

# OCFEC June 27th, 2024

**Nick Kovacevich**

Good morning, everyone. I'd like to call the meeting to order today, Thursday, June 27 that's 9:33 am all matters noticed on this agenda and any category may be considered for action as listed. Any item not so noticed may not be considered. Items listed on this agenda may be considered any order at the discretion of the chairperson. Two, the mission of the OCFEC is creating equitable community access to agriculture, entertainment, cultural and educational experiences. And item number three, do I have a volunteer like to lead us in the pledge?

**Everyone**

I pledge allegiance, to the flag, of the United States of America. And to the Republic, for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Item 4, roll call.

**Summer Angus**

Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich**

Here.

**Summer Angus**

Vice Chair Bagneris? Director Pham?

**Newton Pham**

Here.

**Summer Angus**

Director Rubalcava-Garcia? Director La Belle?

**Doug La Belle**

Here.

**Summer Angus**

Director Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz**

Here.

**Summer Angus**

Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian**

Here.

**Summer Angus**

And Director Jackson?

**Dimetria Jackson**

Here.

**Summer Angus**

Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Okay, we have a quorum. Thank you. Item number five is the minutes. Do we have a motion to approve?

**Doug La Belle**

Motion to approve.

**Robert Ruiz**

Director Ruiz, I second.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Okay, motion and a second Summer.

**Summer Angus**

Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich**

Yes.

**Summer Angus**

Vice Chair, excuse me. Director Pham?

**Newton Pham**

Yes.

**Summer Angus**

Director Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz**

Yes.

**Dimetria Jackson**

Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian**

Yes.

**Summer Angus**

and Director Jackson?

**Summer Angus**

Yes.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Okay, great. Now, given the some guidance we have on the agenda today and some of the excitement we have sitting here people staring at us. We're going to move some things around today. And so I'm going to start with actually Agenda Item number nine. There's a few items I'd like to do, and then we will go to closed session after. These items, because we do have a room booked here. So first is going to be item number 9A, which is the presentation of Pride Month proclamation by Community Affairs Committee. And I'd like to turn this over to Director Jackson to present you.

**Dimetria Jackson**

Good morning everyone. June is pride month, and we are presenting proclamation today to Peg Corley, who is the Executive Director of the LGBTQ Center Orange County. Unfortunately Ms. Corley unable to be here with us today. But as I mentioned, the Medical Director of the LGBTQ Center of Orange County provides services to more than 20,000 individuals annually across the broad spectrum of culture, ethnicity, age and economic backgrounds. The center's life affirming programs focus on empowerment and advocacy efforts focus on speaking out and hate and discrimination. Peg has spent more than two decades empowering youth and driving significant growth and financial health at the center. She believes that every segment of the LGBTQ population of Orange County should have the resources needed to thrive and their own lives and communities. She's a tireless advocate for equity, inclusion and visibility for the LGBTQ community and continues to work to create safe and affirming spaces where the LGBTQ community can thrive. Through her work that encourages every individual to be their authentic self, contribute their unique gifts and drive change and opportunity.

**Dimetria Jackson**

Now, proclamation and resolution of the Board of Directors of the 32nd District Association regarding LGBTQ pride, whereas the 32nd district agricultural Association's mission is to create equitable community through access, agriculture, entertainment, cultural, educational experiences. And whereas the district's vision is Orange County's Town Square, this safe place, the community gathers and finds value. And whereas the district recognizes importance honoring the month of June as LGBTQ Pride Month. And whereas the district recognizes the LGBTQ communities and their achievements in

agriculture and arts, literature, sciences, medicine, military service, businesses, entrepreneurship, and whereas the district celebrates LGBTQ communities and the contributions to rich, diverse culture and heritage in Orange County and further resolved OC fair and Event Center reinforces the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion and nondiscrimination as core institutional values, that safety is underlying elements to making any one person or community feel welcome in nearly Any setting.

Further resolve, the mission of OC Fair & Event Center Board of Directors and staff enforces the policy prohibiting discrimination. Of any person on the basis of race, ethnicity, nationality or sexual orientation, and to respond to all concerns accordingly for the result, Board of Directors hereby directs at the rainbow LGBTQ flag, pride flag, year round, alongside all official flags are displayed on a district's property as a symbol of district belief and the equal dignity of all persons who visit the fair grounds and of the district's commitment to welcoming and including people of all backgrounds and identities the OC Fair and Event Center. Now therefore, the Board of Directors of the district hereby proclaims the month of June as LGBTQ pride month at the OC Fair and Event Center. So in honor of LGBTQ Pride Month 2024 the 32nd district agriculture Association honors Peg Corley who has Executive Director of the LGBTQ Center. OC is making a difference every day by leading the charge for equity and understanding. We celebrate our dedication to every segment of the LGBTQ population of our county by focusing on strengthening youth, improving health and wellbeing, building social capital and advocating for social justice.

### **Nick Kovacevich**

All right. Thank you. Thank you, Director Jackson, now we'll move to item number nine view, and this is a presentation of a donation check by Centennial farm Foundation. And I'll turn this over to CEO Richards.

### **Michele Richards**

All right, so the Centennial Farm Foundation was established in 1992 shortly after the farm was built for the purpose of solicitation, accumulation and disbursement of funds for the operation of Centennial Farm and other agriculturally and youth related educational programs and exhibits of the district. And in that time, the foundation has contributed over \$1.38 million in donations to Centennial Farm, which go directly to support the educational programs at Centennial Farm, some of the structures at Centennial Farm, like the Millennium barn. And I would like to introduce Glen Johnson, president of Centennial Farm Foundation, to tell us all about a recent fundraiser and a little surprise at the end of that, right?

### **Glenn Johnson**

Thank you. Chairman, Nick and Michelle, thank you for that introduction. My name is Glenn Johnson. I'm the president of the Centennial Farm Foundation. When you go to the fairgrounds, always go to the farm for a second. Who's helping to get there. So I joined the board a number of years ago and was elected president a couple years ago, right before the pandemic started. So we had a couple of dry years. We couldn't have meetings and couldn't do much. We had some zoom stuff, but our activities were kind of hampered by the pandemic. But three years ago, we started doing what's called a fun

shoot out at Raahauge's. It's a shooting range in Corona. It's a one day event, and we've been raising money for the farm. Our sole purpose for existence is to raise money for the farm activities. As you may know, they are educating children on agriculture, nutrition, where the food comes, property, eating habits, things like that. They have over 100,000 students come through that farm every year looking at the agriculture crops that are grown there and the animals that are raised there. So on our third annual fun shoot, which was last April, just two months ago, in the one day event, we raised more money than we did last year. Last year was being we donated \$28,000 from that one day event. Today I'm here to present a check for \$30,000

### **Glen Johnson**

The first shoot starts off with a safety presentation, a box lunch. Then we go do our friend shoot, and then we come back and we have a barbecue. We do a live auction, a silent auction. We added a raffle event as well. We had the best turnout for donations. We have a lot of contributors who donate a lot of the food and other activities that we do there. So our gross to net is really high, like 80% gross to net. So we're doing bill on that front. We are going to be doing at the 35th anniversary celebration. The Centennial Farm Foundation is doing a cow chip bingo. If you haven't participated in that or seen that, you immediately come by, there'll be bingo boards on the ground. You can buy a board, and then you on your little square. We just went live with a new website about two or three weeks ago, and so it is. It used to be OC, Orange County Farm foundation, I'm sorry, September foundation. Oc.org, we've got the OC so the farm foundation authority. You can go on that website. There's social media outreach. You don't have to come to the fundraiser. You can make a donation. You can make a donation any day of the week, 24 hours a day off that website. And lastly, we do have a new board member that came on. She'll be at our first meeting in September, which is our next board meeting. She was a docent at the farm for many, many years. She's a master gardener. Has very good connections in the community, so we're welcoming her to our new board as a new board member. Today, I'm here to present the check for \$30,000 from our one day event. And so Nick, if you would like one more for the website. Let's do one more photo, and then... thank you so much. Everyone

### **Nick Kovacevich**

Starting this meeting off well with some positive news and now, we take it to the next level with Agenda Item 9C, a presentation by staff of the 2024 OC Fair.

### **Michele Richards**

Michelle caps...

### **Michele Capps**

Okay, so you've all got your maps in front of you. Give you the lay of the land here, you see we've got footies and characters here. Olivia Orange, Strawberry Jan back there, she's carrying around the everyday passport that's on sale now you buy one pass, and you can come in every day of the Fair. So go online and get your passes today. You all right. Well, on the screen, I've got a few pictures for you

as well. We love the Orange County Fair as I just joined a few months ago, and I tell people, I share with them that I've joined the team, and they all say, oh my gosh, I love the fair, and I think we all love it for so many reasons, but I can say we all love it because we always have a good time. So whether you're here for the entertainment, the carnival, the food, the animals, the exhibits.

## **Michele Capps**

Oh, Speaking of animals? That a baby goat, a kid you... All right, like I was saying, everybody has their favorite here. Thank you. And moving on to some of those thrill seeker attractions, the carnival this year has some fast moving new rides. The first one is overdrive. Sit down, hold it on, tight and spin out. These are based on the Fast and the Furious, like racing and spinning out. This will get the thrill seekers exactly what they want. And our other way to try is Heidi the coaster. Soaring over 42 feet tall. This is a spinning coaster with a Bavarian design that transports riders into Heidi's will force their cars. Riders take their seats on rustic hub style chairs. The coziness quickly vanishes once Heidi the coaster starts moving with a power lift, these cars speak to the height of 42 feet, and then it's down behind you. I can tell you, I won't be going on, just don't eat before you get on. More of my style is. The other new one we don't have a picture of is the Enchanted Castle, a nice little walk through find me over there and then in the OC promenade. So right in the middle of all of those buildings over on the east side, the OC Promenade will feature The Orange County sand and sea exhibit, where you can discover iconic beachside landmarks, wander through culinary entries, explore a touch tank, and a deep dive with a VR with virtual reality technology. Some of the highlights that you're going to be seeing on this one are things like the huge water tower house in Seal Beach, the Pacific train car that's over in Seal Beach as well. Huntington Beach, lifeguard perch and Laguna Beach, lifeguard G. And I want to give a shout out to the design team here, they have been doing a lot of work all year figuring out all of the elements that they're going to put into this. This was a computer rendering that I saw months and months ago. And I just want to tell you, when you walk into the promenade, this is exactly what you see. Everything, the scope of it, the size. It's just amazing the detail that they've been putting into it planning these exhibits for our 1 million plus visitors this year. So I'm just so excited about what everybody's going to be seeing in here.

## **Michele Capps**

And something you will be seeing in here new actually returning after several years, not with us is Knox Berry Farms pie eating contest as a pioneer to Orange County tourism and attractions and, more importantly, agriculture, Knox has been a long standing partner to the OC fair, dating back to the 1940s and 50s as we located these old photos in the OC archives, so it seems fitting that they are returning to the culinary stage every Saturday night for the very popular Knott's Berry Farm boysenberry pie eating contest. And Knott's is even providing, of course, olive pies and tickets to the park as prizes for the eaters. The one thing that we need are some judges. So we're hoping that our board of directors will be out here helping to judge this contest. Nobody's going to eat, to make sure you probably don't want to be diving your face, and then also in this building. So this is where all of the culinary competition will be. And new to the competition is gingerbread this year, so we're going to see a lot of displays. So looking forward to seeing what all of our residents are going to be contributing this year. Also, we have North Gate Market, and same sitting with Sam can see that they will be offering that ceviche, and they're delicious handmade guacamole. So we do have some of the ceviche in front of you. If you'd like to go ahead and nibble on that.

## **Michele Capps**

It's delicious. If you've gone over to their new Mercado store, it's amazing. So they're partnering with us this year. We hope you all enjoyed that. And right across the way we have in the Huntington Beach building, Art of Music Experience the encore returning this year. I hope you all were in there last year,... these huge camp and their of replicas of the most iconic album covers. The experience features over 150 large scale hand painted album covers, displays and neon a pop up record store live painting demonstrations of some of these albums and themed activations. We're going to have an additional bar in there this year, over in that neon area. So just grab a cocktail. You'll even be able to grab some wine out in the wine Plaza and come in through that that entrance this year. So so there's some of the neon, and just these are hand painted. I just want to reiterate when you see them, it's just unbelievable that these are painted and not printed. And we'll be moving on to food, so you've got to sample a little bit right there. This year, our own master concessionaire, OVG has created an all new vegan stand located right we've seen it. We've remembered Demetrio. That's why you have ceviche on your plate, so it's called "Veg Out". And we will be vegging out with all vegan delights. And these are what you have pictured there. Look like chicken nachos, completely vegan. I will we will also have this fun ranch serving up some hot potato, hot baked potatoes, loaded and that will be next to the Costa Mesa building. We have Walla burgers. Yes, Donny and Marky Mark, they're back and they're serving up burgers. Wish they were serving them up here. We just get their stand, but delicious burgers and tots will be served there. And then we also have the new cantina Nacho and fruit bar in la cantina and dog tunes over at Pac-Amp, Bacon nation, which is the reimagine stand. It was formerly the bacon affair, and that will be on the family fairway. You and because there are so many foods, and we know you want to try them all, we are here this year with a \$5 taste your way through the fair. This is daily from opening until 4pm. Smaller portions with a smaller price tag, and that way you can try more things and you're not filling up, and not getting too full and try something else. So we're really putting, we put a lot of thought into this affordable food option so families can come and try everything. You know you already know that we have hours and hours of exhibits and other free things to do. So this is one more way that we can help feed the families without affordable fun.

## **Michele Capps**

And now we're going to move on to entertainment. So over here in the corner, waiting patiently, ready like performing over in Baja bar, and we have nine different performers there, but I'm going to kick it off and let him give us a sample of what we're going to be hearing.

## **Clay**

Music performance.

## **Michele Capps**

Hey, now back to just me. Okay, so on entertainment, we have Pac-amp, we have the Hangar, and we have the Action Sports Arena this year we have more headliners than ever. We have 35 headliners, some of them performing multiple nights for a total of 39 shows over in the Pacific amphitheater. Then



we have the 23 nights of the Hangar performances, plus during the day, we'll have community performers as well, over in the action sports arena, so much is happening over there. We have four nights of monster trucks, five nights of different kinds of demolition derbies, from the motor homes to those smash them up cars to the what is it? The damsels of destruction? We're also going to be including five nights of comedy and hypnotizing entertainment with Chris Mabry over there. Mabry maybe. And then we're going to finish it out with four nights of big air BMX, so that one's new this year. And then, as I mentioned, along with Danny over in the Baja Bar, we've got different bands rotating, rotating through there, we have nine different bands. And then throughout the fair, all of our community entertainment, everybody gets to showcase what they've been working on all year. And that's what really makes this one of the most awesome community events. We'll have strolling bands and those pig races, the all Alaskan pig races. I saw the bleachers were going up yesterday, so excited to see those little guys. Even played my video from last year for my grandson. And we're just so excited they're coming back. And then the foodies, you saw them, they were here, and they'll be walking around the fair every day as well. As I said, we have more shows than ever in the Pacific Amphitheater. This is the lineup, and we have pre and post fair shows this year. So July 9 is the very first date for our Pacific amphitheater event, and it will go all the way through September 14, ending with Bonnie Raitt. So that's going to be an amazing show as well, even John Fogerty, I mean, just an amazing lineup. So make sure you get your tickets and reserve your seats, and then wrapping it up with our sponsors. We couldn't do this without all of our sponsors. We have some new ones to give a shout out to this year, the John Wayne Airport and Knott's Berry Farm. And last one hard to read is voodoo hard charged tea. So they are new to the Fair this year, so just we thank our sponsors, and you'll see all of their signage out there this year and their representation. So enjoy your fair food that's in front of you. We have all the carnival favorites of popcorn, cotton candy, candy apples, just to get you ready for it. And what you might be seeing on TV that started this week is our new commercials, and we're going to go ahead and play those for you. They're in 15 second increments. We call them bookend fifteens. They play at the beginning of a commercial pod and at the end. So if you happen to get up right at the commercial break and walk away, we're going to catch you right when you film that. We have both English and Spanish. That's always a good time. Thank you, alright, so join us for a good time.

### **Nick Kovacevich**

Alright, we'll be there. Thank you. Okay, and I wanted to jump to item number seven before we break for closed session. So this is the consent calendar. All matters listed on consent calendar, operational matters report as governing policies, implementation of which is delegated CEO, they'll be enacted in one motion. There'll be no discussion these items prior to time the Board of Director both motion unless members report staff or public specific items to be discussed separately and or any member of the public who wishes to discuss consent calendar. I'm just notified to chair the board, time request to be recognized by chair, to address the board. And we do not have any public comment on the consent calendar. So we have the calendar. Is there any items on the calendar that need to be full or not.

### **Barbera Bagneris**

Director Bagneris are move the consent calendar.

**Doug La Belle**

Second.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Yes, motion and a second. Summer.

**Summer Angus**

Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich**

Yes.

**Summer Angus**

Vice Chair Bagneris?

**Barbera Bagneris**

Yes.

**Summer Angus**

Director Pham?

**Newton Pham**

Yes.

**Summer Angus**

Director La Belle?

**Doug La Belle**

Yes.

**Summer Angus**

Director Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz**

Yes.

**Robert Ruiz**

Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian**

Yes.

**Summer Angus**

And Director Jackson?

**Dimetria Jackson**

Yes.

**Summer Angus**

Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Okay, we'll go to we're gonna break for closed session. We go to the room reserved. We don't anticipate to be too long it was closed session, and then we can get back here and keep working through this agenda.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Call the meeting back in order, we met in closed session with Council, and we have nothing further report. So this will take us to item number nine agenda, Item number nine governance process, and picking up at letter D, which is a presentation by staff for the mid-year budget review. I'll turn this over to CEO Richards and to Melissa to make a presentation.

**Melissa Au-Young**

Thank you for not making me go after the after Danny and Cotton Candy. So we'll go ahead and jump right in. So we wanted to, we're going to go through and provide a bigger update for the board regarding the 20 year board budget. So I wanted to start by taking a look at some of the issues playing out in the national and regional economy that we took into consideration when developing the 2024 budget. So the board adopted the current budget at its November 16 2023 meeting. at the time, there were concerns, particularly regarding signals within the broader economy, particular inflation, was our concern, and that was evidence we ended 2023 at a high of 5.5 in the federal fund rate, which is actually the highest it's been since 2001 and so instead of the rate has remained changed, and it looks like it will maybe be changed once again in the year. And so that's still a concern. And the general consensus at the time was that there would be a slowdown, although it would be a mild recession or flatter part of 2024. So once again, we developed the 2024 budget with cautious optimism, and we only have good products, and we know that people look at fair. However, given out, we did take a conservative approach to budgeting, so that was the context with which the budget was developed. So why don't go through a quick recap of the 2024, budget assumptions? So we utilize a controlled attendance model, once again with advanced online ticket sales. Although the board did approve moving adjusting the number of tickets sold to 50,000 5000 there was no increase in fair admission pricing. We did increase spare time only parking rates from 12 to \$15 year round rates remain the same. We assumed 30 shows in the Pacific amphitheater, as Michelle shared earlier, we actually have 39 so that does have an impact. We budgeted for overtime, for part time seasonal on the boys, which was actually the first year we've done that since we are now mandated to we had two additional civil service headcount positions that were accounted for in the budget. We also assumed a feature exhibit would take place, which is the art of music. We planned for a two day imaginology In person, events again, which already occurred in April. We continued, etc, revenue and expenses through June and so this, I'll bring this up later as well, and then we've got 3.25 million capital expenditure program. So all this was used to develop the 2024, budget that you can see on here. The total OC, FEC produced revenue, and this accounts for our fair imaginology. We budgeted approximately 4.4 million, and then we have rental revenue. So our total revenue for the year is at 59.5 million, with total expenses of 54 point 7 million, with an anticipated net proceeds of 4.8 million for the year, looking at our year to date. So for the first five months, we came in at we budgeted 826,000 for self produce events, for example, we came in at a little over a million for rental revenue, we budgeted 3.9 we came in at a little over 5 million. So total revenue for the year, year to date, we had budgeted 5.3 million, and we come in over 7 million. So we're doing rather well in that regard. And expenses, we had budgeted for 13.9 million in expenses for the first five months, and we've come in under that at 12.3 million. So we are actually, while we budget a loss for the first five months of 8.5 million, we actually we have a loss of 5.3 which is favorable to budget over \$3 million in that case. And this is kind of just a trying to provide a visual representation. So this is the actual revenues. Is the first orange chart, or orange line, compared to the blue line, which is our budget. So it's just showing, trying to show a visual representation of we continue to exceed our revenues by budget each month, and this is on the expense side, as we show that we are. We're actually spending less than what we budget for each month. So that's that's helped our financial position. So the 2024, this is our fair. PNL, so. So as we're looking at that, so we're anticipating revenue of 48.6 million for the fair and then we anticipate that we are going to spend 25.9 million. And so that 4848 point 6 million, represents about 81% of our total revenue for the year and our expenses, that's almost about half of what we are our budget expenses for the year. So we anticipate having net proceeds for the fare of 22.6 million.

**Melissa Au-Young**

So our capital expenditures, we wanted to show a breakdown. So we have a total of 60 capital expenditures, major projects and equipment purchases broken out on this table we've included. So we have 20 of which are capital expenditures. At what point, almost 1.5 million, 18 major projects, 21 equipment purchases, and then one carry one project being carried for so we continue to work on the 60 projects, a number of which have been completed, and then a number of which will continue after fair and then pulling all this together, we have Our this was a breakdown of our year end projections utilizing the first five months of actual expenditures and then the seven months of budget expenditures. So based on the projections that we have going, we anticipate total revenue coming in at 61 million, with total expenses at 53 million, for a net proceed positive of 8 million, which we had budgeted for 4.7 so it's substantially improving our financial position. One thing I did want to include on this as well is for the EQC, the Equestrian Center. At the time of the budget we had, there was some uncertainty on how to budget in 2024 so this includes we continue no revenue and no expenditures into the second half of 2024 that doesn't mean we aren't going to incur revenue and expenditures. It's just not shown on the budget. So we will have to make some adjustments with some of the expenses with the QC, but with our budget expenditures, we're looking at net proceeds of the year for 8 million and this last chart shows our just kind of visual representation of our net losses and proceeds throughout the year. So the orange line is the solid part at the beginning the first five months. Shows that those are actuals. And then the remainder of that line is the projection of where we'll be. And so as you can see, we began the year with about a million in net loss, and then we go down to a high of 7.6 in net loss, which we get in June. And then there with the fair coming in, we go up to 14 million positive and then end at 8 million. So this just kind of shows how important the fair, you know, being 22 days away, as we saw earlier, just how important the fair is to the organization's bottom line, and the impact that the fair does have on our financial overallwe remain in great shape going into the fair and into the latter part of the fiscal year. I can answer any questions. Any members of the board might have

### **Barbera Bagneris**

I don't have any questions, but I love the graphs. I'm a graph person.

### **Michele Richards**

We did review this presentation with the finance committee in their meeting this month. So I don't know if you have anything to add or

### **Tanya Bilezikjian**

No, I appreciate the way that you handle the budget. And yeah, I think we also just took care of the finance committee's report. Very good. Yeah. Thank you.

### **Barbera Bagneris**

Thank you.

**Dimetria Jackson**

Thank you. Melissa.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Okay, great. So just want to move to some of the action items here. While we have the quorum, I know some of the board members have to leave. So another reason we're modifying this agenda. So we'll move to item number 9e. This is a review of recommended amendment to policy 3.05 right work meetings and agendas, and a vote on whether or not to approve. We do have some public comment on this item, so we'll take the public comment at this time we have Reggie Mundekis.

**Reggie Mundekis**

I'm Reggie Mundekis and I support the change. Is sometimes when we find out that there's a contradiction or a gap and a base for the policies, when just the right incident happens and you find the flaw. So I really appreciate this being corrected first opportunity to correct that these flaws just despite everybody's best chances to make it not happen. So good job. Thank you

**Nick Kovacevich**

Thank you. Next we have Gibran Stout.

**Gibran Stout**

Good morning. Hello, it's interesting how this is suddenly an error when it hasn't been an issue until just recently. I know that the last vote, believe it was in December. It wasn't an issue and it's not an error, but when it's convenient to change the rules, that's what you do, is you change the rules. I would like to point out that one of the big kicking points on it is abstentions and for CEO training manuals and other CDFA training things, it's very clear that abstentions should only be if there's a conflict of interest, and that conflict of interest is definitely understood to me financial. It also goes on to clarify that it should be cleared with counsel in advance. So if any of you here passes which I'm sure you will in the future, if you feel that you have to stay perhaps you don't have enough information, and perhaps it should be moved to a future agenda so you can get more information and fully informed decisions. So again, I fully expect that you'll approve this, because that's really happens, but really your job here. You've taken an oath uphold the California constitution. This is a public property. It's not your property, it's not my property, it's our property, and you have a very important job here, and I hope that you do your due diligence, come to these meetings prepared, and if you don't feel prepared, that's fine, but there's no rush. Take your time, get the information, make a decision. Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Okay, that concludes public comment on this agenda item, and I did want to ask my colleague, Director La Belle, to quickly present this item, this action item for the board, because this was an item that was discussed and drafted in the Governance Committee and Director La Belle the chair.

**Doug La Belle**

Yes, be happy to and I'll defer to Michelle for a little bit of background. But what we have done is the Governance Committee, is we have reviewed the policy and to correct an inconsistency in our existing policy, to make everything in accordance with Robert Rules of Order, we made that minor change. So, Michelle, do you want to add to that?

**Michele Richards**

Yeah, so in that policy, 3.05 there were contradictory mentions of how votes would be taken. Robert's Rules of Order is mentioned, and this was pointed out to us by a member of the public at the April board meeting, and we thank her for doing that. But in another section, it refers to a favorable vote of a majority of the members present, regardless of abstentions, is required for approval. So the recommendation from the Governance Committee is to clarify the intent and to change the policy, amend the policy to read a favorable vote of a majority of the members voting excluding extensions is required for approval.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Thank you, and that's consistent with Robert's Rules?

**Michele Richards**

Yes, it is.

Directed Bagneris. I move that we accept the recommendation.

**Tanya Bilezikjian**

Second,

**Nick Kovacevich**

Okay, we have a motion and a second. We do not have Robert here to vote on Robert's Rules.

**Summer Angus**

I'll take the roll call vote. Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich**

Yes.

**Summer Angus**

Vice Chair Bagneris?

**Summer Angus**

Yes.

**Summer Angus**

Director Pham?

**Summer Angus**

Yes.

**Summer Angus**

Director La Belle?

**Doug La Belle**

Yes.

**Summer Angus**

Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian**

Yes.



**Summer Angus**

and Director Jackson?

**Dimetria Jackson**

Yes.

**Summer Angus**

Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich**

All right. Thank you. And then we have another action item following, which is item number 9f. This is a board discussion and vote on appointment of a member entity, representative and alternate to serve on the California Construction Authority, CCA, board of directors. Um. We have any public comment on this item? I believe so. No, I think there was. So I'll turn this over to CEO Richards to explain and we can hopefully vote on it.

**Michele Richards**

Okay, this is a bit of a housekeeping item. So California Construction Authority is a joint powers authority that has five member entities that formed it, that includes the county of Solano, the county of El Dorado, the 22nd district ag Association, the 32nd district ag Association, and the 46 district AG Association, sorry, five entities. Those member entities are defined in the JPA. And as you know, prior to the formation of that JPA, the only construction entity option that fairgrounds had was the Department of General Services, and fairgrounds were very low on the totem pole for those projects, so this was a good coming together of those joint powers to provide construction services to the fairgrounds. So the CCA board is comprised of those one member from each of those member entities for the 32nd DAA, the CEO, has typically served as the representative, and then there's an alternate that is either chosen from the executive team of the 32nd board. Sometimes it has been a board member as well. So I have been serving on the CCA board, representing the 32nd da. My term is coming up here soon, and so I'm looking for direction on the board's desire to have me continue serving to represent the 32nd daa on that board. I currently serve as the vice chair, but we have never appointed an alternate. So in my absence, it would be good to have an alternate. So my recommendation is to reaffirm the CEO as the appointed CCA board representative for the 32nd and to appoint COO Ken cards as an alternate unless there is a desire by a board member to serve on that board as an alternate.

**Michele Richards**

Director Bagneris, I move the recommendation.

**Doug La Belle**

Second.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Summer?

**Summer Angus**

Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich**

Yes.

**Summer Angus**

Vice Chair Bagneris?

**Barbera Bagneris**

Yes.

**Summer Angus**

Director Pham?

**Newton Pham**

Yes.

**Summer Angus**

Director Labelle?

**Doug La Belle**

Yes.

**Summer Angus**

Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian**

Yes.

**Summer Angus**

And Director Jackson?

**Nick Kovacevich**

All right, great. Moving on now to the committee reports. Item number 9G so we did cover some of this already, but we'll kick it off with 9G1 which we do not have a public comment for. And this is leadership committee. I am the chair of the committee, so I'll go ahead and quickly report that the Committee met on June 12 to plan the agenda for this year, June, board of directors meeting, and our next scheduled leadership committee meeting is actually on 9/11 2024. Next we'll move to 9G2, which is going to be the financial minor and Audit Committee. I know we've already went through in depth, so anything you'd like to add to that Committee Chair, Director, Pham?

**Summer Angus**

Yes.

**Newton Pham**

No, I thought, I thought Melissa did a great job presenting the mid year budget. So nothing to add.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Okay. Thank you. And then we do have, as we move to 9G3 the Facilities Committee, we do have a couple public comments, so we'll take those first first. We have Gibran Stout, followed by Lisa Sabo.

**Gibran Stout**

Before I get started, what happened to number six regular public comment?

**Nick Kovacevich**

We're going we're going through the agenda in a different manner, as you can see, if we do have board members leaving so.

**Gibran Stout**

Okay, so it just hasn't happened. Okay? Making sure I didn't say something. On the facilities report, I noticed that next steps were discussed. I'm so happy that you guys discussed next steps. I'm really disappointed that we didn't have any of the meetings that were promised to us last meeting. We've been asking and asking and asking have meetings. Negotiator contracts. It's not even about money. It's not even about prices. There's some glaring issues. I know. Michelle Richard said that the meetings were very productive. I would have to disagree. I asked to have multiple people be involved. I had several requests. They were all denied. We did not discuss the contract at all. We there was a discussion about this big plan that still has yet to be revealed. I guess it's getting revealed in September. Can't wait. I'm really looking forward to it. I absolutely would not characterize it as productive. But we've been dying to need we've been asking and asking, you guys. Know You guys are so sick of me. I know that I'm so sick of asking all we want, meeting negotiate for our contract. That's all we want. And until that happens, taking any further steps, taking any litigation, is kind of irresponsible, because we've got sat down and negotiated anything so without discussion of contract terms, how? You know, I've been arguing against this contract since January 2023, I have had staff tell me to mark it up. I turned it in marked up. You have accepted many, many, many marked up contracts. You've accepted many, many, many late contracts. And for six years, you accepted rent from the Hanson's. There was no 30 day notice. Many late contracts, my own included, have been turned in. There was no 30 day notice. So I'm very unclear as to why there's such disparity and the treatment of your tenants when all we ask is a seat at the table, we were laborers, we have a union. We don't have a union. We have you. Why can't we just sit down have a conversation?

**Doug La Belle**

Question Gibran.

**Gibran Stout**

Yes.

**Doug La Belle**

So standard rental agreement, is that the one you're referring to?

**Gibran Stout**

Well, it's called the standard rental agreement.

**Doug La Belle**

Had you signed that same agreement previously on several occasions?

**Gibran Stout**

With markups.

**Doug La Belle**

With markups?

**Gibran Stout**

Yes. And it was a different contract, the circular D.20.1903, that lists the F 31 contract clearly identifies it as a two to three day event contract, which is part of our complaint, because it's not appropriate for a long term nonprofit program. And it's different. The template is different than what is presented to us. So if you look at CDFA circular D, 20, 1903, it lists the template, and it also says that the template is recommended, it's not required. And it lists language on how to change or amend that template so that it's more appropriate for your use. So there's a lot of concerns on there that are clear contract language, like you want a facility fee, but there's no definition of the facility. It's vague, It's super vague, and all we want is more specificity. We just want bilateral contract, and a conversation means you discuss, you negotiate if you don't, it's an unconscionable, one sided adhesive contract. Okay?

**Doug La Belle**

Thank you Gibran, Michelle, would you respond to that?

**Michele Richards**

In the past, I know specifically Gibran has marked some things, N/A not applicable, and the contract has been fully executed, but those not applicable were acknowledged.

**Gibran Stout**

There was other items in addition to not applicable,

**Michele Richards**

And there also were there was a late contract that was that was accepted in the last go around, but the staff had already taken the check, so there was already a tenancy relationship by receiving the check.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Okay, thank you.

**Gibran Stout**

The original 2023 Yeah. ...Last night, Aileen

**Nick Kovacevich**

Lisa Sabo.

**Lisa Sabo**

Aileen Anderson wrote a very good email about the whole numbers she was talking about. I'm a horse trainer. I don't understand that. Okay, I've always signed contracts only. I just signed on without even reading this came to me, and everyone was like, Lisa, really ought to read this contract. I started reading contract, and I just was like, read the first page, and it's just mainly a 50% deposit, because I cried about it. I cried about it every night. How do I put a 50% deposit on when I don't even know if I'm going to be able to sustain the increases in rate? My program, you got it 50% deposit from these \$10,000 so I would take. Get that \$10,000 off my personal retirement plan to put down on a 50% go posit on comparison maintenance horse waters that have been in for 20 years, you know, right? They're still usable. But if one of my horse hurts, you know when, if it comes apart, there's good, perfectly good horse waters. But how am I supposed to be financially responsible for that. I don't mind being financially responsible for my rent fees. I would never, I pay my bills. I never, you know, it's like I barely can make the red and black. And I don't need to know if I my program can sustain the prices of the rent increase. You know, I'm just wondering if I can maintain till October. You follow. So how do I put \$10,000 down on facility repairs when there's deferred maintenance? Some of the fencing around the arena is coming apart because the plastic things haven't been maintained. And you could just easily say, Well, Lisa stable, your horse broke, that you need to repair that. You know, what I'm saying. All of a sudden, I'm out to money, and I don't even know if I can sustain either. And I sat with Michelle. I remember Michelle sitting one on one, closed recession with Michelle. And I sat there defeated, with my hands in the lap, and I said, I cannot do this 50% deposit, the way this is written, okay? And then I started to read further. Read further about that 50% deposit. And I had a business, businessman that I know, read it, and he said, I want to sign this. You can't sustain that. Any renter can't do that. And then I tried to meet with Michelle again. And she we tried, Michelle, remember we had those emails. Please look at me, Michelle. We emailed me back and forth, and you said you couldn't meet until the 17th. And I emailed you, and I said, Can I bring my contact to you on the 17th? Do you remember that there's an email too? Because I wanted to bring the contract to you on the 17th to discuss it with you. And we had great ideas for public programming. 1000s of kids coming in. I said, Why don't we open up that livestock arena, and we can have busses of kids offering the trainers, offering the horses. We'll have busses of kids coming in here and doing this. I want this. I want the public program...

## **Lisa Sabo**

That's time. Thank you, Lisa. So after that I'd like to give the floor to the facilities committee.

## **Tanya Bilezikjian**

Alright so Facilities Committee met on June 6, and we talked about ongoing projects, Master Site and a couple of Master Site projects. So for capex, 45 projects that are ongoing. Is 13 complete trying to push through what we can before the fair Master Site Plan, the administration building construction is ongoing. Staff have all relocated to the Lego village phase two, Midway restroom and showers. Their project to kick off on June 5, a site tour, and now we're going to design. We also discussed the amphitheater pressing rooms, and looked at the bids for the scope of work, and it turned out to be significantly more expensive than we thought. And so we pushed that project out of any consideration this year, as far as the Equestrian Center, there was we talked about the horse show that was held on June 15, 16. The footing maintenance has been completed. I was down there. I watched some of it happening. It was educational for me. We were updated on the number of rental agreements that had been received and where the markups were versus where they were un-marked up. We heard about CEO Richard meetings with the equestrians and the one on ones, and then we were updated on on the ranch programs, and, you know, the development of how that's going to look and feel. And we're looking forward to hearing more about it in September. I do want to add one more idea item. You know, as we talked about a lot, cost management is very important at the Equestrian Center, and so the facilities committee and staff talked, and we are going to end the LWI contract at the end of the year and go out to market. You know, hopefully cost comes down, but we'll see what happens when you go out to market. So we're with the intent of that starting up January of 2025, one additional update on the PSPS project, but let's get that.

## **Doug La Belle**

If I could just make an added statement to what Tanya said when we go out to bid, the provisions that are in the current contract, state department contract will be in that new contract. So I think the only thing we can say for sure is that it probably won't come in exactly the same as it is now. Make them in more, make them in less, and obviously, if it comes in more, we'll have to do whatever adjustments we need to make. If it comes in less, the same thing would apply on the other side of the equation. So, but I don't want anybody to have the perception that this is going to be a different RFP process. We're going to meet the same state requirements in that contract that we meet them.

## **Nick Kovacevich**

Yeah, good point and appreciate the Facilities Committee to continue to lead the charge that we as a Board have stated in the effort to reduce those costs. As we know, we're prohibited by the public funds from discounting rent for any individual tenants, but we are working very hard, and this another example to try to reduce the cost and then pass along those savings to renters. We're not operating this the boarding and the training part of this facility at a profit. We're looking to break even and pass those savings along. So that's great. I also had some ideas that I'd like to discuss with the committee and staff about reaching out to some of the elected officials that have been proponents of supporting this

group, and perhaps using their budget to bridge the gap and allow us to give further discounted rates to the borders and trainers, because we can't do that, obviously, because they get the public funds issue, but if another elected official had a budget for that, that we could tap into, that could offer savings as well. So I look forward to hopefully having those conversations and getting potentially someone to step up and support and be able to lower the cost for those renters. So this is all good stuff, and just one thing I want to clarify, I've heard about the meetings. I've heard some people say that there were meetings. I've heard some people say that there were no meetings. I just want to confirm, has there been a substantial amount of meetings that have occurred for the record?

**Michele Richards**

Yeah, I held three days of meetings, approximately nine hours. I met individually with any orders and trainers that wanted to meet with.

**Nick Kovacevich**

So if somebody says, Hey, we all we want is a meeting, we have been unable to get a meeting that's incorrect?

**Doug La Belle**

There's been meetings.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Okay, all right, good. I'm glad that's on the record. Thank you. Anything else from the board on this? All right, so we will move on now to item number four under G community. Governor, yeah, so governance, we have two public comments. We have Gibran Stout, followed by Lisa Sabo, and this is on the Governance Committee report

On the governance thing. Question for Michelle, if we asked the trainers, five trainers, if we asked you to have a meeting?

**Michele Richards**

I don't think that's pertinent to this.

You spent nine hours doing one on one meetings when all we asked was one meeting.



**Nick Kovacevich**

We need to stick to the governance agenda here Gibran.

**Gibran Stout**

Okay, you're interrupting me, so I'd like to please have my time restarted. Wait, please restart my time.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Sure. Go ahead.

**Gibran Stout**

Great. So please don't interrupt me again.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Please stick to the agenda.

**Gibran Stout**

Are we starting again?

**Nick Kovacevich**

We will start on your beginning.

**Gibran Stout**

Fantastic. We have one board of meeting you attended. We talked about board of things. This is governance. Did you assign this job to staff? We sat here in December and said that the staff is supposed to work with stakeholders and the public, which, again, this plan that has asked, we've been given these contracts despite begging for meetings, one on one conversation.

**Nick Kovacevich**

This is not related to the committee report for governance.

**Gibran Stout**

Please stop interrupting me.

**Nick Kovacevich**

We're going to stop the public comment on this if you can't...

**Gibran Stout**

Because this is your job to govern this property. Okay, so I'm going to go on to say again, you could also serve open meetings. You're supposed to have public participation. It doesn't mean you go to closed session before the public has a chance to talk. Doesn't mean that you sneak a negotiated, unconscionable, highly controversial contract into a consent calendar while simultaneously refusing to meet. And Michelle has said she will refuse to meet. We've asked for meetings. We had a meeting, and it was only after this...

**Nick Kovacevich**

Okay, we're gonna we're gonna move on. Thank you, Gibran. This is not relevant to the governance committee, if anyone wants to speak on the Governance Committee...

Bagley Keene clearly states, you're not supposed to interrupt the speaker, even if you're off topic. So

**Nick Kovacevich**

Lisa, if you'd like to start, feel free to come up. If not, we can move on, and we won't have public comment. If people want to talk about things not on the agenda. There's a time for that. Okay, thank you.

**Lisa Sabo**

We just want transparency. And I think last meeting when you did the closed door session in the middle of an open item of the consent calendar. I've been going to public meetings for a long time. I started going to public meetings way back when the fair sale was going on, and I attended all the city council meetings and meet public meetings. And since we just want transparency, and I appreciate the people looking at me too, just when you go to school. Just feel that. And then the word unconscionability or unconscious, for me, you're an attorney, so these contracts and stuff are just not transparent and and we need to work on that. We're here. I just want to hear and want to work with you guys, transparency.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Okay, thank you. Thank you, Lisa, okay, the Governance Committee. No, yeah, we have nothing else to add, so we'll move on the committee did the next meeting is TBD, so we'll move on to the Community Affairs Committee. There's anything to report?

**Dimetria Jackson**

Just that Chair Rubalcava-Garcia and I met to discuss Pride month and selected Corley, as mentioned earlier, Executive Director of the LGBTQ Center Orange County. And we will present the Proclamations to her time. And our next meeting is to be determined.

**Michele Richards**

We also want to recognize the celebration of Juneteenth on June 19, held on June 19

**Dimetria Jackson**

Yes, that is also occurred this month of June, we celebrated around and the streets.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Okay, great. Now we'll move to matters of public comment again. These are 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 shall be taken on such public comment items at this time as law requires formal public notice prior to the 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 and all other on all other agenda items at the time. Each agenda items listed speakers wish to address the work on items on the agenda are requested thoughts submit a comment card to meeting Secretary prior to the start of meeting. I prior to starting meeting, identified the agenda items on which you desire to address. The board. Again, speakers will be limited in three minutes, so we do have quite a bit of public comments here. So I'll call in groups of three, and you can just line up so we can move through quicker. First we have the first group would be Gibran Stout, followed by Lisa Sabo, followed by Dasha and Sonia.

**Gibran Stout**

Well, yeah, broke the record here. All we want is negotiate a contract. We want to have a meeting, not one on one, conversations during Labor Day weekend, whatever. We want the five trainers, there's five of us left just want to sit down, talk about the fair contract and how we can collaborate on the public programming that we want. Find out what the plan is, does its secret. Still, I'm happy that you guys know hopefully what it is. I'd love to know what it is. I'm confused why you've accepted many years, many contracts late. My own contracts have been months late, and I've never gotten a 30 day notice. They've been marked up. Never had a 30 day notice. And many times we see MOUs and LOU present.

Here while expired contracts were renegotiated, why did we not get an LOU instead of initiating basically litigation, why would you file and serve 30 day notices instead of having working up, working this out. What is happening, what is going on? Why can't we just work this out? What is happening that we can't do an Lou? it's easier to do a 30 day notice. What does that say? He said, We don't want to close it. But actions speak louder than words, and I gotta say, your actions are so loud you can't hear what you're saying.

## **Nick Kovacevich**

Lisa Sabo.

## **Lisa Sabo**

Okay, I'm trying to think of what to talk about, but I just it's interesting because the contract is overreaching. There's, like, a lot of added just rules. And I'll give you a funny story yesterday, because I'm on a horse five to six hours a day, right? I'm communicating with what's happening in the barn. It's just constant. I did a call within my Apple watch, if I could take it, text someone back. And then someone called from the Office of trying to adjust some feed and get something repaired. And then they called again, and I said to them, Look. I second my book. If I had signed that contract, I would be breaking the rule right now, because one of the rules is massive overreaching. A rule is if you can't call or text while on a horse and and they said, Oh, Felisa, that wouldn't matter to you. And I said, No, I'm a person of my word. When I sign a contract with the list of rules, I'm going to follow those rules, and in the first 10 minutes, I would be breaking the rule you follow. So that's why we just need to talk about a little bit about this contract. And then the other thing with Michelle, I have to say, we did have a good conversation. I want to touch on it again about because you did do nine I think nine hours, nine comments, nine people, the one on one, closed behind closed door session was a little hard because she spent an hour with me, and I think an hour with Sarah after me. And so that was nine people. Well, there's a lot of people there that would have liked to do more, and it would have been good to just have some small groups, you know. And so I just been thinking about how that great livestock that you built the area that you use during the fair, it's covered, seated, dirt in the middle, I think it's cement, but you could put dirt on top, and we could come over and use that area and bring and do some great programming right there. And then, if they wanted to see more, they can bring them on. Michelle had the idea of, I'm not sure where my time is, but that's why I just have, like, so many ideas. And, you know, call me, and I've been called to Pollyanna in the past. I stay super positive, and I want this to move forward. I really hope that we work together on this and make some great programs about horses and equestrian and so I have great ideas. I really want to work with you guys, but we just can't sign this contract. So please, if you really read the contract and Nick, you as a business person, please read it. I honestly, Nick, don't think you would sign this. I know you wouldn't because the other business people that have more business. Again, I'm a horse trainer. I didn't I did major in business in college, but reading contracts isn't my forte. And a few people that I showed it to outside of the horse industry, with the having to handle the repairs and maintenance like on on their good, serviceable barns, but they need to be constantly repaired, you know? And like, if you're renting an apartment, the sink broke, right? The landlord comes in and fixes the sink, not the renter and I that's just where we're at anyway, let's stay positive. Let's get something done.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Thank you Lisa. Next, we have Dasha and Sonya, followed by Reggie Mundekis, and Aspasia, Doris and Lara Maxinoski.

**Dasha**

Dear city board members, my name is Dasha and I'm writing to the OC Equestrian center. I'm a fellow equestrian rider. This place is my pride in my joy. This is my passion. Every single week, I'm counting down the days until I have another horseback riding lesson. I look forward to going with barns every day. The barn means the world to me. Horseback riding is something that just lights me up inside. I never felt this way about a sport, and I know that many people would agree with me. There's so many equestrians, horse lovers, and just people who enjoy this place as much as I do. We've truly grown a thriving community who loves riding and learning. Horse instructors who love their jobs, kids, no friends, horses, who love their owners and their jobs, summer camps, all of the above and more. There's countless amounts of people who cherish this facility. It's not just people who love the OC Equestrian center, horses do too. This is this is a safe and incredible environment where tons of horses live. They are loved by their owners and everyone else. These horses love their jobs and home. They are cared for and rent. If this place leaves lots and lots beautiful horses and ponies homeless. These amazing creatures don't deserve this. It is also so cool to be able to place like this in the city. It gives close to me for something other towns don't have. It gives it character. It makes it unique. Every time a friend from another state or place visits, they always want ... They love petting and visiting the horses, and even say hi to some of the instructors community members. Every time I bring up the equestrian center, people, they always say they want to keep it open again, tons of people and horses love the center really want to stay. Please, please, please, don't regulate. Thank you for your time.

**Sonya**

As a parent and a resident here of Costa Mesa, it breaks my heart to stand here and listen to my daughter pour her heart out and to beg the people in this room turn around and look at her when she's talking. Well, it breaks my heart that we have to beg you guys to acknowledge the gem that we have here in the city, and how truly special it is, both to our family, to the local youth and to the larger community at large. The plan increases right now. They're trans translating directly into the increased cost of lessons, and basically, you guys are going to price us out as something that's so meaningful to us, will no longer be financially feasible for us, for the for the rest of the local youth, or for the community. So what we're encouraging you is Please hear us out, listen to your constituents and give these wonderful orders and these predominantly women owned local business leaders just a seat at the table so that they can help renegotiate a terms of a contract that are more equitable.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Reggie Mundekis, followed by Aspasia and Laura Maxinoski.

**Reggie Mundekis**

Hi, I'm Reggie Mundekis. I am gravely concerned that one group of renters is being shown favoritism above all of the renters at this property. There have been a constant string of meetings to come up with contract terms for these renters. There's been requests for negotiations by the renters, which are in excess, above and beyond the privileges granted to other renters of this property. They have forced the LWI contract to be rebid to you know, at their request, there's people on staff who are now going to be running around trying to find subsidies for these renters. My concern is that, are you going to do this for all your other renters who ask for it? If the gun show shows up, you know that shows litigious on your closed session. Are you going to do this for them? If the gun show shows up and says, Oh, have the chance to make the contract is too much less you couldn't be with the janitorial contract for that? Are you going to run around find subsidies for that? You're going to do that for sand sports, Japan Fest and any other show that's here? There's been the claim made that they have to stay here because they have no other place to go. You know, like, you got a lot of people don't have another place to go. You got people don't want to put their equipment into storage when they're done with it. You know, let them park their equipment here because they have no other place to go, because they don't want to pay for it? There's a bunch of little arguments here, which, when you give on them, lead to big problems, as far as even candid, fair contract discrimination. You're trying to be nice. You're thinking, be nice. You really need to have a heart to heart your legal counsel to make sure that you're not being favorable to one party over others. I'm at the point where I am strongly leaning towards boarding and training being best delivered by the private sector, because that way, the private sector can best serve the very specific needs and the precision required for the boarding and training activities. Thank you.

#### **Nick Kovacevich**

Thank you. Reggie, next we have Aspasia, followed by Lara Maxinoski, Kim Merrill.

#### **Aspasia Zouras**

Thank you. So I take lessons here. I don't have a horse. I have no financial interest in this facility, but behind me stands hundreds of people, each horse that's out there. Yes, some of them are private, and only their owner ride them, but many of them are owned by the trainer, and each horse literally touches 30 to 40 people a week. They have multiple lessons. You know, some are just some are just someone sitting on the back. But I represent a lot of your constituents. I want to let you know that it is important to the people that you, that you would represent in your whole sphere, that we want to be able to have an option for this sport, an Olympic sport, and to be able to enjoy something that is meaningful to us, both mentally and physically. And that's well documented, regarding the meetings with Michelle, the only thing is, is I don't get a seat at the table. I don't get to be in those meetings, right? The nine meetings that she had were closed door, and there was no back and forth with everyone else. So where's my seat at the table with you, representing hundreds of people, including, you know, the youth that you just heard from? Everyone's old enough to know the game telephone. I think at the end of the day, I'm just worried that if you only have one person telling you what's going on in these meetings, that perhaps accidentally these that it could be translated incorrectly. So I would prefer for all of you to hear directly from everyone involved at the Equestrian Center, and really hear for yourself that it's a great group of people, and it is a family, and we represent things that people wish they have they want a sense of community, so we are representing that community. So please try to think for yourselves and demand that you get a fair point of view, because I know that there are several of you that really stand in my mind as having good intentions and you like me doing the right thing. The question is, deserve to have

discussion? You know, ideas discussed and a reciprocal back and forth. It is our state tax dollars and we care, right? That's the greatest thing about living in America, is that you get to be part of the process of how your money is spent. And also very good so, and I know that in your PNL, it didn't allow for the second half of any kind of expenses or revenue from the EQC. I mean, that seems a little strange where you didn't add that in there, but fine. I like where you're going in January with opening up your firing Lopez Works, thank you, and choosing to look at other options. But you know, it's a little as concerning that that wasn't included in the financials already, because it makes us worried that we won't have a place to ride for me and all the hundreds that are standing behind me. You smiled at all the animals that came into the OC fair. We offer smiles every day we offer smiles.

### **Nick Kovacevich**

...Followed by Kim followed by Carol graves.

### **Laura Maxinoski**

Have any of you actually read the equestrian center contract? Have any of the board members read it right? Show hands the question I can ask nobody else, so I appreciate that. So one out of all of you have read it? Yeah? Not. If no one's read it, then I kind of rest my case, but it's unconscious, unconscionable, however you say it being very one sided, seemingly derived from a care vendor contract, kind of like a hot dog stand. Point of view, is largely irrelevant to equestrian borders full of unfair rates and rules written by people who clearly don't know much about horse care, rules like that. We have to pick up our own horses wherever it may land on the property immediately. So if I'm riding, I have to get off, put my horse away, drag a bucket pitch fork seven acres away, potentially to go grab it when there's people paid who goes on the property, maintaining the property in this way, I just find that to be unrealistic. Rules like no talking on a cell phone, as previously mentioned. Some people use that in training, with their with their trainers to hear them as they're writing around. Some trainers conduct their business throughout the day on horseback. That's something they're trying to keep up with. An ever changing lesson schedule that's developing by the day my kids sick, I can't make it in an hour, type stuff, rules like no plants at the end of barn aisles, even when these are well kept, well kept, in advance, maybe to the property and anymore. It really doesn't address responsibilities the Equestrian Center has to provide to us services supporters here. It's a lot of problems for me, but not for me. It says that maintenance and upkeep is our financial responsibility and our dime being that they've already allowed the property to become dilapidated. Did? Will I be responsible for deferred maintenance that staff has allowed to take place over the last year and a half to speak to unfair rates? If the cost of the stall has gone up to make ends meet, and new price covers all of these expenses, then, while the additional fees on top, like the \$400 per month per trainer fee or charging us for storage bins that we weren't billed for before. Why have to cover that? If you've already covered that in the cost of the stall, rates are not fair when properly compared to what others pay for the same services, even with same vendors. Many of the comps that you guys have been shown do include feed and other amenities, but ours does not. We're asking for fair market rates, not cheap rates. We're not trying to get public into public funds. We're not looking for handouts. We want to cover the expenses. We just ask the expenses to be reasonable and fair and looks that you guys are leaning towards RFP, i appreciate that, thank you.

## **Nick Kovacevich**

Thank you. Next you have Kim barrel, followed by Carol graves followed by Mackie Hamlin. Kim, you're okay. Kim is gone. We have Carol graves followed by Mackie Hamlin followed by Amelei Mason.

## **Carol Graves**

Hi, I'm one of those people kind of new to this thinking that if we all talked and ironed things out, that you would have a good outcome, and I'm still hopeful that you can have conversations and come to something. Again, I have never received a contract anything like this before in my life for anything. And pointed out as business even not as a business person. The deposit is an issue be considered undefined, so like a facility fee, what is the facility? Where does that start and stop? There's a undefined, noncompliance fee that can range from anywhere between...\$2,500. We don't know what that is. We don't know when it will be applied. And it says it in any sort of dispute. But like another term for that, that you know there, whatever they say is final, we have to recourse. So just looking at this contract, it's it's very lopsided, and I've never been given a contract like this before. It doesn't say anything about how our horses will be cared for. So when you're signing a contract to have your horse cared for, and it doesn't tell you how that looks and what is going to happen, but they want all of these, you know, demands on us. It's very lopsided. So that's really what's an issue. And, you know, maybe it's possible that we're not that far apart. Maybe it's possible that something can be worked out. We don't know because we don't know, we're trying to communicate. We're trying to come up with solutions. We marked the contracts as a way to show you what we thought was reasonable. We added in a page that describe how our horses would be cared for. We took out things, you know, like they don't want us to use video cameras, but they're saying that their security person they're not liable, you know, things get stolen, and there's no other contracts that you have where you have long term renters. That's what makes us unique. So we need stability. We don't need six months. We don't need 30 days. We need stability. So and also charging in my one on one with Michelle, she I thought we had a good conversation. I totally flat out I don't have several \$100 for deposit. I just don't I don't have several \$100 right before the holidays to cough up for more, like I can barely afford what we have now, and charging the trainers means that what I have to pay is more expensive, and I can barely do this, you know, sacrificing for my kids, sport...

## **Nick Kovacevich**

Thank you, Carol, thank you. Next we have Macki Hamblin. Then we have Amelie Mason, followed by Sara Klifa.

## **Macki Hamblin**

Good morning or afternoon, directors. I must admit that I am here today and I'm very confused. Last meeting, I ask for each of you to ask yourselves the why. And today, I find myself being the one asking myself the why. Why is the only option for myself, my horses, many of those behind me faced with eviction as the only option. Why haven't productive meetings that can bring us all together here. Right? We were asking for fair market rates, not reduced rates. Why have our continued to ask for negotiations been completely denied? Why was the first meeting between trainers and CEO Michelle? Why was that



completely canceled? The perfect opportunity to negotiate make sure that we're all on the same page. We all want the same thing, which I genuinely believe we do. She's made it very clear through the press that she quote, finds there's nothing to meet about this point. I think the public comment today shows you different. I'll be honest, I don't understand. There have been late marked up contracts submitted for years. Why is it suddenly eviction? It's the only thing that's the option so I just want to show that this is the contract, what I was supposed to sign. But there were 100 requirements for myself. This is the half page requirement from the OC equestrian center that they're promising us. This includes providing office hours, one or five things. Two, that the facility will allow people from six to 10, 6am to 10pm that they'll provide an entry. They will get a parking pass during the fair. And the only thing that has to do with animal care is number five that you're going to provide through an open side contractor, animal feeding, box stall cleaning and arena maintenance. This does not make my horse, or any of my clients horses, or any of the horses that do my public programming, any guarantee that their safety is a priority, that the humans that are there that their safety is a priority this. This is the contract we want to talk about. So please, we want to provide the best we can for the community. I, on a positive note, would love to say that we have over 40 veterans that are going to be coming through this summer, their horses provided by these trainers. We have inner city kids from Compton coming in to experience our horses. We want the community here. We want everyone to experience what we get to experience on a daily basis. Please give us the opportunity to do that.

Thank you. Amelei Mason and Sara Klifa followed by Amanda.

## **Susie Gyor**

I'm Susie Guyer, but I'm speaking from Amelei Mason. Now she was here, but she had to leave for work, so this is her comment for the board. "My name is Emily Mason, realtor and writing student at the Equestrian Center. I was shocked when I heard the news that all trainers and borders have been given notice to vacate after our last horse show at the fairgrounds. I wanted to ask the board to please consider giving the borders reasonable time to review and discuss the terms of the new equestrian contract before signing like you would with any other lease agreement in California, the trainers and borders have paid their bills timely and are okay to keep paying their bills, even if there is a slight increase that they are not okay, setting the contract as terms that are not reasonable based on our industry standards. For example, the new contract added a hefty deposit increase, which includes the tenant to be responsible for repairs and fixing damages to the property. Having a reasonable deposit as part of this agreement is fine, but it is not fair to put the landlords to earn maintenance on the tenant. It has been and should continue to be the landlord's responsibility to keep a safe and well maintained property for their tenants. That's what they're getting paid for. Another example that is not to industry. Standards is the additional key for trainers. Other barns have standard rates for quarters and get a discount to trainers. Trainers help to supervise the students and keep the ground safe. The more trainers there are at the ready facility, the better it is for the public and for the hosting fair work to bring more students to the Equestrian Center while keeping it safe. There's other terms of the contract that simply do not apply and cannot be signed as currently written, and it's a single sided contract, and that's not right. To sum up, please give everyone a chance to discuss the new equestrian contract with you, and please consider making reasonable changes at that time. Thank you." She says,.

### **Sarah Klifa**

Hi, im Sarah Klifa. Thank you for the opportunity to speak, I've been riding at the Equestrian Center for 28 years. Now, as a trainer and co-founder of Changing Strides, I want to express my deep concern this current contract that does not offer me any security or longevity for my programs, does not outline any standard of care for the horses. I also want to express the desire to work with staff on the contract, and I have openly discussed with staff my desire to help with the future equine programs, and I am hopeful and looking forward to future discussions with the board. And staff, thank you.

### **Amanda Quintanilla**

Yes, good afternoon. Sorry, good afternoon. Yes. My name is Amanda Quintanilla, and I've been a resident of southern Orange County for over 50 years. I've seen changes throughout the years, such as the vanishing orange groves, farmlands and ranches that have disappeared. I rode horses in the hills of San Juan Capistrano before there was any development in Marbella country club. I've ridden horses at Crystal Cove in the 60s and 70s. I've been I've seen dramatic changes that have eroded our culture and our agricultural heritage, I strongly support the equine center. The equine center provides general, great opportunities and positive experiences that with valuable riding lessons and other programs. Over 2000 people have signed the petition, and it's quite evident people have the value, the importance and preserving and maintaining the affluent center. From what I understand from all what the members of the public are saying is they want a collective meeting with several people to discuss the terms of the contract, and that's nothing. It's not difficult to ask. It's something that's very transparent. That's what they want. Transparent in this government, in this government meeting, they want an opportunity for a seat at the table. And I have to apologize, because last night, it was a very late and coming home from a planning commission meeting for the city of San Clemente. So you know, it's I it's very important to be here. I value and appreciate everybody's comments. Appreciate your time and effort, and I think it's just important for everybody to come together. And I really appreciate your time and everybody's efforts, I think that there can be a solution, and I really think it's very important to just working together, working collaboratively, and I think that's a solution. Thank you so much. I appreciate your time.

### **Nick Kovacevich**

Thank You, Paul Day follow by Susie Gyor and Taylor Cohen

### **Paul Day**

So I stand here, and this is the second one I'll be that this week in the last three days. And what strikes me, absolutely fascinating is some of y'all can even turn around and look at a child when she's speaking to you, I have the utmost respect for you. Is you have looked at everybody. You have paid attention to everybody, and you have given these people. I'm not here. I don't want any of these people. I'm not here representing these people. I'm here to present represent the 67 horses that are in stalls. But what I understand was, Michele, you were the one that went out there and handed out and put up each of these eviction letters. Do you know any of those horses in those stalls? Have you had any history with those horses in those stalls? Do you know the health concerns of those horses in those

stalls? Probably not so. In fact, you know nothing about these animals that you're going to kick out on the streets. You know that the stress of moving a horse can cause a horse to colic. Have you ever personally seen a horse colicing and have to be put down in front of their owner. You are facing creating death sentences for some of these animals here, and you say, Oh, well, you know, let's send them to different stables in 45 miles from this facility right here, you have approximately 50 stalls open, 50 stalls. So here's the question, would you like to drive 50 miles to watch and visit your pet? Would you like to travel 50 miles to visit your child? No, of course not, but you're going to expect these people that have their horses here in Orange County to send them to San Dimas Temecula, because those are the only places where there are stalls available for these horses. You're basically evicting animals that have no rights. Look, I found God on the back of a horse. My question to you is, where do you find God? Because you are purposeful and willfully putting horses to death. Sleep with that tonight. Go to bed knowing that you could cause one horse, you could cause five horse, you could cause 10 horses to colic through stress of being moved, and you're accepting it and you're allowing it to happen. Shame on you. Shame on you.

### **Nick Kovacevich**

Thank you Paul. Next we have Susie Gyor And then we have Taylor Cohen, and then we have a zoom comment from Wendy Lee's

### **Susie Gyor**

Okay? Now I'm Susie Gyor, so I think I wanted to bring up in my three minutes the safety issue. So we were at the horse show in Shepherd branch when the eviction notices happened at this horse show, which was strange timing and probably a little unfortunate. But another thing that happened while we were at this horse show is we had notified the office at least three or four weeks before that, one of the cross ties, which is where we connect the horses when we're grooming and packing them up. Had, you know, they're old, they're rusted. It's not because anybody did anything wrong, it's just they needed to be rewelded and maintained. So the office had been notified they knew about it, and instead of having and fixing it, they put caution tape around it, which sat there for weeks. Somehow the caution tape disappeared, and kids or somebody tied their horses up, and that cross tape broke with horses tied to it. Luckily, the horses were not hurt. Their halters broke, so it was okay. But I mean, these are pretty huge pieces of metal, and you can imagine if the horses were running around and still attached to that it could have been killed. And so that's one thing that it's like the safety side that's kind of on you guys to maintain that. And our turnouts as well. Some of the bottoms are rotted out so that it looks like your horse is enclosed in a fence, but that fence moves because there's rotted pieces down at the bottom. If a horse falls or goes down and rolls and gets its legs stuck under that jagged piece of rotted metal, you know that could be a horse has to be put down too. So little maintenance things like this. I mean, I guess I could have a welder come in, and I could pay for it myself, but it's like, Should I do that? Is that right? Am I even allowed to do that? Or would it be like, do that? This is not your property, but it's like, you want the horses to be safe in that respect. And that's, I feel like that's negligence, not on your part necessarily, as a board, but the Equestrian Center. I feel like that's a negligence thing. Lisa mentioned the arena. There's a piece of arena that literally comes out if the wind blew in the right way and that hit a horse with a rider. Yikes. That could be, you know, I mean, riding horses is a little bit, you know, dangerous. It's like these are dangers that we should be avoiding and actively making sure that we're maintaining the property. We're not asking it to be pristine and perfect, just safe. It's like, you know,

everything's old and rusted. We don't even care. We just want it to be safe. So that's something that I think you guys should really think about and try to address, even though I don't even though I know you don't want to do capital improvements, I think you should get whoever's out there right away. You guys can hire someone to do that.

### **Nick Kovacevich**

Wendy lease. And last minute comment from came in from Angela...

### **Taylor Cohen**

Ladies and gentlemen of the board, my name is Taylor, and I stand before you today as a first responder for the past 18 years and a passionate advocate for the mental health of horses. I urge you to consider the profound impact of our equine therapy facilities and our community, especially our children. As a first responder of Orange County, I cannot emphasize enough how crucial it is to preserve this invaluable resource for the generations to come. First and foremost, as a first responder, I've witnessed the toll of stress, of trauma, health challenges that can take on their families and individuals. Equine therapy has emerged as a transformative approach in our efforts to support mental illness. Forces possess a remarkable ability to connect with humans on an emotional level, comforting companionship and healing ways that traditional therapy cannot touch for our first responders and community members struggling with PTSD, anxiety and other mental health issues, this facility is. Not a luxury, but a lifeline. Closing these facilities would be devastating. It would be depriving our community of a safe haven for children and adults alike, of all ethnicities and backgrounds find solace. There's a therapeutic bond that happens that's irreplaceable, and you find that they build the life skills of confidence and mental resilience. I'm standing here proud effort of that as a loyal servant to all the members on this board and community at your darkest times of need and 911, experiences we you and I have the responsibility to preserve and protect what makes our community strong. Our equine facilities are not just another recreational option, it's a cornerstone of community mental health. By investing in these facilities, boarders, boards and community members, we invest in our citizens and ourselves and the future generations that have access to this. I urge you to consider long term implications of closing these equine facilities. Think about the children whose lives have been transformed by the gentle touch of a horse, the veterans. Thank you, sir. Finding peace among chaos of memories and the families who found hope in the healing power, power of just walking up and seeing them, let us not deprive them of this essential resource. In conclusion, I stand with our community and prioritize saving these facilities because they are extension of my eligibility and also the communities around

Thank you Taylor, Wendy on Zoom.

### **Wendy Lease**

Yes. Can you hear me? Okay? Yes, yeah, okay. First of all, I want to thank the board members for your attention to all the speakers, they are very articulate in and passionate about this cause, kind of reminds me of, first of all, I don't have a horse. I have no financial interest. But when I was on the city council and in around 2007 or so, it was equestrians that really were the first to understand that the fairgrounds was going to be sold, the whole fairgrounds, and it was a different board. But to my point that the horses and the all that goes on there, with the boarding and the lessons and the equestrian and the special needs and the military and the kids from Compton, you know, that's really a part of the city of Costa Mesa, and I would challenge you as board members to really go back to the negotiating table and and the finer points. You know, at one time, the city of Costa Mesa, we wanted to privatize a lot of the services that our employees were giving us, and it took a long time to read those proposals and contracts, and at the end of the day, we didn't hire a lot of them. We kept the city services, but it took a lot of time, and I know you've already put in a lot of time, but I encourage you not to, to stop now. You know, horses are really a key part of the agricultural district, the farm, the vegetables, the pigs over there, the sheep that we all like to go and visit. I take my grandkids over there. So don't stop now. We don't want to have it be a gift of public funds. But by just, you know, the devil is in the details and the weeds, and it's important that you take the time we're in a recession or in a we have inflation now, it would be a hardship, and we don't want to create that. And we and Costa Mesa, we work with Michelle and and over the long years, but we want to work together and resolve this in a good way. So it's a win win for everybody. So just keep working on it, and let's, let's, let's see the end result where everybody's happy. Thank you very much for your time.

### **Nick Kovacevich**

Our last comment Angela.

### **Angela Houg**

Hi guys, sorry for the last minute comment, but thank you for allowing me to add it. I really appreciate it. I just thought about when the cross ties came up. Wanted to let you guys know that that was the day of the show. I was there. I watched the cross tie come down on those horses, and there was a kid right next to it, and it was one of my students, so I was an absolute wreck, obviously catching the two horses, trying to comfort the kid that was holding another horse that was obviously a little freaked out, right? So, and at the same time, I was helping kids get ready for this show that I'm not gonna even speak on it really, it was quite empty. It made me. Feel like, I want to say embarrassed, but I guess that's the only word I can think of, like it made me feel guilty. I get secondhand, like, oh man, like they really tried, and I want to make it successful. So I was getting kids on horses that hadn't signed up, like, last minute entries, just trying to get them out there. And one of the kids I sent out, she came back from her class, big smile, all these ribbons, and there was an eviction stall, like during her class, when I had to convince her to go out there, because she was already like, well, like, it's just so much is going on. I'm just too stressed. And I was like, Oh, just like, Go forget about it. Go have a nice ride. Have a good round, right? And then she comes back and her horse is going to be evicted, and sure that you can go over the 30 days notice and all that. I have plenty to say about that too. Regardless, I reported the cross tie broken. I tried to lift it and put it back in originally, it was too heavy for me to lift. I lift 100 pound bales to pay by myself, right? So if I couldn't lift that bar, that thing is heavy that had come down on a kid, or one of those horses, there was a kid in the cross tie. She was just far back enough, and when it came down, she got out of the way. So I just with this contract, with there being no communication of

what will be provided to me and how my horse will be safe, there's no way I could ever, like, put my horse in that situation. And it makes it feel like you know that we weren't going to sign it, as I said, it's how I feel. You know that we weren't going to sign it, you know that it would make us all leave. That's what you want in my mind, right? And I'm not saying everybody, and I just find that it's like, personally, it just feels wrong, like I get that you guys might want to do something else with the property, and you say that it'll stay open. I don't believe you, and neither does anyone in this room.

## **Nick Kovacevich**

So thank you. We'll move to the last few items. You have a item number eight, the CEO's operational announcements and updates. I'll turn that over to CEO Richards, okay,

## **Michele Richards**

I'm happy to report that we are moving forward with the formation of a new joint health and safety committee. The purpose of the committee is to provide a means by which workplace safety is improved as a result of workers and management working together to identify and help solve health and safety concerns. The Committee, which will be made up of a cross section of workers and leaders from throughout the organization, will be responsible for identifying potential unhealthy or unsafe workplace situations, recommending corrective action and ensuring health and safety education programs are established and maintained. I'm excited to see this committee come together and achieve positive results. So project number one of our Master Site Plan, the expansion of the administration building, is well underway. Crews have stripped the floors and walls of the existing wing for the much needed renovation, and have graded the footprint where the new wing will be built. You can really see how things are taking shape to connect the two wings together, as planned, the annual OC Wine Society judges' dinner was held on June 1. This is an event we look forward to all year. It's a celebration of the judges who provide their expertise for the OC Fair's very prestigious commercial wine competition. That's director Pham and wife Anne on the right, COO Karns and wife Karen in the middle, CBDO Michele Capps and husband Robbie next to them, and on the left is Director Bilezikjian with her guests, which most of you will recognize, former OC Fair Board Member Ashleigh Aitken, missing from the photo, but joining us later was CAO Melissa Au-Yeung and director Demetria Jackson and her husband, the OC fair Team was well represented at the event. On June 6, we had a chance to say thank you to our over 100 Centennial farm volunteer docents with the yummy Tri Tip barbecue in the millennium barn. These are the volunteers who provided countless hours to tour over 112,000 students, teachers and their families during this school, school years, Junior farmer tours and discovery days, and we can't thank them enough for their contributions to our agriculture education programs. And on Saturday, June 8, despite a drizzly start to the day, hundreds of cultural job seekers attended our annual hiring fair for the 2024 OC fair. It was a huge success. By the end of the day, nearly all of our fair openings have been filled. The quality of the candidates was excellent this year, and we look forward to seeing how our new employees contribute to the success of this year's fair. And on Friday, June 14, COO Karns and I attended a special presentation and reception at the San Diego County Fair for California Secretary of Food and Agriculture, Karen Ross. We were joined by San Diego County Fair CEO Carlene Moore, seeing on the right, not Secretary Ross in the middle, she spoke about the state's agriculture vision to build healthy communities and enhance the understanding of the importance of agriculture, and she pointed to bears as the perfect platform for achieving that vision. She even gave a shout out to the OC Fair & Event Center for our ag education programs at Centennial

farm. So that was very nice. And thank you to our staff for all they've done to date and will continue to do to present the 2024 fair, 21 days and counting. And we can't wait to show you what we've created for our community. And now Michelle Capps will go over upcoming. Oh, happy birthday to Director Pham. Director Pham had a double celebration, a birthday and Father's Day on the same day. So happy birthday.

### **Newton Pham**

Thank you.

### **Michele Capps**

Okay, Michelle, over today, so you've probably seen that the fireworks stands are going up around town. The one we have on our property is benefiting Costa Mesa High School baseball team. So fireworks there. It's right out on the corner on the third of July is the annual celebration for the Fourth of July. Come Come to the free celebration on the third and that is right over in lot A and that will go through the night and with a 9:30 firework show, and then during the fair, on the next to last Sunday, on August 11, the OC Marathon Fair Fun run will be happening. So that is a fun 5k walk/run that goes through the fairgrounds, and participants can have the have the opportunity to go take breaks on what are we calling the detours of fun and play games, win some prizes and possibly win some tickets to the fair. So that is happening on the 11th and then the gem fair comes back August 30 through September one that's the last weekend. It's the largest jewelry and beach show in Southern California. The weekend after that is the bridal and wedding expo, featuring amazing selections of wedding professionals ready to help everybody find that perfect gown, their reception venue, invitations, photographers, everything else you need to plan a wedding. And then September 20, sorry, September 14 is the 35th celebration of Centennial Farm. So join us for that. There's going to be a barbecue. It's a family friendly celebration, and we will dive into the rich history the bright future of the community, of our community's beloved Centennial Farm, a beacon of agricultural education for students from Orange County and beyond, that highlights the vital role of farming in our everyday lives. The day will be packed full of fun, learning delicious food, and you can go online and get your tickets. Now they're going to be music and games. It's going to be a full day of fun. And then later that same day, Speedway slides back for another round of motorcycle fun. And this one is their second knobby night, and that same night is our final concert over in Pacific amphitheater, and that will be Bonnie Raitt. And every Thursday, we have the farmers market, and that's right across the street there, and dozens of vendors selling fresh fruits and vegetables and lunch items.

### **Nick Kovacevich**

Great. Thank you. And then, all right, thank you for the updates, guys. And then we now have item number 12, which is about board of directors, matters of information. We'll go ahead and go around the table. We'll start with the birthday boy and father of three. Director Pham.

### **Newton Pham**

Appreciate everyone leaving the comments. Have a have a good month, and, I guess, and, and look, gosh, he uh. To tell Michelle she got a two for one that day.

So nice. Thank you. Director Pham. Director Bilezikjian.

**Tanya Bilezikjian**

Happy birthday to Newton, and I'll see you all the fair.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Director La Belle.

**Doug La Belle**

Happy Birthday Newton. Have a presentation for Robert, but unfortunately he had to leave. So we'll save it. I don't want to spoil it for anyone, and we'll surprise Robert later with it. I attended last month's meeting by zoom and Nick made some very poignant comments about Memorial Day and in our country, and I wanted to just share a personal thing with you, if I might. Nick Berardino, I think all of you know Nick. He's former board member and president of the heroes Hall veterans Foundation. They said on numerous times, freedom isn't free. August 1 1918, a young man from Minneapolis enlisted in the United States Marine Corps at Parris Island, South Carolina for the duration of WW one October 20, 1918, Ian's fellow Marine supported the troop ship USS Pocahontas arriving in France on November 5, six days before armistice on November 11, from the end of November until the middle of July 1919, he and his fellow Marines and army served in the army of occupation in Copland's Germany, at the bridge on the Rhine he returned on the troop ship USS George Washington. On August 13, 1990 he was honorably discharged. 78th, company, sixth regiment, United States Marine Corps.

**Doug La Belle**

Private Perri La Belle went on to marry his wife Marie, three children, and retired in 1967 as a manager at Knott's Berry Farm. And freedom isn't free, and it's because of individuals like Nick and Gary and others that we're all sitting here today doing what we're able to do in the greatest country on this earth.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Thank you. All right, Director Jackson.

**Dimetria Jackson**



Happy birthday and anniversary and I just want to thank everybody for all the work that they do. I know everyone's passionate part of the public or the board, so I just wanted to say question is appreciated, and we're working hard. Just want everybody to understand that everyone's working hard and trying to get to a good space, very well involved. I am also looking forward to there and to the concerts, and I hope to see you all there dinners or some other activities at some of the shows, and looking at the time, my first time you know there is a board member, so I'm excited. So it just for you.

### **Nick Kovacevich**

Vice Chair Bagnieris.

### **Barbera Bagnieris**

No, I appreciate you chair Kovacevich And what you do, and the staff. And happy birthday, Newton. Excuse my back. And also I want to I'm looking forward to the fair. 80% of our revenue comes from that fair. That's why we're here. We wouldn't be here without the fair. So I'm looking forward to it, and hope everybody had a great Juneteenth Celebration, and I look forward to our next board meeting.

### **Nick Kovacevich**

Great. Thank you. And I'll close, you know, I think it's tough when you're you know, in the dealing with some of these matters that are very, like Director Jackson said, people are very passionate about. And, you know, I just want to commend the board for doing the work here. I think, you know, I read down at Lakewood, they're facing a similar issue with the Equestrian Center. They're going to they're considering closing it. Um. Uh, contrary to, you know, some of the things that you that were said, we know as a board, we're doing the opposite. You know, we're doubling down on the Equestrian Center, bringing public programming to the Orange County and greater community. And it's not easy, right? We have to figure out how we're going to avoid gift of public funds issues. We have to figure out how we're going to, you know, accommodate all of the services that we want to provide. Staff is working extremely hard on that and, you know, continuing to have to fight little battles left and right. So I think it's all for a great cause. We wouldn't be working this hard if we didn't believe in, you know, the positive benefits of having horses here at our on our grounds, right here on our grounds. So, you know, I just want to commend you guys for seeing this through. We've spent a lot of long meetings. We do have, you know, a lot of folks that have signed agreements and are renting so, you know, just we keep hearing like, oh, you we're shutting this down. We're doing the exact opposite, right? We're expanding it. And, you know, sometimes it feels like we're, you know, some of our actions are being misconstrued. But I think that what's important to do is, you know, support my fellow colleagues here in the staff, in this hard work to, I think, get it right. So let's continue that path. The good news is, though, as well, we do have a break, so we've got the fair and that is really exciting. As Vice Chair said, that's really the lifeblood of our of our organization. So and they continue to knock out of the park outside of the virtual fair. I'd say the physical fairs that I've been a part of have been nothing short of fantastic. So I expect the same this year. I'm very excited. It is always a good time. And also wanted to thank the staff and entertainment team for bringing in some great acts this year. I'm very excited about a lot of the concerts on the on the schedule, so I look forward to seeing you guys hanging out talking about what's important. You know, other important things in life than our fair business, which we won't be discussing, obviously, as a

group, but other things we will be discussing, getting know each other better this summer at the fair and the festivities. So I look forward to that. And you know, we won't meet again until September 26 unless there's some special meeting that needs to occur.

**Director La Belle**

Now that was the best virtual fair we've ever had.

**Chair Kovacevich**

Fair enough, okay, and with that, meeting adjourned, all right, see ya.