

## **MINUTES OF OCFEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD MAY 23, 2024**

The following Minutes are a summary of Board action and proceedings. For a full transcript please click on the link below or visit the [ocfair.com](http://ocfair.com) website.

[https://s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/ocfair.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/20102807/24\\_05\\_May\\_Board\\_Transcript-1.pdf](https://s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/ocfair.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/20102807/24_05_May_Board_Transcript-1.pdf)

### **1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Kovacevich, called the meeting to order at 9:44 a.m.

### **2. MISSION STATEMENT**

### **3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Board Director Robert Ruiz. Roll call was taken by meeting secretary, Summer Angus.

### **4. DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Chair Kovacevich, Director Pham, Director La Belle (via Zoom), Director Rubalcava-Garcia, Director Ruiz, Director Bilezikjian and Director Jackson.

**DIRECTORS ABSENT/EXCUSED:** Vice Chair Bagneris.

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Michele Richards, OCFEC CEO; Ken Karns, OCFEC Chief Operating Officer; Melissa Au-Yeung, Chief Administrative Officer; Michele Capps, OCFEC Chief Business Development Officer; Jason Jacobsen, Director Planning & Production; Summer Angus, OCFEC Executive Assistant; Evelyn Nunez, OCFEC Communications Associate; Josh Caplan, Office of the Attorney General; Reginald Joseph, transcriptionist; Reggie Mundekis; Aimee Murdoch; Lisa Sabo; Robert Buchanen; Carol Graves; Sarah Klifa; Piper Louise Huntley; Kelly Babbs; Leigh Ann azolas; Gibran Stout; Noelle Anderson; Macki Hamblin; Whitney Hodges; Marce Evans; Alberta Muller; Lara Maxinoski; Penelope Ely; Claire M.; Susan Seger; Anna Bell; Alex Swanson; Nessa Veidenbaum; Harper Hilterbrand; Aileen Anderson; Lauryn Mascareno

### **9. GOVERNANCE PROCESS** (*Item moved*)

#### **A. Presentation of Asian American Pacific Islander History Month Proclamation by Community Affairs Committee** Information Item

The Community Affairs Committee presented the Asian American Pacific Islander History Month proclamation to A.G. Kawamura former California Secretary of Food and Agriculture.

AG Kawamura accepted the proclamation and shared the importance of public support of agriculture and his involvement in the creation of Centennial Farm.

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

Chair Kovacevich announced that public comment will be reduced to two minutes per speaker, due to the room booking time of closed session as well as to keep a quorum as some of the directors need to leave at a specific time.

Reggie Mundekis, shared that being that OCFEC is in the amusement industry, she recommend the movie "Class Action Park" is about Action Park in New Jersey, where the philosophy was to make thrill rides more thrilling by increasing the chance of injury.

Susan Seager discusses how she couldn't afford to own a horse but found access through the Equestrian Center at the fairgrounds (EQC). She shared her daughter faced mental health issues and despite trying various therapies and treatments, equine therapy was the only one that helped. Her daughter rode horses regularly and benefitted significantly. Though not covered by insurance, they managed the costs themselves with the support of trainers at the EQC. Susan believes her daughter's successful journey to becoming a veterinarian wouldn't have been possible without equine therapy and urges to preserve this resource.

Anna Belle discussed the many positive experiences and relationships her daughter has had and built while taking riding lessons at the EQC. She asserted the school horses trainers have, afford people the opportunity to learn to ride without owning a horse.

Alex Swanson asserted that come June 15 the Board will be saying goodbye to the EQC and its current lessons and programs. She discussed valuable learning skills and the responsibility of taking care of horses teaches someone.

Nessa Veidenbaum, Newport Mesa Pony Club member, shared her passion for horses and how the Pony Club has benefitted her and others. She asserted the Pony Club provides access to horses and is the last in the Southern California region.

Carol Graves discussed a sense of urgency around accidents and how to prevent them. She spoke about the arena walk-through and her frustration around a sinkhole and the confusion for who was authorized to fix it. She reiterated that the EQC user's sense of urgency around issues is not them being pushy but genuine concern.

Harper Hildebrand, Pony Club member, discussed the Pony Club teaches horsemanship, responsibility and how to properly care for a horse. She spoke about her love for the EQC and its activities.

Aileen Anderson asserted the Board has not taken a vote on the gift of public funds issue as it relates to the Equestrian Center and the need to revisit the issue. She criticized the lack of detail about the programs that will be offered under the new vision of the EQC. She asked questions regarding negotiations to reduce contract costs.

Gibran Stout discussed how "mission critical" is different for everyone. She discussed that the Board received over a thousand letters from people telling how important the EQC is. She stated that there are only five public boarding facilities in

Orange County and asserted it is mission critical to her, to have a home for her horse.

Marce Evens, Executive Director of the Herd Foundation and Five Bar Beef, applauded the Board's efforts to further the mission of OCFEC and shared her love of county fairs. She urged the Board to work with stakeholders, nonprofit organizations and trainers currently at the EQC. She asserted the Lopez Works contract, alleged animal welfare and fiscal issues need to be looked at. She asserted there is existing public programming at the EQC. She urged the Board to rescind the Lopez Works contract and to open up to a new operator.

Noelle Anderson criticized the reduction of public comment time. She spoke in favor of formalizing vendor relationships with existing trainers. She emphasized that if everyone has to move out of the facility at the end of June there will be loss of lease horses for public programming.

Lauren Mascarenho, EQC user, stated the rental increase is detrimental to the programs and businesses at the EQC and urged the Board to remove it from the consent calendar.

## 7. CONSENT CALENDAR: *(item moved)*

**A. Standard Agreements:** SA-057-24AS; SA-060-24GE; SA-061-24FTYR; SA-077-24HB; SA-079-24GE; SA-082-24HB; SA-083-24HB; SA-084-24GE; SA-092-24HB; SA-093-24GE; SA-094-24HB; SA-095-24AS; SA-096-24HB; SA-097-24GE; SA-098-24SP; SA-099-24SP; SA-100-24SP; SA-101-24SP; SA-102-24HB; SA-103-24HB; SA-104-24SP; SA-105-25GE; SA-106-24SP; SA-107-24SP

**i. Standard Agreement Amendments:** SA-226-23YR (Amend. #2)

**B. Rental Agreements:** RA-EQCXXX-24; R-010-24; R-034-24; R-035-24; R-079-24; R-087-24; R-092-24; R-096-24; R-097-24; R-098-24; R-100-24; R-101-24; R-102-24; R-103-24; OCC-2401; OCC-2402; OCC-2403; OCC-2404; OCC-2405; OCC-2406; OCC-2407; OCC-2408; SS-2401; SS-2402; SS-2403

**i. Rental Agreement Amendments:** R-012-24 (Amend. #1); R-070-24 (Amend. #2)

**C. Commercial Rental Agreements:** 24001; 24002; 24003; 24004; 24005; 24006; 24008; 24009; 24010; 24011; 24012; 24013; 24014; 24015; 24016; 24018; 24020; 24021; 24022; 24023; 24024; 24025; 24026; 24027; 24028; 24029; 24033; 24034; 24036; 24037; 24038; 24039; 24040; 24042; 24043; 24044; 24046; 24047; 24048; 24049; 24052; 24053; 24054; 24055; 24056; 24057; 24059; 24060; 24061; 24062; 24063; 24064; 24065; 24067; 24068; 24069; 24070; 24071; 24072; 24073; 24074; 24075; 24076; 24077; 24078; 24079; 24080; 24083; 24084; 24085; 24086; 24088; 24089; 24090; 24091; 24092; 24094; 24098; 24099; 24100; 24103; 24104; 24105; 24106; 24107; 24108; 24110; 24111; 24112; 24113; 24114; 24120; 24121; 24122; 24124; 24126; 24127; 24128; 24129; 24130; 24131; 24134; 24135; 24136; 24137; 24138;

24139; 24140; 24141; 24142; 24143; 24144; 24145; 24146; 24148; 24150; 24151; 24156

**D. Concession Rental Agreements:** 24501; 24502; 24503; 24504; 24505; 24579; 24506; 24507; 24512; 24552; 24553; 24526; 24558; 24559

**E. Platinum Rental Agreements:** 24720; 24723; 24729

**F. Judging Agreements:** CA-001-24; CA-002-24; CA-003-24; CA-004-24; CA-005-24; CA-006-24; CA-007-24; CA-008-24; CA-009-24; CA-010-24; CA-011-24; CA-012-24; CA-013-24; CA-014-24; CA-015-24; CA-016-24; CA-017-24; CA-018-24; CA-019-24; CA-020-24; CA-021-24; CA-022-24; CA-023-24; CA-024-24; CA-025-24; CA-026-24; CA-027-24; CA-028-24; CA-029-24.a; CA-029-24.b; CA-030-24; CA-031-24; CA-032-24; CA-033-24; CA-034-24; CA-035-24; CA-036-24; CA-037-24; CA-038-24; CA-039-24; CA-040-24; CA-041-24; CA-042-24; CA-043-24; CA-044-24; CA-045-24; CA-046-24; CA-047-24.a; CA-047-24.b; CA-048-24; CA-049-24; CA-050-24; CA-051-24; CA-052-24; CA-053-24; CA-054-24; CA-055-24; CA-056-24; CA-057-24; CA-058-24; CA-059-24; CA-060-24; CA-061-24; CA-062-24; CA-063-24; CA-064-24; CA-065-24; CA-066-24; CA-067-24; CA-068-24; CA-069-24; CA-070-24; CA-072-24; CA-073-24; HA-001-24; HA-002-24; HA-003-24; HA-004-24; HA-005-24; HA-006-24; HA-007-24; HA-008-24; HA-009-24; HA-010-24; HA-011-24; HA-012-24; HA-013-24; HA-014-24; HA-015-24; HA-016-24; HA-017-24; HA-018-24; HA-19-24; VA-024-24; VA-025-24

**G. Active Joint Powers Authority Agreements (New):** None.

**H. Correspondence:**

Communications to the Board from members of public related to OCFEC business are identified below and included with the Board materials (available on the OCFEC website). Note that this agenda item includes only those communication(s) that were sent to the entire Board and CEO before the publication of this month's agenda. The deadline for correspondence to be included on the June 2024 agenda is June 14, 2024.

- i. 03/26/2024 Carolyn Beaver – Letter to OCFEC Board of Directors
- ii. 04/24/2024 Sabrina Silver – Horse Boarding
- iii. 04/26/2024 Carol Graves – Request for in Person Meeting Regarding the Equestrian Center
- iv. 05/01/2024 Carol Graves – Regarding Request for in Person Meeting Regarding the Equestrian Center
- v. 05/03/2024 Carol Graves – Response to Equestrian Center – To Clarify
- vi. 05/07/2024 Carolyn Beaver - OC Fairgrounds Equestrian Center - Violation of Board Policy Manual
- vii. 05/10/2024 Carol Graves – Response to “Equestrian Center – To Clarify”

**I. CDFA Correspondence:**

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

- i. None.

- End of Consent Calendar -

Alberta Muller criticized some of the Board members for allegedly not giving their attention to the public speakers at the last Board meeting during their comments. She discussed the women owned business being affected by the Board's vote. She urged the women of the Board to support the women owned businesses.

Leigh-Ann Kazolas argued that the EQC rental rate increase was not passed legally by the Board; and the gift of public funds issue does not hold weight according to their outside legal counsel. She argued that the equestrian community is willing to pay fair market rates but find the proposed terms unreasonable, including a fifty percent additional security deposit and a fifty-two percent rent increase. She argued that these increases go against rental rate laws and that charging for extra square footage for necessary horse care items is unfair and unhygienic. She also mentioned that the annual fee for trainers contradicts the Board's goal of fostering low-cost access to horses, arguing it will drive nonprofits away. She urged the Board to pause the rate increases, terminate the Lopez contract at the year's end, and form a specific equine committee to develop industry-standard operating costs and programming.

Laura Maxinoski argued the original rental increase vote was not passed by a majority vote. She asserted that if the Board votes in favor of the EQC rental agreement increases the EQC will close. She alleged Board manipulation by staff of the new vision for the EQC and criticized that the plans have not been shared. She argued there are current nonprofit programs that already exist at the EQC. She alleged staff of trying to shut down the EQC many times. She spoke against the Lopez contract.

Penelope Ely criticized that the over 1,800 letters that were delivered to the Board at the last Board meeting were not part of the public correspondence or meeting minutes. She stated the letters shared concerned about the rate increase and the effect on existing programs. She urged the Board to work with existing equestrians that have the expertise and enthusiasm.

Robert Bucannon requested the following:

- Connect and partner with trainers for public programing
- Find someone with horse experience to take over the feeding, cleaning and arena maintenance
- Cancel the Lopez Works contract and consider contracting with disabled veteran owned business
- Do not increase rental rates over fifty percent (already paying industry standard prices)
- Utilize and support the nonprofits already in operation at the EQC

Carol Graves asserted the rate increase will make the EQC the most expensive equestrian center in the region by the end of the year. She argued OCFEC is in no position to raise rates with the alleged facility decline from miscommunication and crosstalk. She alleged fiscal mismanagement and urged the rates to be at industry standards. She spoke in opposition of the time deduction of public comment

Sarah Klifa, EQC trainer, spoke in opposition of the EQC contract template being placed on the consent calendar and urged it to be pulled it from the consent calendar. She discussed the free lessons and equine therapy Changing Strides offers to the community arguing they are already doing what the Board wants to do with the Ranch program. She discussed working together to be bigger and do more, but need funding. She asserted the need to keep the EQC footprint for horses and riding opportunities. She highlighted the uniqueness of having a public equestrian center in the city and suggest that the Board could gain positive recognition by supporting women-owned small businesses and nonprofits rather than harming them. She stressed that the equestrian business is not highly profitable and express concern over affording the proposed facility fee and fifty percent deposit. She concluded by stating she cannot afford the new fees and will have to stop offering lessons and training.

Lisa Sabo expresses a desire for collaboration with the Board and frustration over a March vote that failed, despite being incorrectly recorded as passed by the attorney. She mentioned that Sheppard Mullin offered to represent them to prove the vote's failure, criticizing that the agreement was put on the consent calendar two months later. Sabo called for transparency and highlights her professional dedication to providing free programming, such as hosting orphans for lessons through Changing Stride. She criticized the numerous hidden fees in the new contract. She emphasized the importance of her work, mentioning the Newport Mesa Riding Center and its role as one of the largest pony clubs in the nation. She referenced a government guide on cracking down on junk fees to lower costs for consumers.

Piper Louise Huntley, EQC instructor and rider, urged the Board to remove the EQC from the consent calendar. She shared a story about her work with Changing Strides, an organization that partnered with Olive Crest, a safe home for abused and orphaned children. Piper emphasized that horses serve as therapeutic animals and stresses the importance of the equestrian center for at-risk kids. She argued that including the EQC agreement on the consent calendar and raising rates would exclude not only the regular riders but also vulnerable children who benefit from equine therapy. She highlights the center's unique accessibility in Orange County for such essential programs.

Clair M. urged the Board to remove the equestrian center from the consent calendar by sharing her personal story about being adopted. She described how adoption affected her mental health and well-being and how horseback riding became a crucial outlet for her. She stressed that if the equestrian center is closed, many will lose this valuable outlet and opportunity for responsibility and connection.

Mackie Hamblin asked the Board to pull the EQC contract from the consent calendar, asserting the rate increase will evict women owned businesses. She asked a series of questions. She asserted the EQC tenants are open to paying fair rates arguing the rate increase to seventy percent is not accessible.

Gibran Stout asserted the consent calendar is not for controversial items. She argued the item is not a contract but a template. She criticized that there has

been no negotiation. She alleged the contract includes junk fees. She criticized that the item was on the consent calendar. She discussed the previous vote not having a majority, according to Board Governance policy 3.05.

**10. CLOSED SESSION** (Closed to the Public) *(item moved)*

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 10:45 a.m. and resumed at 11:07 a.m.

Nothing to report out of closed session.

**7. CONSENT CALENDAR:** *(item continued)*

Chair Kovacevich motioned to approve the consent calendar. He opened the floor for Board discussion regarding the EQC rental rates on the consent calendar. He explained that the rates are on the consent calendar in an effort to push forward the new model by the June deadline while addressing the gift of public funds issue. He acknowledged that the previous vote on rental rates was mistakenly recorded as passed, when it actually failed. He explained the updated rates, reflecting that a cost savings of \$151, are now included in the draft template which they are voting on now. He assured that there is no attempt to bypass Board discussion, emphasizing the need for a valid vote to approve the rates; this will serve as the Board's discussion and vote on the new rates.

Chair Kovacevich shared his thoughts:

- Gift of public funds issue has been discussed in length
  - Voted to change the model of the EQC – opening up the facility to thousands
- Board addresses governance policy and vision – staff is operations
- Direct public access to horses
- Board drives policy - staff and the Facilities Committee to implement vision of new model
  - The ability to partner with existing trainers and nonprofits
- Approving rate increase to cover costs

Board and staff discussion ensued; items discussed included:

- Comparison of rates of other area equestrian centers at the June 15 increase
- An escalation of complaints regarding the facility after the proposed rental rate increase announced
- The phased in rental rate increase percentages from June to January 2025
- January 2025 rates for other facilities are not currently known for a for comparison
- Costs are up everywhere
- Past rate increase
- Boarding trainers operate their private businesses and set their own rates
- Loss of revenue and gift of public funds are reasons for rate increase
  - Tax dollars cannot be given away for private use
- Respect for the equestrians and businesses running out of the EQC and the want for them to continue operating – the plan allows this

- Board considered going back to a private operator for the EQC, and if determined they could not find an operator the result may have been to shut the facility
  - Board pivoted and decided to invest into programming of the facility for the community
  - Providing access to a broader base of the community
  - Board support of the increase
- Approving rates now does not prevent finding further cost savings
- Board is on the path to eliminate the gift of public funds issue that the Board discussed and agreed upon back in December
- Staff and the Facilities Committee will continue to work and fine tune the model and vision and will continue to look for ways to reduce costs for the private borders and trainers
- Doing business on state property is very different from doing business on city or county property – which makes it more expensive for a contractor to operate
- Liability issues and insurance requirements
- Rate increase is on a gradual escalator
- Facilities Committee to work with equestrians and try to make this work for everyone
- Keeping the facility open and accessible to private business
- Safety is a big issue – Facilities Committee to discuss some of the comments made regarding safety
- Encouragement of trainers to continue current public programming they provide
- Fostering partnerships
- Work to be done on future RFP

**ACTION:** Chair Kovacevich motioned and Director La Belle seconded to approve the Consent Calendar. **MOTION CARRIED. AYES:** Chair Kovacevich, Director Pham, Director La Belle, Director Rubalcava-Garcia, Director Ruiz, Director Bilezikjian and Director Jackson. **NAYES:** None. **ABSTENTIONS:** None.

Director Pham left the meeting.

## 5. MINUTES: *(item moved)*

### B. Board meeting held March 28, 2024

Action Item

Chair Kovacevich stated the March 28 meetings minutes need to be updated to reflect that vote failed in March.

**ACTION:** Director La Belle motioned and Director Bilezikjian seconded to amend the minutes from Board meeting held March 28, 2024 correcting action to Item 9B motion to Motion Failed. **MOTION CARRIED. AYES:** Chair Kovacevich, Director La Belle, Director Bilezikjian and Director Jackson. **NAYES:** None. **ABSTENTIONS:** Director Rubalcava-Garcia and Director Ruiz.

### **C. Board meeting held April 25, 2024**

#### Action Item

Gibran Stout criticized that the over twelve hundred letters that were presented were allegedly not mentioned in the meeting minutes and asked that it be corrected. She also criticized that there were alleged inconsistencies in CEO Richards verbal report with what was posted online and asked that the online report be corrected.

Director Bilezikjian read an excerpt from the April minutes that stated copies of 1,270 letters were presented to the Board.

Discussion ensued regarding District's retention of correspondence and reflect in the minutes.

**ACTION:** Director Rubalcava-Garcia motioned and Directors Bilezikjian and La Belle seconded to approve the minutes from Board meeting held April 25, 2024.

**MOTION CARRIED. AYES: Chair Kovacevich, Director La Belle, Director Rubalcava-Garcia, Director Bilezikjian and Director Jackson. NAYES: None. ABSTENTIONS: Director Ruiz.**

## **8. CEO UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

CEO Richards reported the following:

- OC Fair opens in 57 days
- Groundbreaking ceremony for the Administration Building was held after the last Board meeting
- Congratulation to Director Robert Ruiz for completing the OC Marathon
- Staff preparing to do a full rollout of The Ranch programing at the September Board meeting
  - Brand, logo and build out of website in development
  - June horse show planned
  - Therapy partnership in development with North Orange County Veterans Center
  - Equine exhibit and tour plans are underway
- Communication to equestrian community when there will be an impact on boarding and training

Ken Karns, Chief Operating Officer gave some operational updates for the 2024 OC Fair:

- Unified command dispatch center new for 2024
- Improved unified command center
- Working to address safety concerns regarding unpermitted street vendors working outside the fairgrounds
- Narcan now in all first-aid kits
- Edison and OCFEC teams annual review and updates for fair was May 13
- Bio-digester has arrived and is now in the corporation yard

Gibran Stout expressed enthusiasm about public programs and collaboration but raised concerns about The Ranch and equine therapy. She shared she is eager for collaboration and program expansion but highlights the need to address the absence of horses in the current Ranch program and suggests leveraging existing equine therapy resources rather than creating new ones.

Marce Evans, Young Farmers and Ranchers of Orange County /Herd Foundation Executive Director, offered her expertise and support for the Board's vision, she urged stakeholder collaboration and invited Board members to visit her working ranch.

## 9. GOVERNANCE PROCESS (continued)

### B. Annual State of the OC Fair & Event Center Address

Information Item

CEO Richards presented the State of the OC Fair Address.

Leigh-Ann Kazolas criticized the state of the EQC facility and implementation of the strategic goals set by the Board and expressed her hope for issues to be addressed in the new strategic planning process. She asserted the highest standard of care for horses is not being met and emphasized the importance of improving care standards through collaboration between the Board, staff and equestrian community. She alleged inefficient cost management.

Gibran Stout expressed confusion about the transition from the Community Equine Center to The Ranch and noted the lack of horses in the current Ranch program. She alleged insufficient communication with the equestrian community, especially regarding relocations. She criticized that the master site plan does not mention the EQC. She questioned budget transparency, noted unmet strategic goals, and urged for more collaboration and clarity on public programming.

Chair Kovacevich commended CEO Richards on progress.

### C. Committee / Ad Hoc Committee / Liaison Report

Information Item

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

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

v. **Community Affairs Committee** (Director Rubalcava-Garcia, Committee Chair; Director Jackson)

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

- Committee met on May 8 to plan for the May meeting
- Next meeting is June 12

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

- Committee met May 15 and reviewed the April financial reports (reports presented)
- Audit is wrapping up
- Staff waiting on pension numbers from the State
- Next meeting is June 9

Gibran Stout asserted there is overspending on areas that could be spent on improvements. She discussed problems with the arena footing. She alleged The Ranch has serious flaws. She expressed her frustration of not knowing what is going on. She discussed landlord tenant relationships and entitlement.

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

- The committee discussed the EQC and the annual arena maintenance
- A survey will be going out to EQC boarders and trainers to receive feedback
- Next meeting is June 5

Carol Graves presented the Board with a metal item found in arena, in her horse's foot. She highlighted health and safety issues at the facility: alleging moldy hay and urine-soaked shavings and lack of shavings. She discussed an incident where a horse tripped and fell on a child due to a sink hole which allegedly took 18 months to be addressed. She discussed miscommunication about who to report problems to. She shared she had a positive phone conversation with CEO Richards and Ag Programs Director Evy Young regarding issues

Gibran Stout alleged persistent issues with the sinkhole, lack of actual cost cuts, wasteful practices incentivized by the operator, and calls for more productive discussions to resolve these problems.

Lisa Sabo stressed an urgent need to fix footing issues, improve communication and management, and address costly contracts at the equestrian center.

Gibran Stout discussed her programming working with SOY, Girl Scouts and other nonprofits. She criticized a rental price quote she received from staff for a vaulting show, stating it was too expensive to hold it at the EQC.

## 11. UPCOMING EVENTS PREVIEW

Michele Capps, Chief Business Development Officer, gave an update on upcoming events at OCFEC.

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

Board members made concluding comments:

- Good meeting
- June 4 CDFA will be holding a regional training session at OCFEC
- Gratitude and appreciation for those that participated in public comment
- Thanks to CEO Richards for her professionalism and full faith in her efforts
- Close meeting in memory of Espiridian Castillo "Speed" a Korean War veteran
- Appreciation to the Community Affairs Committee for highlighting community members
- Appreciation for agriculture education that comes from Centennial Farm
- Acknowledgement of the upcoming Memorial Day celebrations and safe and happy holiday weekend
- OCFEC Job fair coming up June 8
- Excitement for the OC Fair
- Important to hear from the public
- Gratitude to the public for accommodating the two-minute limit on public comment
- Board confidence in staff

## **13. NEXT BOARD MEETING: JUNE 27, 2024**

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

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Nick Kovacevich, Chair

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Michele Richards, Chief Executive Officer