

## OCFEC September 28 Board Meeting

**Nick Kovacevich** Good morning, everyone. I'm gonna call the meeting to order. We're gonna start the meeting. We're waiting on one additional board member to come in person, so we'll defer any action items until we meet the in person forum, but we can start the meeting. So first, the mission of the OCFEC is creating equitable community, access to agriculture, entertainment, cultural and educational experiences. And now, do we have a volunteer that like to lead us in pledge? All right. Director, Bilezikjian.

**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" is the Pledge of Allegiance

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you. Next, we'll do roll call, Summer.

**Summer Angus** Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** Here

**Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneris?

**Barbara Bagneris** Here.

**Summer Angus** Director Labelle?

**Doug La Belle** Here.

**Summer Angus** Director Pham?

**Summer Angus** Director Rubalcava Garcia?

**Summer Angus** Director Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz** Here.

**Summer Angus** Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Here.

**Summer Angus** And Director Jackson?

**Dimetria Jackson** Here.

**Nick Kovacevich** Okay, thank you. Next, we'll go. Well, I guess skip that. So we'll move to item number 9A, which is the Community Affairs Committee presentation to Judge Aguirre. I believe he's on zoom.

**Dimetria Jackson** Good morning your Honor. So...

**Unknown Speaker** Let me get it off of mute.

**Frederick Aguirre** Good Morning

**Dimetria Jackson** So in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month which runs from September 15 until October 15, we're right in the midst of it recognizing the achievements of the Hispanic and Latino community. I'd like to introduce you all your explanation about Judge Frederick Aguirre. Okay, so the Honorable Judge Frederick Aguirre is a retired Orange County Superior Court Judge, the son of Mexican American immigrants. Coming from a family of proud military veterans. He has served Orange County as an attorney and a judge for over 40 years, retiring in 2017 after 15 years on the bench. Upon his retirement from the bench, Judge Aguirre joined Judicate West as a neutral serving as a mediator and arbitrator. Judge Aguirre is a former president of the Orange County Hispanic Bar Association and former president of the League of United Latin American Citizens. Beyond his work in the judiciary, Judge Aguirre has been instrumental documenting the significant contributions Latino servicemen in the US military during World War Two. He's been a distinguished speaker at Hero's Hall, where he lectured about his work and many folks his author about the service of Latinos during World War Two. Judge here, I wish you to be here that we have this wonderful proclamation which we will give to you so nominated field proclamation resolution on the board of directors of the 32nd district agriculture Association regarding Hispanic Heritage Month. Whereas the 32nd district agricultural Association's mission is creating equitable community access, agriculture, entertainment, cultural, educational experiences. And whereas the district vision Orange County's Town Square, safe place for the community gathers, finds value. And whereas the district recognizes the importance of honor, September 15 to October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month, whereas the district recognizes the Hispanic community and achievements, agriculture, the arts, literature, sciences, medicine, military service, businesses, entrepreneurship, whereas the district celebrates Hispanic

community's contributions to the rich, diverse culture and heritage of Orange County. And further resolve OC fair events and to reinforce principles diversity equity, inclusion and non-discrimination as core institutional values and that safety is the underlying element to making any one person or community feel welcome in nearly any setting. Further resolved this position of the OC fair and convincing to board of directors and staff to enforce the policy prohibiting discrimination of any person on the basis of race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, and to respond to all concerns accordingly. Now therefore, the Board of Directors of the district here by proclaimed September 15 to October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month at the OC fair and Event Center. In recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month 2024, 32nd district agricultural Association honors judge Frederick P Aguirre who as a proud American of Mexican descent and serving Orange County community over 50 years as the. Indicated the last several years to researching and documenting the role Orange County Mexican Americans played in United States military history. We celebrate his dedication to uplifting the memory recognition of Mexican American veterans from Orange County.

**Fredrick Aguirre** Thank you, and I wish I could be there. My wife has been diagnosed with covid yesterday, and so the doctor said I should probably not be engaged in going around with folks, shaking hands, things of that nature. So I'm going to assign myself to my home for the next few days. I want to thank the committee for this honor. You know, my family came from Mexico in 1919, to this little town in Placentia, California, and so from that date, we have been contributing to this county in terms of work, efforts, educational I have you know family members that have served, of course, in the military from World War One to the present date, and I wanted to share with everyone else the contributions of Latinos to the defense and promotion and development of this country. And so we go back to the foundings of this country, the American Revolution. And we see general Bernardo Galvez leading a 7,000 man army composed of Cubans, Mexicans, Haitians and other Latin Americans who are who were fighting for America against the British up and down the Mississippi River in Pensacola, Florida in the Civil War. Our first Admiral of the United States Navy is a Latino, David Farragut. Farragut is how we pronounce his name here in America, but if you go to any other Spanish speaking country, it's Farragut, and he

was our nation's first Admiral of the United States Navy, a Latino in World War One. It's interesting to note that we had a San Diegan by the name of Burt Acosta, who was a pilot in World War One. He wanted to serve in our Nate, our Air Force in 1914 when the war broke out against Germany, but we were not at war until 1917 so he or 1918 so he went to Canada and helped train British Air Force personnel for the Royal Air Force of England for three years, until we came into the war in 1918 and then he moved over and of course, was a captain In our Air Force, and later on, set numerous speed records in World War Two. We've documented that over half a million Mexican Americans served during World World War Two, including my dad, two of his brothers and 23 cousins of my dad also served in World War Two. Three interesting folks from Orange County that served in World War Two. One was Lieutenant Bernardo Marcus Yorba, born here in Yorba Linda. Before it was Yorba Linda, it used to be called Yorba in honor of his family. And he was born here in about 1920 and he went into the service, and he was a B17 bomber pilot over Europe when he was shot down and made a prisoner of war in 1943 he was held for two years in the same Stalag, the same prison camp that you saw made famous in that movie, The Great Escape with Steve McQueen and others, he was in that Stalag camp for two years. He returned, of course, fortunately, and had a successful business career here in Orange County.

**Frederick Aguirre** Another famous person that is not so famous in terms of the books, but famous for what she did. Her name was Maria Dolores Hernandez, and she became a she enrolled, enlisted into the service in 1941 right after World War Two was entered into she became an Air Force Major, and when she retired, she got into real estate development here in Orange County. When she died in 1990 she bequeathed \$1 million to the orange, to the St Jude hospital, to the orange, to the California State University Fullerton nurses program, and 700 And \$50,000 to the Saint Jude hospital nursing program. She had been a registered nurse here in Orange County before she went into the service. Here's a Mexican American woman leaving 1.3 quarter million dollars as a philanthropist after after she died, a third person that we still honor today. Joe Juarez was born in Fullerton, and his brother Maurice Juarez was killed in a tank battle in 1944 November of 44 in France, and is still buried there. His other brother also served. And Joe Juarez is still alive. He lives here in orange in the Korean War, hundreds of 1000s of Mexican Americans served here in Orange County, significantly, of the 55 Orange County

men that gave their lives for the preservation of democracy in South Korea, 17 of them were Mexican American. That's 30% and that at that time, that's 30% casualties of our men. At that time, Orange County had about 10% population Mexican American. So that meant that Mexican Americans were contributing their lives at three times their numbers. That's just goes to show you, the patriotism of Mexican Americans all throughout these wars. And of course, we have, in the Vietnam War, Afghanistan, Iraq, numerous Mexican Americans that have served and gave their lives for their country.

**Fredrick Aguirre**

I want to just point out one more person, my cousin, Staff Sergeant Christopher Miranda Bremen, who was born here in orange, was a staff sergeant in the Pentagon on 911 when it was hit, when he was ordered out of the wing that the airplane hit into his wing at the Pentagon. He was ordered out because the Pentagon, of course, was consumed with smoke and fire. He saw that people weren't coming out of his wing that should have been coming out. He went back in without a mask on, without any equipment before the fire department came, because he was outside the building, he was able to go back in. He didn't have to, but he went back in. Was pulling people out at his peril, and of course, he sustained heavy lung damage as a result. But fortunately, he was able to save several persons lives, and he was able to survive it himself. So not only is he a survivor, but he was a responder. The president at that time, President George W Bush, awarded him not only the Purple Heart, which is for combat injuries suffered, but also the soldiers medal, one of the first times that a metal, the Purple Heart has been awarded for combat injuries on continental soil since the Civil War, the Pentagon issued a coin commemorating Staff Sergeant Bremen. And here's the coin. You can see it. It's a five sided bronze coin, and on it is his image with his three daughters when he was awarded the Purple Heart. And it says to staff sergeant Christopher Bremen, never leave a fallen comrade the Pentagon. So not only am I very proud of our family's contributions to the defense of this country, but also of other Mexican Americans, including, of course, those that I've talked about here in Orange County. We have documented those heroes in several books that we have self published, and have given all of that information to the Orange County Department of Education, and it has stored all of that, archived it onto a website called American patriots of Latino heritage that is accessible to the public. We've also, I've also done a film, a world film on Latinos in World War Two, and given that to the website, and I've also interviewed

35 World War Two Mexican Americans, all of which have died, with the exception of Mr. Juarez, it's still alive and those doc those videos are also archived with the website Thank you.

**Dimetria Jackson** of the committee, and I'm sorry she's not able to be here. She's supposed to be online now she's going to be here in person, so just be me in the photo right now.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you, Director Jackson, that was that was great, and I think should consider maybe a Heroes Hall exhibit for all that work. So thank you. So moving on. We'll jump to the public comment. Actually, we only have, I believe, one public comment, general comment, which I think is probably a record under my tenure as Chairman. So let's start with Angela Rose.

**Angela Rose** Okay, I just have a short comment for you guys today. Thank you all for being here. Good morning board. I just wanted to remind you guys that your actions have consequences on real people. So that's pretty much all I have to say. I'm grateful to hear that arenas have been open at the Equestrian Center, all that fun stuff, and I look forward to seeing what happens to the future. Hopefully no more of this. Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you. Summer. Any other zoom public comments?

**Summer Angus** No.

**Nick Kovacevich** Okay, great. So that concludes matters of public comments, agenda item number eight, quickly to Agenda Item number seven, which is CEO's operational announcements and updates.

**Michele Richards** Just a few announcements. The farm was buzzing on Saturday, September 14, as hundreds of supporters and community members gathered to celebrate the 35th anniversary of Centennial Farm, and thank you to Vice Chair Bagneris and Director Bilezikjian for representing the board at the event. A special presentation during the event included guest speaker Becky Bailey Finley, whose father Jim Bailey, first conceived and led the development of Centennial Farm that they also included a very special visit from California Assembly Member Cottie Petrie Norris, who presented a resolution from the California Legislature to Vice Chair Barbera Bagneris on behalf of the board. Guests enjoyed a Tri-Tip lunch cooked by our own Centennial Farm staff, along with other fun activities like pumpkin bowling, sack

races and even cow chip bingo as a fundraiser for the Centennial farm. Would either you'd like to explain what Cal chipping was all about?

**Barbara Bagneris**

That was my first experience. Unfortunately, I did not get to see the chip land. I did have to leave. They were uncooperative. They started with one cow, and then that one didn't cooperate. So they brought another cow that happened to bed her mother, and then I had to leave. So were you there for the chip land?

**Tanya Bilezikjian**

I heard it. It was more of a splat. Yeah, that was a lot.

**Barbara Bagneris**

So they have have squares, and the cow had chip, and somebody, yes, somebody won.

**Michele Richards**

So yes, and so it was a fundraiser for the Centennial farm Foundation. The winner got a third of the pool, and happened to be one of our own Centennial farm employees who won. So that was great, and it was a really good fundraiser for the foundation. Of course, all those funds come back to Centennial farm. And speaking of Centennial farm, the California Department of Food and Agriculture has awarded Centennial farm a grant in the amount of \$362,861. This is for a new project called the centennial farm story of California, specialty crops. The grant proposal submitted in partnership with the foundation, included a new project that will introduce and recruit young and beginning farmers as well as members of underserved and underrepresented groups to a variety of specialty crop career opportunities. So participants will plant and raise their own demonstration gardens at Centennial Farm. So we're very excited about that. So, congratulations to the centennial farm team and the foundation for all their hard work to compete for and win that grant. The ranch was a very busy place two weeks ago as we were activated by the California Office of Emergency Services. Is a large animal evacuation site due to the airport fire in Tribuco Canyon. Our intake included 94 horses, four goats, two chickens, three ducks and two geese. Our team even prepared additional portable stalls in case they were needed, and thankfully, they were not. The coordination between our ranch staff, our security team, our livestock crew, and volunteers help make the emergency intake as smooth as possible. As of September 15, all 105 evacuated animals have left the OC fair and Event Center and were able to return home safely. So that's a good ending. And once again, the OC register readers have named the OC fair the best fair or festival in Orange County beating out Pageant of the Masters and the Orange International Street Fair

Fair. The announcement last week by the OC register, said quote "With a history dating back to the late 1800s the OC fair is among the biggest events of its kind in America. The fair offers enough entertainment, attractions, livestock and shopping to keep locals coming back for more." So we'll have some additional operational updates that will be covered during the Facilities Committee report as well. So...

**Nick Kovacevich**

Wonderful. Thank you. That's very exciting. I did not see that. Yeah, check it out. That's great. Okay, awesome. So thank you. We'll move to item number, actually, 9b if we can, which is the OC, fair, wrapup presentation. So kind of keep the momentum going here, Michelle, if you don't mind.

**Michele Richards**

No, not at all. Okay, gonna solicit Michelle caps and Ken Karnes to help with this presentation as well. You know, in past years, we present a lot of data and statistics, and this year we wanted to highlight some memorable moments from this year's OC fair. It truly was a affair with lots of great moments. So here we go. So let's start with the OC fair 5k fund run. It was held on Sunday August 11, and I'm just sorry that director rubelcaba Garcia is not here yet, but I was very honored to run the 5k with Director Ruval-Calva Garcia. Well, one of us ran and one of us mostly walked. I'll let you guys decide which one was which the annual OC fair 5k fund run is a joint event between the OC Fair and the OC Marathon. We provide the venue and the marathon provides all the logistics. It's been a great partnership for many years. We also share in the revenue from that event, and here to make a presentation about that. Is it the executive director of the OC marathon, Gary Kucher, Gary, hello.

**Gary Kucher**

Thank you board, thank you Michelle, for all the support for few years. This is a big year for the OC marathon. In May, we had our 20th anniversary event at the OC fair and Event Center, and so it was a solo event. It was amazing. There were so many stories, and the marathon has so many life changing events that happen every single year for people out there. So it's just exciting to see that and be a part of that. And so we follow that up with the OC fair Fun Run, August 11. This was our 16th year doing it at the OC fair Event Center, and following the theme of always a good time, we said that running is always a good time. I don't know there always is but, but we said it was. And so I think we have more families there than I've ever seen before. There's so many

families that come out there and run as a group of 4,5,6, we have this called the detours the fun. That's where you can be running along, take your right turn and go play some carnival games. This year, we gave away 1,200 stuffed animals to people who broke and played or did the beer pong, although it wasn't beer and then they got to go down to the main stage at the Pacific Amphitheater, and we have guitars and microphones and stuff, and they take some great pictures down there. So it's it really is always a good time. And so again, I want to thank you for having us back every year. We'll present this check for just under \$24,000. We look forward to doing this for many more years.

**Michele Richards** Thank you so much. Gary. Okay, moving along, our everyday passport gets you into the OC fair any day, every day. We have a limit of 10,000 available for this year's fair, and we sold 10,011 in fact, they sold so quickly that we'd sweep in an extra 11 before before the end of the sale. So that was a great milestone. Ken?

**Ken Karns** Well, we had a lot of talks this year at the 2024 OC fair. A million dollar lottery winner the first year OC fair on Sunday, July 28 at the OC fair, California State Lottery, we had a \$1 million scratchers ticket winner.

**Nick Kovacevich** Wow.

**Ken Karns** ...Blue Bird store in LA, yeah...

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Exactly. Okay.

**Michele Richards** Well, people were crazy for concerts this year, before, during and after the fair now, one of our favorites who could forget, crazy man, Alice member right performing on stage with a live snake, and trust me, that was a live snake that he was on stage with. We had a record number of Pacific Amphitheater concerts this year, 38 in all. But that wasn't the only records broken. The Hangar had an average attendance per show of 1,352 attendees. That was the highest grossing hangar season for the OC Fair. The action sports arena performed very well as as well, a record average per show of 1,252 people per performance. Now, merchandise in the Pacific amphitheater was off the charts this year. People just wanted t shirts and souvenirs like crazy. Merch sales were in excess of \$1.2 million that people spent on on those items. So any idea, or any guesses on which performances which band sold the most merch?

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Revoloution.

**Michele Richards** Revolution, there you go. How about second place? No, it was actually stray cats. So an average of \$82,000 per show for revolution. And we did four shows with revolution, two shows with stray cats, average of over 73,000 per show. So lots of T shirts out there for sure. Let me talk about creating lots of summer jobs, because that certainly was a highlight of this fair. We're very proud to be able to offer the community lots of great summer jobs during the anglosi fair. It all started this year with our hiring fair in June, which resulted in 230 job offers in just a few hours. And then recruiting continued over the next six weeks, with a final count of 1,229 that were hired for the 2024 OC fair, and that was just our staff. Didn't that didn't count all of the employees of concessionaires and vendors in the carnival, for example, lots of great summer jobs at the OC fair. So, Michelle?

**Michele Richards** How many piglets do you think were born? We have two batches and 17 piglets total.

**Nick Kovacevich** Wow.

**Michele Capps** Yeah, the first one was eight, the second batch was nine. And we also have one little pea chick born during the fair as well the the peacock couple had a little baby.

**Nick Kovacevich** Yeah, wow.

**Ken Karns** Okay. Karen, okay. Who has another vegging out stand with a great collaborative effort between Juan Quintero, our general manager from op group, our Master concessionaire, and Howard Sandler, our director of events, commercial and concessions, we relocated and revamped a permanent food a food concession location in the southwest corner of the main Mall. Vegging out was created, and the location outperformed any previous iterations of that location. Somebody was sorry. Somebody made a confession earlier, but we'll say that you had an offer. We're responsible for a total of 2,895 units of product sold. The top seller was the bacon avocado cheeseburger. Very difficult to tell. It wasn't bacon or beef burger. And a very close second was the vegan taco.

**Michele Richards** Very good. They were good, alright, as we've done was the last several years, our board members work with us to identify deserving nonprofits in our community and provide 1000s of free admission tickets for use by

the people served by those nonprofits. This year, 5,000 tickets were donated to folks that otherwise would not be able to afford to come to the fair. I wanted to highlight one of those nonprofits, save our youth. It's a local organization here in Costa Mesa. That's Costa Mesa city council member Monroe Chavez on the far left, who is the programs manager at save our youth. And he and soy Executive Director, Mary capellini, brought the group of teenagers to the OC here this year. I also wanted to give a shout out to our carnival provider, Ray hamk shows, because they doubled the bird's donation and provided ride passes for all of those kids to have a full bear experience. So I know it was hot that day the picture was taken, but that was a lot of happy faces that Day for a local nonprofit. And it was a joy to bring that joy to that group

**Nick Kovacevich** That for save our youth, or for...

**Michele Richards** Save our youth, yeah, theypick one, one local nonprofit. Back to you, Michelle.

**Michele Capps** we had another high. We had a record bid for the grand champions, year of \$14,000 and total of 270,593 for the entire livestock auction that day. But that was amazing.

**Michele Richards** Some expensive state.

**Dimetria Jackson** Yeah, yeah, yeah. Ken?

**Michele Capps** Okay. \$5 taste the fair. The team worked very hard to reimagine and launch the \$5 taste of fair this year. It ran every day, all 23 days, from 11am to 4pm. It was a tremendous success, and was extremely well received by our public, our staff and partners alike. Numerous guest surveys, compliments were received daily. 136,833 individual orders were sold. That equates to a 12% market share of the 1,137,555 in attendance. Janice Yamanaka was one of our super fans and regularly posted her \$5 taste of the day.

**Michele Richards** Almost everyday. Yeah, awesome. Yeah. Loved it. Okay, Another special moment was a visit from US Congressman Lou Correa. Congressman Gray was honored by the board of directors in recognition of Chicano heritage month during the month of August, we celebrate that here at the OC fair, he received a proclamation at a dinner hosted by the board. Congressman Correa is leading an effort in Washington to recognize August as Chicano heritage month, month nationwide. And

Chicano Heritage Month is celebrated each August with various cultural activities integrated into the annual OC fair. So that was a great evening to present that proclamation to him, Michelle.

**Michele Capps**

We have a very talented community. And in total, they, I mean, they just came out in mass and submitted 16,259 different entries in the culinary, fine arts, hobbies, collectibles, that in livestock, garden and floral categories.

**Ken Karns**

Okay, our hydration stations. Another... this year, we installed water meters on our four free chilled water stations, and we can now accurately post how great they are for our guests. Through the 23 days in the fair, we dispensed over 16,000 gallons of water. Now, some fun facts, there are 120 ounces in a gallon, so that equates to 2,048,640 ounces an average plastic water bottle, 16 ounces. That would equal 128,030 plastic water bottles. A bottle is approximately eight inches tall. That is 1,024,320 inches of bottles, 85,360 feet. There is 5280 feet a mile. So that's over 60 miles of miles leading to end to end, and that would get us from here to Westminster and back.

**Michele Richards**

Very good. All right. So another memorable moment during this year's fair actually happened every day during the fair. I can't remember a fair with such great participation by our board members. Starting with cutting the ribbon on opening day, continuing with various gatherings with family and friends throughout the fair, and culminating with the best of show award ceremony on closing day, board members participated in just about every aspect of this year's fair, and it was really wonderful to see all of you with your families and friends, enjoying yourself so much of the Fair this year.

**Michele Capps**

A huge shout out to our public relations team. They had over 14 media teams on opening day and throughout the run affair, we had a total month impressions at this 459 million. We had, I mean, I can go on and on with all of these, the total TV broadcast audience was over 11 million. The print and online impressions, 402 million. Total radio audience, 45 point 8 million. And with all of that, the total ad equivalency, \$6,935,367 and that is pretty much all earned media.

**Michele Richards**

We did. We did not pay.

**Michele Capps** What it would have cost. Yeah, amazing. That was really good.

**Michele Richards** Okay. Ken.

**Ken Karns** Well, we had some downs. Let's talk about safety and security. Medical on site, medical personnel were able to evaluate and provide basic first aid to over 1600 fair and concert attendees who were able to return to the fair or concert or depart without additional medical assistance, only 17 fair and concert goers require transportation to medical facilities for further treatment issues such as suspected stroke and heart attack. Reaction to these things, low blood sugar, seizures and other medical occurrences transpired for these guests while attending OC fair, and our team was able to promptly address these issues, utilizing on site and outside emergency resources to provide immediate care on security due to the OC fair securities team's efforts to write out the 2024 OC fair issues and contacts related to either after hours or dark dark day and live day occurrences, theft, trespassing, weapon screenings and venue security were also at all time loads, with the most important being Zero weapons related issues for the fourth consecutive year. OCFEC security, mobile teams, Costa Mesa court enforcement and the Orange County Health Team coordinated efforts to assure that street vendors that are not in compliance with health and safety standards city or county requirements were not operating On ocfc property, with the exception of a few unauthorized vendors that may have gotten a couple of minutes to operate prior to being discovered. Street vendors were mostly absent from ocfc property throughout the 2024 OC fair few occurrences of counterfeit currency activity in 2024 assumed to be the result of several arrests made in previous years regarding counterfeit currency use and law enforcement. 250 plus occurrences of law enforcement interaction due to suspected criminal activity or elevated circumstances resulted in only five total arrests throughout the 2024 OC fair and summer concert season. Our newly established unified command and communication capabilities, in addition to significant improvements in surveillance and detection equipment and capabilities, contributed greatly to the sets of law enforcement identifying and addressing issues as quickly as possible, we had a very secure, healthy and operationally safe there.

**Michele Richards** We're happy for now, hereafter, right. Okay, back to you, Michelle, what did our customers say?

**Michele Capps** So post visit, surveys were emailed out, and we had on site QR codes,

and we collected close to 8000 results, and every category in affordability and value was up. As you can see, we maintain the admission price, the carnival ride prices, and with the addition of the aforementioned \$5 taste of the fare, our guests liked it and it showed in the numbers.

**Michele Richards**

This is a measurement that we've been paying close attention to each year. You know, a lot of things contributed to these numbers, like the \$5 case, for example, the ride wristbands. So it's really nice to see the numbers pay off this year. Okay? And probably one of the most memorable moments for staff was watching young Canon Kovacevich celebrate his fifth birthday party with his best buddies at Monster Trucks. Pure joy. It makes us think about how many people celebrate really meaningful events that you know, engagements and birthday parties and anniversaries and family reunions each year at the fair. So how do we do overall, lots of great memories, but we did quite well with the Fair this year, and you all have a detailed report in front of you, there are copies in the back for the public as well. So you know that we raise the price of parking due to demand and to incentivize alternative transportation. We increased our controlled attendance every day from 45,000 to 50,000. But we kept the admission prices the same carnival ride ticket prices were the same this year, we worked very hard with our concessionaires to keep food prices down, and for the most part, they did. And we introduced the hugely popular \$5 face to fair every day during the fair. So all of that on top of fantastic there that was well received by the community, and we're happy to report record net proceeds, which obviously we will use to fund our Educational and Community Give Back programs like Centennial barn, imaginology, The Ranch and Hero's Hall, Along with our Master Site Plan and our ongoing operations. So \$26,738,442 in net proceeds from the 2024 fair. So well done, everybody. So this year's fair definitely proved that it's always a good time at the OSC fair and Michelle, did you want to introduce our theme for 2025

**Michele Capps**

Everybody find Your happy. Everybody has something different that they find joy in at the fair, and we are inviting the community to come back and to find their happy land, thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Thank you so much. We do have two public comments on this. I wanted to obviously get the report out first. So first we'll call Omar Kurachi.

**Omar Kurachi**

Good afternoon respected board members and the executive team. My name is Omar Kurachi. I am fortunate enough to be part of this fair for 35 years. Father did this. Mother did this. She's continuing to do this. Father passed away two years ago, and I'm carrying on this tradition. Fair means a lot to me, you know, and I tried various different products, and I really appreciate the fact that we continue to allow new and innovative products. I believe in putting in the work I've attended many, many fairs and events around. About the world actually, because you are new and innovative products. And last couple years, I brought virtual reality, and it could be difficult to reason because people aren't used to it. But just to kind of share with you, this couple right over here, they just had a baby. They said, We can't even go around the fair and experience like we used because we just had the baby. We went on this we felt like we were on an actual roller coaster. These two kids learned about dinosaurs. It's amazing how much they it was a virtual dinosaur roller coaster. They learned. They pointed out dinosaurs that I hadn't heard of both since elementary school. This family, this gal right over here, she's, she was pregnant, six months pregnant. She's like, I love the little roller coasters, but I can't go on mine. She, she she can't experience it. She felt safe in the seat. She, she experienced it. And she felt like she was actually this older young lady. She, she had back surgery. Same exact thing. I felt like we didn't like all their posters at all, but they both loved it. She got to experience it, even though she had back surgery. These are two US veteran Air Force pilots. They experienced the Air Force virtual reality experience. And the list goes on and on, from autistic kids and, you know, it's, it's been quite a journey trying to bring products around. But I really appreciate you guys being open to allowing new products and things to come into there. And because it's forever evolving and changing, and also real quickly, I just really want to thank Doug La Belle. I've seen him since I was a kid. He's giving back to the community and the impact that he's had for this year. And also Michelle Richards, I've had a brief interaction with her as well. Means a lot to me, really, does you know? Yeah, thank you to each and every single one of you guys. You know the decisions that you make, it impacts not just person you may see in front of you, but other families. That's what hundreds of families. I'm just one story. So there's many of those stands out there. And thank you for what you guys do. I want to express my gratitude. Things are pretty funny. Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Thank you. Omar, next, we have Reggie Mundekis.

**Reggie Mundekis** Hi, I'm Reggie Mundekis, and thank you for the opportunity to address you. I bought a pass like I usually do. I was there quite a few times. I'm a big wednesday thursday person, and I encourage other people to go on Wednesday and Thursdays, because it's same fair, It's less crowded, and vendors love you even more because you're there on the slow days. So I was able to get one of my neighbors to go with me this year. She normally has to help babysit grandkids, and it was her free day, so it's very exciting for her to be able to be with a younger adult. So she hadn't been here in about a decade, so she was really impressed in the way that it's changed since last time she was here. She liked the fact that it was super clean, that the attendance cap gives it enough room to sit and walk around, and we were here during the day, so here we take care of the take advantage of the \$5 food deal. She really liked that because it's more of a portion size that she'll eat. And she said to me, you know, when I bring the grandkids back, this is good for the kids, because her problem is, their grandkids get the big thing. They take two bites of it. They say, Oh, Grandma, I don't want the rest of this. So, you know, that deals with that issue right there. So, and she's going to talk with the women's group that she has, because they're always looking for things to do about coming to the fair, buying tickets, Wednesday, Thursday, coming down and having the activity down here. So it was really fair. I enjoyed it. She enjoyed it. And thank you very much. Everybody worked on it. It was a great event, and took a lot of hard work to get there. Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you. Reggie. Okay, so that concludes Item 9b. We're going to go ahead and put back on the record to note that Director Rubalcava-Garcia has arrived to give us the ability to vote. Thank you. And so we'll circle back to some of those action items. First Agenda Item number five, the minutes. We do have the minutes from the board meeting held June 27 if anyone would like to make a motion to approve this.

**Barbara Bagneris** Director Bagneris, I'm move to motion the minutes.

**Dimetria Jackson** Second.

**Nick Kovacevich** Motion and a second, Summer.

**Summer Angus** Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneris?

**Barbara Bagneris** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director La Belle?

**Doug La Belle** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

**Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia** Yes

**Summer Angus** Director Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz** Abstain.

**Summer Angus** Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Yes.

**Summer Angus** And Director Jackson?

**Dimetria Jackson** Yes.

All right. Minutes are approved. Next, we'll move to Agenda Item number six, which is the consent calendar. All matters listed on consent calendar operational matters about which the board has governing policies implementation of which delegates and CEO they will be enacted in one motion. There will be no discussion on these items prior to active board director votes on the motion, unless members of the board, staff or public request specific items be discussed separately and or removed from the section. Any member of the public who wishes to discuss Consent Calendar items should notify the chair of the board at the time requested and be recognized by invitation, the chair would work to address the board. Okay, so I have a question, do we have any adjustments to this consent consecutive, or any items need to be pulled?

**Michele Richards** Yes, staff needs to pull under rental agreements. Rental agreement R-002-24. That is a rental agreement for an event that is scheduled to take place in March of 25', so that is an error on the number the rental

agreement number. It should reflect 25' not 24' but there's plenty of time, so we'll bring that back in October, with the correction out there. Other than that, everything else is good.

**Nick Kovacevich** Okay, great. Any comments here from the board?

**Barbara Bagneris** Director Bagneris, I believe we accept the consent calendar.

**Doug La Belle** Director La Belle, second.

**Nick Kovacevich** All right. Motion and a second, Summer?

**Summer Angus** Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneris?

**Barbara Bagneris** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director La Balle?

**Doug La Belle** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

**Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Yes.

**Summer Angus** And Director Jackson?

**Dimetria Jackson** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Okay, great. Now we're back on schedule. Here. Back to Agenda Item number 9c, which is a staff presentation on the concept for The Ranch. And this is listed as an action item to have a vote on whether or not to approve The Ranch. So we'll first start with I'll turn it over to CEO Richards to give the lead staff presentation. Then we'll take public comment on this matter, if we have some and then the board will discuss. So please.

**Michele Richards**

Very good. We are very excited today to present to the Board of Directors and the public, The Ranch Community Center. So what is The Ranch community center? It's the newest expansion of the OC Fair and Event Centers Community Give Back educational offerings, just like Hero's Hall, Centennial Farm, and Imaginology, and you know that we've been giving monthly updates about the ranch now for several months. The mission is to advance the overall mission of the organization, creating equitable community, access to agriculture, entertainment, cultural and educational experiences. And our vision for the ranch is a place open to all in the community with programs that create a positive impact, highlighting equine branching in nature, promoting learning, wellness, health and joy through a variety of experiences. To make that vision a reality, The Ranch will offer free and low cost educational and recreational programs through equine exhibits, The Ranch after school program, Ranch Discovery Day, school tours and hands on equine experiences, accredited Equine Assisted programs and or services and partnerships, educational partners, small regional horse shows and clinics ,and of course, writing instruction, and boarding of privately owned horses. So let's start by taking a look at the footprint of The Ranch.

**Michele Richards**

So just to give you some orientation, the ranch consists of about seven and a half acres in the northeast corner of the property. That's okay. You'll see the frame to the right and Arlington drive on the north side with gates nine and a half, and gate nine indicated on the map. Just to refresh your memory, where the Equestrian Center is on the left is kind of zoom in on those barns. On the left is where the community programming will take place, and on the right indicates the area designated for private boarding and training. You might remember in one of the original presentations, it was actually flip flop that the original intent. Was to do private boarding and training on the west side with community programming on the east side. But in the one on one

meetings that I had with a lot of boarders and trainers, they talked about various reasons why it would be prudent to switch those locations. For example, the west side being closer to the parking lot and to the restrooms, and that if we're going to bring members of the public in, that that would be a more advisable location, and we agreed. So the new map reflects that. So let's start with how the venue will be transformed. As the public enters through gate eight, they will be greeted by a beautiful hand painted mural letting them know what what lies ahead. This is an artist, artists conceptual ranking of the mural that we have planned. It'll be in much more detail, but this is what will greet people as they enter. The first component of The Ranch is the exhibits. Focusing on the community programming side, that West Side, our initial exhibits at the ranch will be located in barn F, where you see the pink colored stalls. Those six stalls will be transformed to house the gallery style exhibits on all things equine. Once folks enter past the mural and park, they'll stroll to the equine exhibition entrance, and you can see another artist's rendering of what that might look like. The exhibit is made up of six side by side stalls which form the framework of the exhibit. Those exhibits will include multimedia presentations where the public can learn about the history and heritage of horses, the contribution of horses to our agricultural history, particularly in Orange County, horse care and feeding and the different breeds and types of horses.

**Michele Richards**

They'll also learn about tech and equipment, working and sporting horses, equine and ranching careers, famous horses and more. And this is an artist rendering of what one of the exhibits might look like for future development, we plan to create space that can house a more immersive walk through presentation like you might see at heroes Hall. Now we put all the visuals together. It might look something like this view from gate eight, where you see the entry mural, public coming in, school groups, community groups, etc, and then entering the gallery exhibits. Now, alongside these exhibits that our own exhibits and Education team is developing, we're very excited to include an exhibit in partnership with Knott's Berry Farm, which we will be located, where you see the purple colored stalls on that left hand side. The exhibit will be curated by Knotts and will include an authentic stage coach representing those that were used by the Butterfield Overland Mail company to deliver mail all over the Southland, in addition to other history exhibits, additionally, Knotts has donated two other coaches also

to be on display, a doctor's coach and a wedding carriage, so the public will get an idea about how horses were used for various transportation modes in early Orange County history, retired stagecoach horses from Knoxville reside at the ranch as part of this exciting partnership. The next component of the ranch includes the existing ranch after school program that is currently operating from Centennial farm. You'll see that program indicated by the green colored stalls. Let's talk a little bit more about that program. I know many people are aware of it, from Centennial Farm, but a little bit of background. So beginning next month, The Ranch after school program moves to its new home at the Ranch community center. That program was developed in 2003 and it educates and encourages local youth to pursue careers in agriculture. Fourth and fifth grade students from participating Newport Mesa Unified School District, schools including College Park, Davis, Kaiser, Keller, Reno and Pomona elementary schools have all participated in this program to learn about animal husbandry, farming, gardening, equine education and ranching. Currently, the ranch after school program. Serves Davis Magnet School, which is the elementary school immediately to the north of the fairgrounds during the fall and spring, and we hope to expand that in the future, this one of a kind, free program provides an opportunity for children to learn responsibility and develop self esteem in an outdoor setting while learning about and exploring careers in agriculture, our team will build garden beds to support the ranch after school program and be used by other community groups in the future as well.

**Michele Richards**

The plan for now is to create outdoor classroom spaces for The Ranch after school program, but eventually we will develop into our classroom space that can be used for this program and others. And there's more to offer the public at the ranch. Let's talk about other hands on programs that we'll be offering in addition to structured ranch after school program, ranch discovery days will be similar to the discovery days that we're currently doing at Centennial farm. There are self guided tours open to school classes and homeschool groups, and additionally specialized tours for a variety of groups, such as senior citizens groups, civic groups, as well as for the general public can be scheduled. So now let's pull it all together and see how the ranch might be shaping up. Can see that mural We're now entering into the exhibits, and you can see how the public will engage in those exhibits designed and developed by

our team, eventually an indoor classroom that will be used for the ranch and other programs, and those gardening beds that can be used for the ranch after school program discovery days and other community programs that the public might engage in all right, let's move on to accredited Equine Assisted services. We're well on our way to offering those services at The Ranch. It's very important that any equine therapy conducted at the ranch be offered by established, licensed and accredited equine assisted therapy programs using standards set forth by the Equine Assisted growth and learning Association, or EAGALA or a similar organization, we will only be partnering with organizations who have egali trained associates and who use licensed therapists in order to ensure industry best practices. In fact, I'm very proud to say that our own ranch supervisor, Teresa Dayton, is soon to complete her EAGALA certification process to become an equine special specialist who will work side by side with equine assistant therapists.

**Michele Richards**

One such program that has already found a home at The Ranch is an organization that we are partnering with called, Walk Into It. you'll see them indicated by the yellow colored stalls. So this group moved in on September 1 with two horses, petty and honey buns, they opened in 2015 by co founders, Jessica Nathan, who's a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, and Jennifer Shilling, a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor. Walk into it offers trauma focused therapy, equine therapy, Healing Retreats and training with locations in San Juan Capistrano, orange and now at the ranch in Costa Mesa, they currently have a team of 16 mental health care providers, and we will be partnering with walk into it to provide certified Equine Assisted services, first For veterans at The Ranch. So one of the recipients of walk into its expertise will be with the North Orange County Veterans Center. The Vet Center therapist is working with our team, Teresa Dayton EAGALA, soon to be the EAGALA certified staff member to develop an Equine Assisted Therapy program for veterans in North Orange County using walk into a horses. But it doesn't end there. Let me share some of the educational partnerships that we're developing, as well. Future Farmers of America, or FFA and 4h have always played an important role in our agriculture programs at the OC fair and Event Center and both have horsemanship programs which can utilize The Ranch. In addition, Girl Scouts of Orange County plans to utilize the ranch for hands on equine experiences for troops all over Orange County and as the place where Girl Scouts can earn their horseman.

Ship badges and Platt college veterinary technology program is designed to provide the in depth knowledge and training necessary to gain entry level employment in animal health care. Will be participating with Platt College to provide real time exposure to our horses while they provide periodic Well, checks for our animals. Let's talk about small, regional horse shows. We had our first opportunity earlier this year to host a regional horse show, and I know Chair Kovacevich and Vice Chair Bagneris both attended. And there will be other opportunities as we expand as part of our programming, which will not only include competitions, but clinics and demonstrations open to the public throughout the year. You may have noticed that some stalls on that map were remain, will remain open, and that's for our large animal evacuation. That's to ensure that we have space needed for large animal evacuations.

**Michele Richards** So just two weeks ago, over 90 horses were evacuated to the ranch due to the airport fire. Our staff worked in collaboration with the California Office of Emergency Services, the Orange County Sheriff's Department and OC animal control in service of the evacuation from September 9 through September 15, in total, 94 horses, four goats, four chickens, three ducks and two geese were on site due to fires. OCFEC staff is on hand and prepared 365 days a year for these types of emergency situations to meet the need of the community to provide safe haven for large animals and their owners. And I want to thank staff and the volunteers, some of whom are in the room today, for working together to make sure that these animals were safe and sheltered during the evacuation. And as we've said from the beginning, we will continue boarding of privately owned forces at the ranch, which will also include providing instruction, and that will take place on the east side of the property. So these are programs that we're currently launching, but we have other ideas for future development. Remember that Centennial farm was not built overnight, and that we learned that the 35th anniversary that started out with a garden bend bed and one picket fence, right, and it grew from there. So just like Centennial farm, the ranch will continue to grow in its programming and offerings to the community. We're continuing to explore the potential of housing city and county mounted units at the ranch. And thank you, Director Rubalcava Garcia, for making those introductions to us and hosting demonstrations by them for the public. We have a member of our staff experience in gardening for stress relief and overall benefits to the

community, and we want to launch that program. And there are many agriculture and equine related associations that look for venues to host clinics and conferences, and this could possibly be a revenue generating opportunity for the ranch as well. So let's look at the timeline, and then at least an initial estimated budget. So I've already shared a similar timeline in past board meetings, but we've stayed pretty close to this. This timeline, we did our first horse show in June of this year, just before the fair, we are going to launch the after school program, ranch after school program in October. In November, we'll be working on our 2025 budget, and any future development will include that in the 2025 budget for approval by the board as well. This is when we'll also launch our equine assisted therapy programs, in conjunction with Walking To It and the North Orange County Vet Center. And we'll begin the exhibit development our exhibits and Education team, the same people that put those beautiful exhibits together for the fair, will be doing this work, Q1 and Q2 of next year, we'll do further development on the exhibit and tour program. We'll launch those open discovery days where we open it up for public tours. And then we'll begin working with 4h FFA and the Girl Scouts for for their work. And then throughout 2025 we'll work with Platt college on the vet tech labs, we hope to host student equestrian competitions and then hold a number of public clinics and demonstrations as well. So between now and the end of the year, we plan to begin initial development. Of those exhibits which we plan will not exceed \$50,000 and that's within my signing authority as the CEO. And then anything beyond that will include in the 2025, budget, which will be brought back to the board for for approval. So I'll stop there and see if anyone has any questions, follow up.

**Nick Kovacevich** We'll go ahead and do public comment, and that's okay with you guys, and then we'll circle back to the board discussion. So thank you. CEO Richard, so public comment, I realized I forgot to read the disclaimer on the on the initial time. So I'll go ahead, and...

**Michele Richards** Should I go back to that?

**Nick Kovacevich** Well, read it and then that way everyone knows the rules public comments issues on the grand agenda. However, no debate by the Board should be on such public comments, and no action should be taken on such public comments at that time, as well as formal public notice prior to any action on the agenda item, speakers requested to fill out and

submit a comment card meeting secretary, prior to starting to be relevant into three minutes, comments will be accepted, accepted on all other agenda items at the time of each agenda item is listed on the agenda. What we're doing here? Speakers wishing to address the board on items on the agenda requested to fill out submit a comment card of meeting secretary, prior to start Secretary prior to start the meeting and identify the agenda items on which you desire to address the board. And again, speakers are limited to three minutes, so we do have a few public comments on this agenda item. First we have Anna McLean.

**Anna McLean**

yes, good morning. My name is Anna McLean. I'm with Shepherd, Mullen Richter and Hampton. We are counsel for a group of distinguished equestrians and long term borders at the Orange County Fair and Event Center. And these tenants are involved in pending litigation against the against the center. As the board is aware we have submitted objections to the consideration of item 9c the board has proceeded to consider it, but we would ask that our comments be entered into the record, as well as the correspondence that we submitted yesterday outlining our concerns. So we provided a letter yesterday outlining various violations of law that the board has committed in its consideration of the ranch concept. Namely, the agenda and materials provided for Agenda Item 9c, violate the Bagley Keene act for their failure to provide sufficient detail as to the proposed action, thereby foreclosing the public's ability to provide public comment or participate in the deliberation of the item. It also appears based on marketing material is already erected on site, and as presented at this meeting, that the board has already determined that it would approve The Ranch concept. This is also a violation of the Bagley Keene Act, in that it shows the board did not engage in the proper deliberation in a public forum. Approval of Agenda Item 9c or any pre approval undertaken prior to the meeting, is in violation of the California Environmental Quality Act as well, in that this is a discretionary action, and therefore A project under CEQA. CEQA compliance is required prior to any action being taken by the board on The Ranch concept. The Orange County Fair and Event Centers board's failure to engage the public contrary to representations previously made in a public forum is also a violation of the Board's policy manual. So we respectfully request that this agenda item be removed and recalendered when the board has addressed the violations identified in our letter submitted yesterday, and we ask that our letter also be included as a part of the record of this meeting.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you. Anna, next we have Reggie Mundekis

**Reggie Mundekis** Hi, i'm Reggie Mundekis. Thank you for the opportunity to address you on this item. I think this is a wonderful program. It is more wonderful than what I thought it would be, quite frankly. I think that you are creating a program which can serve everybody, from a kindergartner to a senior citizen. I like the idea that you're looking into that Tech students, because that's something that's important for our families and our animal health, health of our pets. I like the idea that you're bringing in the Girl Scouts, FFA and 4h. I am curious as to where the tie in to Knott's came from. No, just kidding. But I think that's good too, because Knott's session Orange County history, I'm looking forward to how this program evolves and changes. It's just such a happy change for Equestrian Center to see people being welcomed into the Equestrian Center with open arms and places made to welcome the public, regardless of who you are or how much money you have for what you want to do to just say, You know what? Come over, come on over. Spend, you know, maybe spend an hour. Maybe send some more time with us. I also like the idea of we're offering accredited equine therapy. That's that's really important, and it's important that the insurance companies that are paying for the equine therapy see the accreditation, and that also helps with reputation in the community. So again, thank you. I strongly support this program and welcome it started. Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you, Reggie. Next, we have Lisa Sabo on Zoom.

**Lisa Sabo** I'm okay, I'm going to skip.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you. Lisa. Next, we have Caroline.

**Carolyn Beaver** Good morning. I'm Carolyn Beaver, and as you know from prior meetings, I am an equestrian, among other roles. So I just wanted to provide you comments, I do find the program that you outlined very interesting. I also know that back in December, when you task the staff with coming after the program, many of the directors spoke about having public, public riding programs where people could come and ride a horse. I know Natalie, Director Garcia, mentioned that Director Bagneris, mentioned that, Chair Kovacevich also mentioned people riding. And I didn't hear any details about that. I know that was something that CEO Richards did talk about later, but that's something that as an equestrian, and you've all heard a lot of reports about the joy

that people find in and connecting with horses, and it's that hands on connection, not just hands on but also riding, the relationship with a horse's connection that we feel is so important and important to provide that to the public as well. And think that's a great idea. So that's something that I would really encourage you to do. And obviously need to find out the details about who's going to own the horses and who's going to provide that instruction to make sure that that's safe. Obviously, safety is really important, certainly, so that's something that I encourage you to do that. And obviously we do have a number of on site trainers. When that motion was made back in December, it was said that the public would be involved, but I'm not aware of any public meetings to get any sort of public input in this process. So that's something that I think is very important. A couple weeks ago, I did volunteer to assist with the horses who were evacuated, along with a number of other people, and I do think it was great to have old stalls available for so many horses, as you heard, nearly 100 evacuated horses, and I will tell you that the equestrian community really comes together and helps other people, and we want to be able to help. And so that's something that I was glad that we could do, that we can do it in an emergency, we can do it on a regular basis, and we are here to help. So please work with us. Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Thank you, Carolyn, next we have Mackie Hamlin.

**Macki Hamblin**

Good morning, I'm Macki Hamblin, thank you for hearing us today. I just wanted to do a little update on the mustard seed Ranch, the programs that we have coming through this semester. It is an accredited equine therapy program with EAGALA training. So really excited to hear that Theresa is also doing that, so maybe she could join our team and help out. As of right now, we work with olive crest Academy. I don't know if you guys know who they are, but there are students from a very diverse background that face many different obstacles, learning disabilities and autism, anger issues, just sometimes people aren't actually integrating them into society. So they have very different goals and Olive Crest Academy addresses a lot of that. Equine therapy is one of the modalities they utilize for both their middle schoolers as well as our high schoolers. I got to help last year, and I will say it's amazing to see just the difference in the growth that it does make getting to deal with horses, and the growth that kids have in their self confidence. We also have another group coming in from Compton right now, which is working

with the sheriff's outreach program. And this provides the opportunity for these kids to stay off the streets and fire some hands on programming and, of course, experience as well. So yeah, I think that it sounds like there's a lot of really exciting stuff that's in the works. I would love, I love seeing equine therapy is going to be coming in November. I would love to hear, you know, from Michelle or the board, maybe we can partner together and help provide some of that. And then I will say it was really awesome to get to see the staff and the equestrians at the facility work together through the evacuations. It was really scary time for horse owners, for the public and just to get to see everyone working shoulder to shoulder was really great. Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Thank you, Maggie. Next we have Gibran. That's our last comment on this item.

**Gibran Stout**

Good morning. You all know me. I just want to say great presentation. Michelle, actually, I really enjoyed seeing it. It was exciting see the plans, and exciting to see what's going on there. We've been seeing things happening. It's just exciting to see what the plan is. And I guess I missed it past meetings, but I'm very excited. We You guys are awesome at exhibits. You guys are awesome at tours. But I know that the CFSA insurance is limiting for touching or riding, so I think that's where people onsite come in, the trained professionals, because we're awesome teaching horses, you know, teach kids how to do the haltering the handling, the care, the sport and the recreation. So together, it's a great combination. Personally, my organization has worked with your organization for over a decade. We've done the ranch camps during the summer with Centennial farm. We've done the heroes hall events. We've done imaginology every year. We've done the fair. We also work with the Girl Scouts of Ornage County loving and we've worked with SOY, FFA and 4H so it seemed like a really natural marriage. I know there's been a lot of contention going on, but regardless, we want you to know that we're here and we want and we share in your excitement program and to expand programming to really build on what's being presented to the great starting point, we remain committed and passionate about preserving equestrian lifestyle and sharing knowledge and passion for the entire community the next generation. I will say that, just as a reminder, some of the things you've heard us say we weren't included, and I just A quick blurb from the December meeting in what leadership so we would love to see that come to fruition. This is a great

start, but there's a lot of information here that you know, cross species, biosecurity issues, safety issues. You may have heard the 70 horses that were, you know, that died from eating the wrong kind of feed. So we're here. We look forward to collaborating on all of this, and they can really robust moving forward.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Thank you, Gibran. All right, that concludes public comment on this matter. So we will go ahead and start the board discussion. I think one thing I just wanted to kind of clarify, because looking at the presentation, which is wonderful, the budget being 50,000 is, you know, kind of under the threshold. And I do recall we kind of approved as a board The Ranch already, it is listed as an action item. But I wanted to check with, potentially with Josh, I guess if this item needs to be voted on, because even the threshold, and given the fact that this was already approved in January, is this an item we even need to vote on?

**Josh Caplan**

The short answer is no, that this board already discussed and approved The Ranch program at a previous public meeting. And then the question related to expenditures, because the board has already delegated authority to Michelle for certain expenditures under the \$50,000 threshold, that's not something this board would need to approve. And to the extent there are additional expenditures that fall outside of Michelle's delegated authority, the board would approve those through the regular budget process in the coming months. So again, this board would not have to vote on anything. This appears to be more of an action, an information only item inviting questions, and not an action item that requires the board to vote.

**Nick Kovacevich**

That makes sense. And apologize for the error on the agenda, but we will go ahead and kind of remove this as an action item. Sorry. Vice chair, chair.

**Barbara Bagneris**

Kovacevich, I am sitting down on the outside, but I am standing up on the inside to see that presentation and how our staff takes our outward thoughts, this is what we'd like to do, and brings that vision to life. I was impressed. I love the flyover. I love AI because were incredible. And I'm just excited about I'm more excited than I was when I left in before the fair, and the fact that the fear was happening, you guys were doing this, I'm totally impressed. I'm totally thrilled. I can hardly contain myself, and I want to thank you for what you've done. And I see the

future and we're not waiting. This has already started, and I am so excited. I Thank you, Chair Kovacevich, for your leadership, of what you've done to get us this point, CEO Richards and your executive staff and everybody, I am so impressed. And thank you. Thank you. Thank you. The ranch is on board.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Thank you. And we made it an information item we can further the discussion here. So that's great comments, and I echo that. And I think that, you know, it's been tough, obviously, to kind of make change happen, right?

Change is always hard, but you know, it's even harder when you don't know what the change is going to be, and you can't see it, envision it, and we've got to that point right where now we see and envision what's happening. So thank you for that great presentation, and thank you guys for the work that your team has done. Again, like Barbara said during a record fair, we're still getting this type of stuff done, and it's important, and we appreciate it. One question I have is two questions. Well, one comment, two questions. So first of all, it was good to see that, you know, we actually have listened to some of the existing boarders and trainers that you've had multiple discussions with, and we've made some adjustments to the plan based on that. Because I think sometimes it's, you know, kind of portrayed is that that's not happening, but that's been validated here, so that's good. When we looked at the equine therapy program, were there any existing equine certified EAGALA therapists that we spoke with that were already on the property before we came up with a partnership?

**Michele Richards**

We don't, we don't have any rental agreements with any of the certified, you know, equine therapists that were mentioned earlier. Those are, I think, outreach by trainers that have brought those programs in. We don't have...

**Nick Kovacevich**

Did any of the licensed equine therapists get in touch with you?

**Michele Richards**

From those programs that were mentioned? No.

**Nick Kovacevich**

No, okay great. And then the last question I have is the public riding programs that we had discussed, where those in the...

**Michele Richards**

Yeah, those will be further down the line, after we get some of the other programs in place. It is a little complicated with insurances, as Gibran

mentioned. So once we work out all of those details, then we can work but for now, being able to have Walk Intuit to partner with us that those organizations that are in need in the community that we can feed them through, Walk Intuit to provide the providing program, because they do have the insurance in place to do that.

**Nick Kovacevich** So Walk Intuit can offer riding lessons?

**Michele Richards** Yes.

**Nick Kovacevich** Okay, great, great. So that's, that's. Great. And then there's more to conference that is part of the vision.

**Michele Richards** So yeah, and we can bring on other partners at any time that can do that as well. Great.

**Nick Kovacevich** Has there been any of the existing boarders and trainers that are in compliance, that have offered to assist?

**Michele Richards** None of the trainers are currently in compliance. We don't have rental agreements with any of the existing trainers at this point. Okay, all right, that's it for me. I'll turn it over my colleagues.

**Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia** This is Director Rubalcova-Garcia. I just want to say I agree with what Director Bagneris said, but I just really love the enhanced accessibility that is displayed in the presentation that you presented. I mean the little alone. I think there's a little person's head, and at least that's what I saw with the horse leaning over them. But I think we've had this conversation for about two years, since I was chair, about creating more opportunities for the public to access the fairgrounds. It was also part of the vision and the mission when we went through that exercise a couple of years ago to make it more publicly accessible. And what I saw today displays that beyond, I think, any expectations that I had just hearing you talk about servicing some of our veterans, which I know is a big priority for the fairgrounds, with heroes Hall and also with a former board member being very active in that community, and with them also having PTSD and other issues that would benefit from this, I think that's something that I'm really excited about. It is unfortunate that this great opportunity for us to expand and enhance accessibility has been overshadowed by some of the other negative things that have been going on. And I know that that was part of the discussion a couple of years ago, eliminating the Equestrian Center altogether. And as a board,

we decided to move forward and work together. We had to make some tough decisions, which included increasing the amount of licensing fees for the stalls and the rentals. And that's just part of a business. We are a state agency. We are a tax paid organization, and sometimes we need to make difficult decisions and challenging economy. So I am glad to see that we are able to do what you display here, having publicly accessible and then also offering the private operators their continued opportunity to utilize the fairgrounds of the place for them to run their private businesses, I think is a great thing moving forward, and I hope that we can cohesively continue with this ranch concept and and also allowing the private borders to continue to run their businesses as they see fit. Right now we don't intrude into their private operating budgets or anything like that, so it's just part of the process to have to pay a fee to utilize and rent space. So I to make a long winded comment to wrap that up, I just want to say thank you for bringing back a concept that really does bring to life. What the vision of this board was, we are governance. We're not operational. So just to be able to give you that direction and you guys come back to that is wonderful. So thank you.

**Tanya Bilezikjian**

Yeah, I feel a lot of the comments have already been made, including the level of enthusiasm might not be appropriate to jump around. I'm doing it too. I'm so excited. I'm really impressed with the partnerships that you're making. I mean, not fairly far and 4h FFA and Girl Scouts. These are, these are partnerships that are going to push us forward and give us a tailwind. Because we're not, we're not engaged with unknown entities to launch this program. And I love that there's so much room to expand and to add the writing programs and to, you know, to partner with more therapy groups and to continue to offer these really rooted therapies. And I think this is going to have such a positive effect on our community. And I'm very proud to say, i'm a member of this board.

**Michele Richards**

I know there are a whole lot of people behind us, sitting here at the table that are responsible for this work, and I don't know if any of them are online, but the credit really goes to them for taking what you all articulated as your vision and then taking direction from us and translating it into you know, yeah, that's what we said. That's what we want, and they did an amazing job, and you're right, that's while putting on a fair and following up from a fair. So the credit really goes to an amazing staff who is extremely dedicated to this vision and making it happen.

**Dimetria Jackson** So everybody said thus far. Just wanted to add, I didn't know about Platt College, never heard about Platt College. Where are they located? Oh, are they space to or...

**Michele Richards** No, they're not. They're not in Costa Mesa.

**Dimetria Jackson** I don't, I don't know. I just thought that, yeah, have a opportunity to create opportunities for people, for sciences and studies. Yeah, maybe there are other programs that I hadn't even thought about because that wasn't part of the discussion. That I can recall, the fact that you created this partnership, the ones we've heard of before. 4H and others were aware of fact that you including the Veterinary Sciences in that as well. That's amazing, especially with students. They learn to learn and from people who are visiting or about other opportunities they can do with animals and culture. So I love that extension, you know, the medical aspect of it. So many people meeting those opportunities, and I'm sure there are others out there. I think that's great.

**Michele Richards** Oh yeah, yeah. an existing relationship with college through Centennial farm, so they're a known entity to us and very excited about partnering with us at the Ranch. Okay, great.

**Dimetria Jackson** It was a new discovery.

**Nick Kovacevich** All right. Well, that's awesome. Any other comments?

**Doug La Belle** All right, yeah. Director Kovacevich, Chair, thank you. And my apologies for not being here. I thought I had one good knee, and now I have no good knees. But anyway, that's another story for another time. Just a couple of thoughts I can't... Director or Vice Chair of Bagneris. Comments were outstanding, and I just have to ditto that, as were the other directors. This presentation that Michelle and the staff put on was very detailed, very thorough, very informative. And I just have to compliment staff for an exceptional job on that. Secondly, the the equestrian unit that the county has, and I know Natalie brought that to to Michelle, I just have to comment. I think there's five or six police agencies that are involved in the mounted equestrian unit program, and I just think that's a tremendous opportunity for all of our activities on the site to engage with them, literally on a daily basis, to provide that educational experience for those there. So I would hope that we could

expand that that mounted equestrian unit program that the county has, and take every advantage of it that we can on on our site. And I guess Lastly, the the board's action in December was very clear to to expand and do everything we can to make an outreach and expand the programs at the Equestrian Center. And this, this program is just fantastic. I I've got the same enthusiasm hearing the presentation that that Vice Chair Bagneris made. And I guess my last comment the, you know, I have a Knott's Berry Farm connection that goes back to to the 50s. It was my first, first job. And it kind of an interesting note. The the Butterfield Oberlin mill company obviously went from St Louis, Missouri to San Francisco, and along the way, they had a number of stops. And I think just as a point of interest, one of those stops was at RANCHO DEL Chino, which is currently the site of Boys Republic. So back in the three or four years at the overland company stage line ran made stops in what is now Chino Hills on Boys Republic property. So there's a lot of history and a lot of connection that that goes with that. It was also the site of the Battle of Chino in 1846 but that's another story for another time, so I'll just leave it at that. But again, my comments to the entire staff and Michelle for for the presentation, it was just absolutely outstanding.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you, Director La Belle. Any other comments from the boards?

**Robert Ruiz** Yeah, Mr. Chair, this is Director Ruiz.

**Nick Kovacevich** Go ahead Director Ruiz.

**Robert Ruiz** Greetings from Cleveland, Ohio. I want to echo and piggyback off the comments of my fellow directors, Michelle staff, what an amazing presentation that was. I am beyond excited. To see, you know, this finally come to fruition. Yes, the Board did have a vision, and now hopefully this, you know, will make it happen. I'm excited about the public programs that are going to be offered to the public, and I cannot say enough. I think everything has already been said by my fellow directors. Again, I am beyond excited, and I'm so looking forward to this. Thank you, Michelle and Staff for this great presentation.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you. Director Ruiz, all right, assuming no other comments, that was a very fun information item now that I've moved its information item, but I think the record will reflect the board's enthusiasm for the progress on the ranch vision. So we'll stay tuned for more. Thank you guys, and then we'll move on here to item number 9d which is the board

appointment of chair and vice chair of the nominating committee. And there I do have the committee members in mind. One of them is here today, and since director Rubalcava Garcia is in person, I'm going to extend her the honor of being the chair of the nominating committee, if you'll accept except and Director Ruiz, since you had to enjoy beautiful Cleveland. You, unfortunately, are going to be in the Vice Chair position for this nominating committee. Should you accept?

**Robert Ruiz**

Absolutely, I will accept. Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich**

So we have a new nominating committee, and as we, as we do every year, the nominating committee will look at the leadership committee going forward, and we'll be able to hopefully have your decision next month. Thank you guys. All right. Speaking of committees, we will move to Agenda Item 9e which is our committee reports, and starting with the leadership committee. And I don't know, I will go ahead and take this committee report, given it's very brief, but the leadership committee myself and Vice Chair Bagneris, we did meet on 9/11 and we plan the agenda or meeting that we're doing here today, and our next committee meeting is going to be on October 9 to plan the October board meeting. And that's it, the leadership committee. Next, we'll have the financial monitoring audit committee, Director committee chair, Director Pham is absent, so I'll turn it over to Director Bilezikjian, or the mini report.

**Tanya Bilezikjian**

On it, not an apple person, so summer had to just come over find the report for me.

**Nick Kovacevich**

You're green texter.

**Tanya Bilezikjian**

I don't succumb to that, sorry. Okay, so we met on September 18, and we did get some preliminary numbers. They were looking very, very exciting. So overall, this report and we have updates as well. So I'm getting the we're getting it. It's my first reading. So revenue for August 2024 came in 32 and a half million dollars, and favorable to budget by one and a half million, and primarily due to the four post fair concerts that were not budgeted. So we'll agree there, year to date, revenue the first eight months of 2024 favorable budget by \$4.3 million total expenses for the month of August 2024 are 17 and a half million and unfavorable budget by one shade over \$1 million this is due to pieces of safety that rental expenses are 42.65 million.

Favorable budget by 1.08 million. Continuing on year to date period ending August 31, net proceeds are favorable to budget. 5.27 million cash and cash investments as of August 31 or \$68, million we did look at, as I mentioned, the preliminary fair, PL, and again, as we talked about, it was a great fair, and we did come out ahead of budget. So we also received a brief overview of the 2025 budget process. We have a study session scheduled for November 13, 2024 with the finance committee, and we're going to be meeting again on October 16. Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** Okay, great to always good to see the numbers performing. So awesome. Thank you. Next, we'll move to the Facilities Committee. Director Ruiz is the committee Chair. Director Ruiz, would you like to give the report?

**Robert Ruiz** I'm going to pass on to my fellow director, because I'm having issues with the reception here. So if director Bilezikjian, yeah...

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Director Ruiz gave me a heads up, so I'm ready. So just a quick summary that on July 3 and September 13, we discussed our typical items. So that's the on the capex projects.... are active. 22 of the year's projects are complete. Two of those are on hold. Sorry, that was the first update. The second update in September 26 are active, and 32 are now complete, two on hold for the Master Site Plan. If you've been by it, the administration building is moving right along. So one day was lost to schedule. So I mean, that's fantastic. Our project has been going on this long. We're working on an expanded lay down area. The concrete slab was fully poured now, right? And the goal is to be watertight by October. I'm hearing rumors that we might have a wet winter again. So probably going to be watertight by the time frame falls. CapEx project or no, sorry, not capex Master Site Plan. Phase two is the Midway restroom and showers. We're working on concept designs right now. SVA is going to be on, or was on site during the fair, so that they can see really what the what the facility was needed for. So right now, the architect is working towards 60% drawings and some architectural design concepts. We also got an update on the Equestrian Center. So this was the initial meeting was the annual footing maintenance update, fence repair on the lawn side and repair to one of the cross ties. We also got an update on moving forward with drafting scope of work and requirements for the upcoming IFB or solicitation for calling it, and a

brief outline branch concepts. We will be meeting again on october 1. Thank you. Oh, yes, we have a brief video. So

**Michele Richards** Ken you want to put it up there?

**Ken Karns** Sure, When we started our crack it team does a new time lapse video camera. We've got hours, but we snippet it out a little bit of beginning, some of the middle and what has just recently happened, and got it down to about a minute or so for you to look at. But when the project's all done, we'll have an entire time lapse video of the project. Yeah, just a little fun for everybody to look at for a minute.

**Michele Richards** So time really does fly, does it?

**Nick Kovacevich** Sure you guys are not in a rush to get into your new office?

**Michele Richards** Pretty nice. Yeah, not unhappy.

**Ken Karns** It's interesting seeing clouds. We never see clouds. And there they are. Getting ready for the first half of the slab pour, which is an exciting day. And then we did the second half, which we captured. You can now really see the magnitude of the facility taking shape. Bricklayers are on site. Masons are on site. Steel is here. So it'll start taking shape over the next couple of months.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you. We know stuff's happening. Yeah, money's going to use all right. We do have the Community Affairs Committee on the committee reports, but we already kind of went over the proclamation in their absence. Anything else to add to you guys?

**Dimetria Jackson** we had an amazing person and recipient of the Proclamations. Sorry, my chair, my committee, was available today, but it was good. He had a lot to say about his research, veterans, military, he's written several books. He's shared the knowledge with others. I don't understand how he has time thinking about that. You know, he's been an attorney, he's been a judge. He's a mediator, arbitrator now, and he's has so much knowledge about the history his heritage in California beyond so just a wealth of knowledge. I think we again. I think we did a great job. We can pat our own backs to say that I think Judge Aguirre was a lack of choice for this month.

**Doug Le Belle** Chair Kovacevich, if I could just to ditto that I thought that was an excellent and very informative presentation and a lot of information that I didn't know. And it was, it was great to great to get it was just a excellent presentation.

**Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia** Yeah, I apologize for not being able to be here, but I'm grateful that we were able to get the proclamation over to the honorable Frederick Aguirre. But I also just want to thank this board and our Chair for allowing us to continue this work on the Community Affairs Committee, because I think it's really important that we're recognizing people who've done important work on behalf of various communities to help with the enhanced Diversity Equity and Inclusion initiatives that our board has so thank you for just trusting us with the process, because we do really put a lot of thought into the people that we bring to the fair to recognize making sure that there's some sort of a connection, not only to Orange County, but to our mission here at the Orange County Fair and demand center. And I think with judging Geary, that was very apparent, as many of you have heard him speak at the heroes Hall, and all of his history and research that he said until World War Two Mexican American veterans. So thank you for the opportunity.

**Nick Kovacevich** Yeah, no, that was great. And I love the work you guys are doing, the people that you bring. I was thinking to myself, actually, that one thing we should think about is if next year at the fair, maybe we could have a dinner for all those people that have been so many good people we did that get them all together. Yeah, so we'll make a note of that.

**Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia** We love serving.together. So don't haveany ideas about changing.

**Nick Kovacevich** All right. Also, noted thank you guys. That concludes our committee reports. And you know, I went announced my good friend, Director Ruiz, didn't have to drop off, which usually I would be disappointed. But recently, as most of you know my Niners suffered a defeat to his rams, and I believe he was in attendance, so I was going to hear about that, and now we get to avoid that, so that is a silver lining.

**Doug La Belle** Robert asked me to speak for him, so I can cover that later from you and...

**Nick Kovacevich** So that takes us to Agenda Item number 10, which is closed session. And

we will now go into closed session, and we're here on site, and I don't know how long it'll be, but I encourage everyone to stick around. We'll be back. Thank you.

**Barbara Bagneris** Okay, I'm already covered in so Nick had to leave. We did confer with council. We have nothing to report. Let's talk about upcoming events for you. Michelle?

**Michele Capps** That's me Alright, starting this week, and we've got the pumpkin patch seasonal adventures starting over there on the third event, or fair and Fairview, and they have a pumpkin patch and plate wells, petting zoo, Kitty rides and a train running all month through Halloween. Busy day. We also have Speedway at night and during the day. We have cruising for a cure. There's a one and a half mile cruise in the property, and then 2500 to 3000 cars will be on display. It is in support of prostate cancer awareness. Men can actually get their prostates checked on property. I want to tell you some research. Over 15,000 men have been tested, and out of those, 4000 men have been saved. Wow. She lost her husband to prostate cancer, and now she tells men, you take such good care of your cars, why don't you take care of the bodies? That's very great cost. And moving on to OC pride, October 5 property ride, they also have a parade, and so that's going to be a really fun event. And then the following weekend, the gym Fair. Air, and then we have, on October 12, biologist Jonathan Mills Anderson will be over at Centennial farm teaching California native gardening. So rooted in California, Intro gardening with native plants, sounds actually very interesting to me, I have a garden, and then we move on to the championship speedway. On October 12. That following week, we have college and career fairs so families and students can learn about the colleges, programs that they have, and financial assistance. October 18 to 20th. Japan fair is back. It was wildly popular last time, so if you didn't see it come out, lots of great food and merchandise. And then the Home Show, OC home and holiday Expo, that's for remodeling, and the DIY er, they say they're not the biggest show, but they are the best. And then we have the vegan festival here. Yes, right. So we have, that's october 26 to the 27th and rounding out the month for Halloween with boo Ha ha, a brood Fest and haunted event. Here on our property, there are a couple of bands playing, um alt 98.7 is one of our sponsors. It's going to be a big event. Tickets are on sale now, and the farmers market is every Thursday on property. Is that, like a haunted houses and stuff like that. It's themed decor. It's not a full

haunted house, but it's all themed and decor everywhere. College Fair.

**Dimetria Jackson** Do you know it's just local?

**Michele Capps** It is for Newport mesa. Yeah.

**Dimetria Jackson** I'm talking colleges.

**Michele Capps** Actually, they're coming from all the colleges, including international. But they, this is the Newport Mesa High School District, colleges.

**Dimetria Jackson** You said college's from everywhere?

**Michele Capps** Yes.

**Dimetria Jackson** HBCU's too?

**Michele Capps** Yes

**Dimetria Jackson** Oh yeah, great.

**Michele Capps** I can click in after this and show you my information. Yes, all online, okay,

**Michele Richards** And I click too fast, but a very happy birthday to Director Ruiz. Happy birthday to Director. Next Wednesday.

**Barbara Bagneris** It's in October? I'll remember that. Happy birthday. Now, we're going to go through our matters of Board Directors matters of information. I'm going to start with you, Director Doug Labelle, online

**Michele Richards** Second.

**Doug La Belle** Okay, I'm here. Can you hear me?

**Barbara Bagneris** Yes, we do.

**Doug La Belle** First of all, congrats to Michelle and the entire staff and my fellow directors for outstanding fair. That was a tremendous fair this year, and the results show it in the numbers. Also, just to ditto my earlier comments, I thought the presentation on our ranch program was outstanding, and I want to compliment staff on that with that Happy Birthday to Tanya and to Robert. And with that concludes, my comments.

**Barbara Bagneris** Thank you so much. We'll start at this, we'll go around this way. So Director Jackson.

**Dimetria Jackson** Yeah, just kind of echo Director's La Belle comments. There was a lot of fun. It's my first year being a board member at the fair. Wow, you see a different perspective. We had a chance to give awards out. That's pretty cool. Be invited to do that by my fellow directors and see this parts of the fair that I never knew were there. So, yeah, I didn't realize it was all the crafting. And so many youth were involved, so many aspects of the fair, doing everything that the adults were doing. But, you know, on a different level, and some of their work was just amazing, whether it was baking cakes or creating things. And so I feel like I need to probably see more than just the. Eyes, maybe a better idea next time, just to get the lay of the land so I don't have to be pressured into whatever. But I really enjoyed it. I really enjoyed the concert. It was really great seeing my fellow board members at concerts too, and kind of getting the guys to know you guys outside of this table. So that was a lot of fun. And I'm still amazed how you all were able to make the fair happen such a you know, wonderful miraculous way at the same time, behind the scenes, put together a plan for The Ranch. Still trying to figure out when you slept. Maybe the days when you were off. You really weren't off. You're working on other projects. Maybe that was going on, I'm not sure, but kudos to all of you, especially, I would say thankful to Summer, because I'm sure it was a lot for you to have to balance this time. Tickets and everybody but everybody else, and to make sure we we have passes and where to go and just really very complicated, and I really appreciate that. Say a special thing this amazing I thought before the Wow. So thank everybody that, and decided it was great to see you all enjoy the dinners, and it was a nice time to put all families to get together.

**Barbara Bagneris** Thank you. Director Jackson. Director Rubalcava- Garcia.

**Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia** Thank you, just want to ask us to keep the firefighters who were in the accident from the Orange County Fire Authority, which is a partner of ours during fair time I believe, who were in an accident last Thursday, coming back fighting a 12 hour fire, or fighting for 12 hours at a the airport fire. And also ask the Vice Chair and Chair to send a letter on our behalf, just wishing them our prayers. And I know that there were six of them who were transported to a hospital, but I know that their recovery will be pretty extensive for some of them, and then they also are

fundraising. So anybody would like to contribute to their fund, you can go on to the Orange County Fire authority's website, and they do have a foundation set up for the firefighters and their families who are injured. And that concludes my comments.

**Barbara Bagneris** Thank you.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** We've been on the board for a year now, and I just kind of reflect on that fair and we kind of started zero miles per hour, and I want to say thank you to my fellow board members. I've learned a lot from you, both in room and people online. I appreciate that. It's been an absolute thrill being on board and be part of this incredible team of people that this whole thing happened. So yeah, I reflected on to you about the amount of things that happened here in an affair and all year long, so thrilled to be a part of it, and can't wait for more.

**Michele Richards** Not a newbie anymore.

**Barbara Bagneris** Comments about the fair. The fair is the whole ball game for us, right? And so our staff, employees. I went to the employee picnic. I always enjoyed that, and served up some some good food and fellowship and gave out awards. So I enjoyed doing that, and who was with me? Just me. Oh, nice by chair. Invites adventures there as well. We also attended the pre fair security briefings and the mid fair security briefings. And I'm I'm just always amazed at how well you guys do and keeping us safe. So we appreciate that. And I think it was a great meeting today, and it went very smooth. Sorry. We had to lose our chair before the end, before we could get to this part. But I just have to thank him for his leadership and what he's doing behind the scenes and working with the Governance Committee, etcetera. And I just, I just, and this is the joy of my life. I think it's kind of being on this board, getting to meet people. Get to meet the families of all of these beautiful people and watch them grow. But now we get to watch your teenagers grow, to grow people. So just, just, so it's just a joy and a pleasure. And I look forward to continuing to do big things. I'm excited about The Ranch. I just can't tell you how much I'm excited about the ranch, having been on the board for 10 years to see this coming to fruition, It's just really, really a great thing. So thank you. Thanks, summer, she is the best. I notice there's some nice little goodie bags without grabbing these. And with that is there is no more comments from anyone. Next flooring is October 24 right here. So. In place, same time, meeting adjourned.

