions.

Doug Le Belle So I like small world.

Nick Kovacevich There's a height requirement on that.

Michele Richards This is not an action item but just a preview of some of the layout changes due to construction and other operational needs. But as Ken said, We will be back in June to do our our fun, fun fair introduction. It'll be hard to outdo last year's but we'll see

what we can do. Right? Okay. Oh, we had mariachis in the room. That was one of the animals and food and all kinds of fun things.

Nick Kovacevich Are they back at the fair?

Michele Richards They are see we'll see.

Nick Kovacevich All right, thank you. Next item 9D is the staff recap of the wonderful imagine ology 2024 event?

Michele Richards Okay, There we go. And what a weekend it was right. So despite the threat of rain all weekend, in fact, both days as I was heading back out to my car, almost on cue, at closing, here comes the rain. So it was it was great that it didn't rain during the event for the most part. But despite the threat of rain 1000s of kids parents and friends turned out for imaginology 2024. There was plenty to keep everyone entertained for hours, and students got to come and see if their entries in our many youth competitions, won a ribbon. We had 534 projects , 29 murals, 302 cardboard creations, and 203 posters that were entered. There were 1,767 students who participated and there were 1,7183 ribbons awarded. So some of those kids got blue ribbon and division winners. Yeah, it was really great. There were live experiments and demonstrations that took place throughout the day with plenty of audience participation. Now look at that kid in the lower left hand corner. I call him the original Mad Scientist look at the look on his face, right he was just having a great time. So the wild science area combined playfulness, curiosity, and education. Now, did anyone try the giant bubble table or dare to touch a live reptile? While you were there? Barber says no. How about this one? Yeah. So many kids. tried out the fort blisters bootcamp obstacle course at heroes Hall and the young marines ensured it was a good time for all. From 4H club participants learning skills to win the ribbon at the OC fair this summer to demonstrations from sheep shearing, chicks hatching, oxen maneuvers and more. There were plenty of animals at Imagine ology. Here's a goat milking demonstration on the left. Most people have seen a cow being milked, but what about a goat? Right? And you can see the room was packed with curious families learning together and who could resist the baby chicks. There were things to do for the very young and the young at heart. And Imaginology featured five separate craft areas throughout the fairgrounds which included Cape clay molding coloring, gluing, and creating kelp flowers and aquarium art. So it was busy. Okay, now the chess tournament was back and it was very serious. Look at that face. So what's a good caption for that photo? Your mood. Look at that kid was so serious. So the chess tournament of champions had a record breaking 135 competitors, some who took home trophies that were taller than themselves. Now new this year was was the H2 Grand Prix pro student tournament. This was a steam based educational program

for high school students. Teams had to design and build a hydrogen fuel cell vehicle and then race it around that course that you see on the right for four hours straight. I think it was every 25 minutes. They took a they took a like a pitstop and they could work on their their car, but the winning team is the one that completes the most number of laps in four hours without running out of power. This was the California state finals and if you were in there in that building for the final few minutes you felt the excitement and energy as these kids battled it out for the checkered flag and it was a beautiful thing to see. These kids so excited. They designed these vehicles, they built the components, the hydrogen fuel cells, and then came up with their racing strategy. So an each of the teams named their car. I can't remember the name of the school. It was St. John Academy something it was a private Catholic school. The name of their car was Jesus take the wheel and I just thought it was brilliant. I thought it was brilliant. Right.

Michele Richards

Now our marketing department secured a weekend getaway grand prize as part of our promotional outreach for imagine ology. We had 600 People that entered online for the competition. And we congratulate Ivy Tam of Chino Hills for winning that prize. Thank you to the OC register for their coverage of Imaginology with the attendance of 17,793. We have parking revenue of \$43,020. 49 featured exhibitors, and there were 1,497 scavenger hunt participants. We're declaring imaginology 2024 a huge success. So thank you to all in the community who came out, to play for our biggest Community give back of the year, and thank you to our sponsors for this year's event. Please mark your calendars for April 12 and 13th of next year where a man imagine ology 2025 will be back and thank you again to the board members that were able to come out and support. This rain has been unbelievable, but it was it was magic that weekend. It didn't rain until we were all driving away. So it was a good thing. Yeah.

UNKNOWN
SPEAKER

What you just said, I was going to say, some of thes the directors came and it was really great and answered a question that's the only time in 10 years we've had rain.

Nick Kovacevich

Okay, she's got the report. Thank you and then next, we will move to the committee reports. Item nine F and we will start with the leadership committee. However, we do have a public comment Gibran Stout. I have you down here for a comment on the leadership committee.

Gibran Stout

My understanding leadership committee is also the diversity Correct?

Michele Richards

No

Nick Kovacevich

Well,I have you for community too. So if you want to...

Gibran Stout

Okay. I just want to say that Michelle said earlier, we want to join you in this vision

and we want to join you in expanding everything. And we are here doing what you say you want, and wanting to do more. I'd like to invite any board member here there's been lots of discussions about lack of transparency. I'm happy to share anything and answer any questions. They just have to be asked. If we sat down and had a conversation, that would be fantastic. I think it bears noting that we run our program or volunteer run program on \$50,000 a year so when we see these astronomical numbers, it's very hard to understand. But if there's anyone on the board, who wants more transparency and wants control over these nonprofits, and thanks for public programming, it's happening. I invite you any one of you to join my board and to participate and to see I'm happy to open the books. I'm a nonprofit, so they're all online anyway. Google OC Equestrian Vaulting, look at our taxes, see what we do, see how much we get paid. And see what we do. I handed that thing earlier. It has a little bit of what we do. But I think it's important to say that there's a lot that has been mentioned before a lot of misinformation. So I just I'm just saying we're here. Changes isn't hard, changes isn't hard. You deal with horses, that's literally every moment of every day. You learn to adapt, learn, find problems and solution to move forward. Change is not hard. What is hard is being shut out. Changes isn't, being shut out as hard. Thank you.

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you. We do have a quick report for the leadership committee which I'll go ahead and read, but essentially the Committee met on April 10 to plan the agenda for the April board of directors meeting. And we do have our next meeting scheduled for May 8 to do the same for the May meeting. And that concludes the Leadership Committee. Report. Item number 9F2 is the financial monitoring and Audit Committee in the absence of director Pham, the committee chair will Director Bilezikjian please give us a report.

Tanya Bilezikjian

I'd be happy to roll in solo today. Both of my committee, committee members so finance committee report revenue for March was above planned, favorable to budget by 276,000 and change. This was due to some unbudgeted events that took place and then higher than budgeted earnings on some investments. So year to date, were favorable to budget by over \$800,000. total expenses for the month for the month of March 2024 are about \$2.5 million dollars and favorable to budget by just about \$200,000, mainly due to ongoing personnel vacancies and saved salaries. Year to date expenses are \$7,168,412 favorable to budget by about 945,000. For the year. To date period and the march 31. net proceeds are favorable to budget by \$1,764,000 in some other dollars. Cash and cash investments as of March 31 End of Q1 are \$46,476,000 and some more change, and then we'll be meeting again on May 15.

Nick Kovacevich

Okay, thank you next. We have the Facilities Committee and again, Director Ruiz's

committee chair absence please Director Bilezikjian.

Tanya Bilezikjian Again and I'll paraphrase a couple of things. So, Capex projects are ongoing. There are 47 active and three completes on so thanks to staff for all their work...

Nick Kovacevich Actually. Sorry. I apologize. I messed up I forgot the public comment for the financial monitoring. So before we do the facilities, we do have two public comments on the financial monitoring. We have Carolyn Beaver followed by Gibran Stout, sorry.

Carolyn Beaver Thank you. I did send a letter to the Finance Committee on April 16. Noting that organization is paying Lopez Works, three times the cost, which other facilities pay to have horses fed, stalls cleaned and the arenas dragged. This, in my opinion, is a financially irresponsible contract. You're just paying way more than standard. It's an outrageous cost to pass on boarders. It's also an outrageous cost for a public facility who wants to have more public programming. So in other words, there are costs that won't be passed on to boarders, and this cost is just too high. Because it's not a gift of public funds for the borders, It's a high price mismanaged contract for the state. And I think that the finance committee should have the purview of evaluating essentially lost generating contracts and should be able to recommend appropriate action. Michelle did respond and stated that the finance committee could not consider the contract because it relates to the Equestrian Center and that's the purview of the Facilities Committee. So as members of the public, then I wonder, okay, who determines what the purview of the finance committee is? And I think that the finance committee should have the purview of evaluating contracts. And so I do think that you should, as you've heard, cancel the Lopez Works contract, put it out for bid. And I would like to mention a point before about the fact that you only had one bid, when entered into the Lopez Works contract. As I've said before, if you only have one bid, there's something wrong with your request for bid. So you have to ask yourself, did you include parameters that were too onerous for others to bid? Why did you only have one bid? It tells you something that's wrong with the process if there's only one bid. Thank you.

Nick Kovacevich Thank you, Gibran?

Gibran Stout Hello, again. The there's several things that have been said in these meetings. And obviously, we only have this one way communication and so I have to wait a month ring back or emails but that doesn't seem to go very far. So one of the things I took the expenses that you brought forward at the last meeting, and I did some math on the spreadsheet girl, and I found it curious that out of the 1102 that is currently the actual expenses for the Equestrian Center. 890 of that goes to one focus works. And that's 80% 80% of your total cost. 80% are going to one operator. I think any one of you

who run a business here would look at that and go, Oh, that's too high. So labor costs should not be 80% of your total costs. It has this is not about prices. This is about expenses and about cost. Okay, so that was really really interesting. Happy to see some tweaks bringing forward today. However, I've been coming to these meetings for years. That's the first suggestion I've seen of any kind of cost. I'd love to know what specifically what it is and it's a great place to start and continue one of the things that has come up repeatedly is prevailing wage. This simple cloud it's really wage. And so I looked it up and said California has a job fair ground eight, and their job is planes, arenas, barn stables to drive tractors. To feed horses, all those sorts of things. And the standard rate for this job is 1660 to 1975 an hour and I got the information from Cal HR, which I'm happy to share. And your own job listing is listed the farm attendant at Centennial farm, basically horses, land stalls is 1850 an hour. The restaurant office coordinator had 1715 hours so that was helpful for me but also how is it that the expenses are so so high? Why are we paying middleman to do a job and we have people doing the job. I'm confused by that. But anyway, so I have that here. I can share it with you later. In so far as I know there's been a lot of discussion about business models. There's four different business models right now to businesses. There would be helpful. We'd sit down and explain to you how each one works. None of us wants to be subsidized. Nobody's asking for a free ride. We're asking to pay a fair price for their service. The gift is the money we're not getting the money to give to somebody....

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you Gibran. I also have you for because we're gonna move on to the Facilities Committee report. I have you on that one as well.

Gibran Stout

Sure, i'll just keep talking

Nick Kovacevich

Which Go ahead. Okay, reset Summer. We've got a public comment for item number 9F3

Gibran Stout

Someone before me?

Nick Kovacevich

No go ahead, its you.

Gibran Stout

Okay, transparency, we hear a lot about transparency here. We don't see a lot of it. Again, I'm happy to be as transparent as you want. I'd love to have more transparency from the board. It would be super helpful, make these meetings a lot less, make the emails a lot less. Make all of it a lot less. If you publicly posted the advisory and standing committee meetings as for agriculture, code required denying the public access to that violates Bagley king as well as food and agriculture posts. So that's

super frustrating. It will also be a very efficient way to bring forward information that may be left out may not be included. I just really want to build some bridges here. Like can we please I don't know why it's us that I don't know why. There's this wall. Please break down the wall. Can I offer you an olive branch? Please? Can we just stop being us in them and be we asked can we just work together? I don't I don't understand this. This getting us at them because it's not. It's all of us together. We are all in this together. This is our state property. You guys have taken an oath to manage for the public. It's not a video game and how much money can be made, it's public assets. Let's work together.

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you and then sorry, Director Bilezikjian. If you could pick back up on the committee report for the Facilities Committee. And then we'll we'll move to the file committee report. So go ahead.

Tanya Bilezikjian

Sure thing. So picking up with the Master Site Plan phase one the administration building. So we got an update on the status of the project and our meeting. protest period is over No. Protests were filed, and the team scheduling a pre construction meeting. And the groundbreaking will be held today. Right after this meeting. And then phase two of the Master Site Plan is the Midway restroom and showers. We, my co-committee member and I got an update on the status this project. RFP was developed and issued and a pre meeting was held on March 20th. proposals were due April 11. Any updates?...Next meeting all right. Pac Amp dressing rooms. The team's continuing to work on a revised scope ,and budget and last item on the Equestrian Center. We've all received quite a few emails from Equestrian Center users partly requesting to be put in a Facilities Committee Meeting. Rather than that, Chair Richards and I went ahead and met with your questions. A couple of Saturdays, a couple of Fridays ago and we heard about that today. And then the Facilities Committee Meeting. We'll be meeting again on 5/1, May 1.

Nick Kovacevich

Okay, great. Thank you. Director Bilezikjian. Last we have the community affairs committee and we do have another public comment we have Gibran Stout who is not here. So we're going to...Gibran we'd love to hear from you on the community affairs...

Gibran Stout

You would?!

Nick Kovacevich

Yeah, we haven't heard from you all day.

Gibran Stout

Why, please, When can we meet? When can we have a public meeting? Can we have a roundtable let's break down this barrier? Can you work together?

Nick Kovacevich

Can I just ask you keep this one to the Community Affairs Committee?

Gibran Stout

Yes, how are we going to work together to broaden access to the community? We don't have a budget. It's going to cost a lot of money. How are we going to do that? Who's gonna help with that? I would love to see you include people in the community that are on site that are providing community outreach. How can we do that? Okay, thanks. All the same thing.

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you. Gibran. Great. And then, like I said, last but not least we do have the report from the Community affairs committee and if the of the committee chair would like to deliver that?

Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia

I don't have much to report we were, thank you all for allowing us to bring a caller in Nahala today to accept the recognition for Arab American month. I also just wanted to thank the board for trusting Director Jackson and I to work with staff to identify the individuals who will be receiving these proclamations. I assure you guys that we take it very seriously. But I'm grateful that you guys have allowed us to continue this initiative. And anythingyou'd like to add?

Dimitria Jackson

No, I concur. Thank you for the opportunity. I love this committee. I'd love to be able to present learn about new people within the community and what they're doing for the community, I think its awesome. And next month is May, is the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. So we'll be doing the same proclamation to someone from that community, doing great things in the community. So that's stay tuned.

Nick Kovacevich

If that's not reason to show up the next board meeting. Looking forward to it. Thank you guys. We do really actually enjoyed those proclamations. So that's great. All right. Moving to item number 10 closed session, there will be no closed session today. We did receive updates via board on a one way email. So we are set there and number 11 is the upcoming events preview and I will turn this over to CEO Richards to give us the preview.

Michele Richards

All right. Real quick. The air water event is new to the OC fair and events center that is taking place on Saturday. It's a Porsche only car auction from nine to three. So if you're in the market for a new vehicle, it's a great show. Similar to Barrett Jackson. Type, you know, automotive auction but for Porsches only. The 20th annual Hoag OC Marathon Running Festival returns the weekend of May 3rd through 5th. The OC running festival showcases three days of events including the kids run the OC, the OC 5k at sunset on Saturday, and then Sunday's half and full marathons anybody running it? Anybody? Anybody not this year. The race is a perfect destination event for runners with the beaches, theme parks and near perfect weather. And the finish line at the OC fair and Event Center in the accompanying festival.

Barbera Bagneris Well maybe I'll be at that.

Michele Richards The gem fair is back as the largest jewelry and bead show in Southern California that will take place on May 10 and 12. Speedway continues May 11 with Harley night. Sand sports super swap is scheduled May 18. It's a one day opportunity for off roading enthusiast to swap their sand toys and equipment. So if it's not a Porsche but you want to sand dune buggy, you can go to that event. Also on May 18, we'll be hosting Knight nation run. It's a running Music Festival in support of Stand Up to Cancer. And more details about all of those events are available on our website. Don't forget Thursdays nine to one there's still a little time to visit the the farmers market and then Centennial farm will be buzzing again on May 1 16th and 20th for more discovery days now. Discovery days are open tour. Dates for teachers, students and parents who were unable to secure a date on our regular class schedule. There were over 1400 kids at Centennial farm last week for discovery date. It was amazing. And we look forward to more. We'll be holding a blooms, for mom floral arranging class at Centennial on May 11th. Just in time for Mother's Day so you can register online at oC fair.com for that event. And the community produce bin, at Centennial farm is brimming with fresh lettuce, chard kale and onions. We enjoyed a beautiful salad made from the the lettuce at Centennial farm. So stop by and pick up some fresh produce and visit the animals at Centennial farm while you're at it because they love seeing everybody. And then just another quick reminder about our new exhibit that opened in Heroes hall yesterday. So a little bit about Ed Bowen in 1967. Edie was drafted into the US army and was initially trained for service as a helicopter door gunner. However, once the army discovered his artistic talent, he was reassigned to the role of combat artist and was deployed to Vietnam where he served as part of a combat artist artistic team. This collection of paintings tells us much about the artists but also about a ward that continues to inspire deep feelings, convictions and questions. Sadly, Edie Bowen passed away just four months before this exhibit open. He was deeply engaged with our heroes hall staff in planning of the exhibit and we are proud to present it in as a tribute to him, his family and his many friends in the veterans community. So please make some time to go by and see this new exhibit at at heroes Hall. And we want to invite everybody to join us immediately following this meeting as we break ground on the administration building expansion project back over at the fairgrounds. So we come for that. And that concludes my report.

Nick Kovacevich Okay, great.

Barbera Bagneris I just have a really quick comment. Full circle for you because 10 years ago when I joined the board you used to do this and then Joan did it. Yes. So you tell Joan, we miss her. All right. Well, she was a little more enthusiastic than I think you were.

Michele Richards And I'll tell her that. I spoke with her this morning to let her know that we would all miss her this morning and in next month's meeting, Michelle Capsule will take over and I should have said that at the top of the meeting. During our initial you know, onboarding with her, before she accepted the offer. She let us know that she had a pre planned wedding to go to in Hawaii. So while it's kind of cloudy and overcast here, she's enjoying Hawaii, but she'll be back next month. And I'm sure she'll be even more enthusiastic. Thank you.

Nick Kovacevich Now Michelle, we already moving the meeting off site you could have just followed her, meeting in Hawaii, starting at 630. Anyways, thank you very much. Good slate of events as usual. All right, moving to item number 12. And this is going to be board of directors matters of information. Let's go around the room and we'll start with Vice Chair Bagneris I will let you kick us off.

Barbera Bagneris Great meeting. Thank you Mr. Chair, you do an outstanding job. And I look forward to seeing everybody next month.

Dimitria Jackson Yes, I thought that was a good meeting. Thank you to CEO, Michelle, for all the work you do and your staff. It's definitely appreciate, as well as the board. I mean, a lot of time and effort goes into this. So I just want to thank everybody for everything that they do. And thank our guests for you know, their passion and you know, contributing and showing up every month. So yeah, I just want to say that I want to get I enjoy this committee and I really enjoy opportunities, community affairs to meet new people that I would not probably otherwise have known, and find out what contributions are making to the community. So just wanted to echo that and I'm looking forward to our next person who comes forward and what we're going to learn about them and share that with you all.

Nick Kovacevich Thank you. Director La Belle?

Doug Le Belle Yes, thanks, Chairman Nick. First of all, the Community Affairs Committee, I want to compliment them and we've been doing this the last three or four months. And I don't think in the past we would do it on kind of a regular basis and I think this is great. I do it every month. I think it's really good and I want to compliment them for that. Additionally, I'm looking forward to the Fair I'll work with Ken on that right. I'm now in my 14 year on Fair Board, and I've been through a whole variety of issues over the years so Barbara and I have been here quite some time together. And I wanted to make a comment I do appreciate all of the comments we've received here. I've probably in the last 14 years, I've maybe missed one, maybe two meetings, even during COVID. I was you know on the Zoom part of that, as we all went through different processes there. What what's really important is there's only one committee

that makes a decision. And that committee is the leadership committee. They decide what the chair actually decides what's going to be on the agenda. And the agenda set based upon the decision the chair makes. And that's been that way for as long as I can on the board. The committees are all advisory. They have no decision making authority at all. And they are who the chair decides to appoint. Committees come and go we've had committees abandon, we've had committees added, we've modified it's, it's all up to the to the chair. And Nick has made his appointments to the various committees, but they're all advisory. They make no mistake they make no decisions. Period. Decisions are made in this room at an annual, at a board meeting every single month and decisions relating to what we're going to do in terms of public programming. What we're going to do in terms of the employees that we're going to have assisting with the public programming, so on and so on and so on, those decisions will be made over the months ahead in this room here based on the recommendations of the CEO. And those recommendations will come through perhaps various committees, but those are advisory. So I think it's important to note that decisions are made in a public meeting by a public body and that is us. Input is welcomed by everybody. We want it by everybody. And I would encourage you to make your input through our staff. This is Michelle and her staffs job is to put together the final recommendations. So, I fully support whatever decision this board makes whether I'm in the minority or the majority. And I think it's important to know, that that's how we make decisions in a public body and that's how we move forward. With that in my soap opera.

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you Thank you, Director Director La Belle. Director Bilezikjian?

Tanya Bilezikjian

I don't know what else there is to say. Thank you for that. I appreciate the discussion. I learned a lot from you as a board member on process. So, I appreciate the time that we all spend together. I learned a lot from you all as well. And I want to continue learning so you know, I'll continue to make myself available. If that's something that we decide to do. But I do want to say that I think that communication is important. But I also respect my fellow board members and the decisions that we make here. And I realized that I'm one board member. So happy to be part of this board and happy to be working with you Michelle and that's it.

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you.

Natalie

Rubalcava-Garcia

Thank you very well said Director La Belle, appreciate your comments. One thing I would like to use my comments first. I would just like Josh to clarify something about our committees. So they are two person committees. And Josh, I think there was a public comment related to committees that stated that we are illegally or not falling in line with Bagley Keene. So can you just clarify what the rule is around

committees and Bagley Keene?

Josh Kaplan

Yeah. So Bagley Keene governs multi-member bodies, which is defined as committees that include three or more people ,and so three or more people or a committee of two or more people with the delegated authority from the board. And so for the purposes of the 32nd DAA what that means is that if the board of directors, on at a public meeting that's probably agendized votes collectively to create a 2% committee. Whether or not that committee has authority or not, that committee would be required to comply with the provisions of Bagley Keene. If the board chair in his discretion creates a three person committee, that committee would also have to comply with Bagley Keene, even if it's only an advisory committee. If, however, the board chair creates at his or her discretion, a two person committee with no delegated authority, that's the space that doesn't, that's not required to comply with Bagley Keene and so it's kind of a very narrow set of committees again, a two person or one person committee created at the will of a board chair of a DAA and those types of committees are not required to comply with Bagley Keene Open Meeting act.

**Natalie
Rubalcava-Garcia**

Thank you. And I just want to also clarify as a past chair, the reason for committees is so that you can get a lot of work done together collectively to bring recommendations to the full board of directors as director La Belle stated for further discussion and input from the public. So I just wanted to make sure that we were clarifying that the current committees are not in violation of Bagley Keene as they currently operate as long as they don't talk to two to two or more board members about the topics that they're discussing in those committees. So that concludes my comments. Thank you.

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you. And I'll round us out here. So you know, great meeting. You know, I agree. I do appreciate the insight from from the public. You know, this issue, as I stated before, in my opinion has has really been dealt with. We did listen to four or five hours of public comment before making the decision to change the model. A lot of what's going into the new model was borrowed from that public comment, as you guys recall, we were able to kind of hear the great benefits that were happening at that facility. And our decision was, hey, we want to make sure those benefits are occurring under our operation, right? Were the operators. Were the operators. Now, as operators, we have to hire maintenance staff, right which is Lopez, but that's he's not the operator. Right. So I think we've listened to public comment to get to this position that we're in to move to this new model to hopefully incorporate many of the things that the public has asked to be incorporated and I believe we will, but that process of ironing out the rental rates for the borders, of seeing all the things that the board has directed come to life in the new vision. That entire process is going to be done now by the staff. And there's direct input from the facilities community, and all of the

updates will be shared to the board. But that's what I meant when I said this matter has been dealt with because it has. We voted on it. We've given direction and the staff, alongside the Facilities Committee is now running with it. So I, it's a public meeting. If people want to come and talk during the public comment period, there's obviously no action on it. And they're welcome to do so. However, I think if you're looking for results, at this point, it would be wise to continue to liaise with the folks that are seeing this through right and I think there was a meeting. I heard there's never been a meeting, but then I heard there was a meeting with Michelle and Director Bilezikjian. And that's good, right? And those meetings could continue the insight or ideas should flow to these groups so that they can incorporate them from my perspective, right. And I think that's all healthy and good and we can continue to march along but to Director La Belles point, you know, having this item get relitigated here and voted on. I don't see a need for it. So I don't plan on bringing this back to the agenda anytime soon. Unless the need arises. But the model that we all collectively voted on and agreed upon. I don't remember if that was I don't remember the split on the vote, but the board decided that, I feel great about that. I think a lot of the board members do, and now it's just about that coming to life. And again, I don't think that's something that the board is going to be involved in the details of, the board's made the decision. The board has directed the details to be determined by the staff and with input to the Facilities Committee and that is, I believe the appropriate route forward and so I look forward to that continuing. And thank you for the work that you guys are doing in those efforts. So that's my piece on that. Second. I do really commend staff again for the methodology event which I attended. I also attended the circus, the nuclear circus, which was pretty cool. It's amazing what they do there and the promoter was kind enough to allow me to attend. So that was really great, and a good family friendly outing. So we continue to do great things here on the fairgrounds, or they're on fairgrounds rather. And I know I get a lot of emails now, you know, anytime there's a situation where, you know, it's it's not a pleasant experience, for whatever reason, right? And we're running this big of an operation as we run, and I used to run a business that, you know, was similar in size I'm very well versed in, not everyone's going to have a great experience every time, but it's about how you respond, and I've seen CEO Richards directly jumping in and responding very quickly to folks in the community that have ever reached out have emailed me I forward those emails. We get back to those folks. So I mean, this is not you know, this is on every everything from you know, noise complaints and parking issues. You name it, right. So, I love to see that. You know, we're not going to get things 100% right the first time every time. But we're welcome that feedback and we quickly tried to correct and create the best outcomes we can I think I think we do amazing job. So thank you guys for that. And then lastly, unfortunately, as I'm sure you guys were going to give me your condolences my Warriors did not make the playoffs. Our

dynasty may be over, but fortunately we do have two Southern California teams in the NBA class. We got the Lakers and we got the Clippers, and I will now be rooting for both of them. Directories Ruiz is not here, but he'd be happy to hear that.

Doug Le Belle

Nick, can I ask just one quick question. Michelle is there we had Cirque Du Soleil here a couple of times that I know with COVID and all that, and is there anything on the horizon that might bring them back?

Michele Richards

Well, we're our sales team is continuing to work on it, but between COVID and then you know they filed for bankruptcy. They were not able to continue the calendar that we had hoped for, which was for it to be here every other year. So yeah. Big disruption. Yeah.

Nick Kovacevich

Michele Richards

They're down at the Laguna Hills Mall now. Yeah.

Yeah, yeah. I think they had a real rough time during COVID and have really been struggling to, to come back. But yeah, much, much smaller show. I think at the Laguna Hills. Yeah, yeah. In that parking lot.

Nick Kovacevich

Okay, great. So that's it for Board of Directors matters of information. next board meeting is May 23, 2024. And I look forward to seeing everybody over at the groundbreaking across the street. Thank you Meeting adjourned.