

## OCFEC Board Meeting October 24th 2024

**Nick Kovacevich** Good morning. Notice on this agenda, in any category may be considered for action as listed. Any item not so noticed may not be considered. Items listed on this agenda may be considered in any order, the discretion of the chairperson. Agenda Item number two, the mission of the OC FEC is creating equitable community, access to agriculture, entertainment, cultural and educational experiences. Item number three is the pledge allegiance. Do we have any volunteers? Director Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz** Yes, absolutely.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** All rise, right hand over your heart.

**Everyone** I pledge allegiance, to the flag, of the United States of America. And to the republic, for which it stands. One nation, under God, Indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**Nick Kovacevich** Number Four, roll call.

**Summer Angus** Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** Here.

**Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneris?

**Barbara Bagneris** Here.

**Summer Angus** Director La Belle?

**Doug Le Belle** In person.

**Summer Angus** Director Pham, Director Rubalcava-Garcia?  
**Natalie** present  
**Rubalcava-Garcia**

**Summer Angus** Director Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz** Here.

**Summer Angus** Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Here.

**Summer Angus** And Director Jackson?

**Dimetria Jackson** Here.

**Summer Angus** Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you. Summer. Next Agenda Item number five is the minutes we're reviewing the board meeting minutes from September, 26 2024, and this is an action item. We have any discussion on this item?

**Doug Le Belle** Move for minutes.

**Robert Ruiz** Second.

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

**Summer Angus** Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneris?

**Barbara Bagneris** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director La Belle?

**Doug Le Belle** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

**Natalie** Yes.

**Rubalcava-Garcia**

**Summer Angus** Director Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Yes.

<b>Summer Angus</b>	And Director Jackson?
<b>Dimetria Jackson</b>	Yes.
<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	<p>Thank you. Agenda Item number six, matters of public comment. Public comment is allowed on issues not on the current agenda. However, no debate by the Board shall be committed on such public comments and no action will be taken on such public comment items at this time, as long requires formal public notice prior to any action on an agenda item, speakers are requested to fill out and submit a comment card to the meeting Secretary prior to the start of the meeting, and are limited like three minutes. Comments will be expected accepted on all other agenda items at the time each item is listed on the agenda. Speakers wishing to address the board on items on the agenda are requested to go out and submit a comment card to the meeting Secretary prior to the start of the meeting and identify the agenda items on which you desire to address the board again, speakers will be limited to three minutes, so I do have a general public comment here from a zoom participant, Carolyn Beaver Carolyn, three minutes.</p>
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Thank you.
<b>Carolyn Beaver</b>	<p>Thank you very much. Just making sure you can hear me. Yes, great. Thank you. Good morning. I'm Carolyn Beaver, and among other roles, as you know, I'm an equestrian that rides at the fairgrounds. I'm hearing feedback, are you hearing feedback?</p>
<b>Doug Le Belle</b>	Little bit. Yes.
<b>Carolyn Beaver</b>	<p>Let me...Okay, Management recently issued RFP for stall cleaning, feeding and arena maintenance for the horses stabled at the Equestrian Center. Not sure how to stop that feedback. Anyway, the time for the timeline for the RFP is very short, only two weeks from the date of issuance to the mandatory walk through which is next week, and then less than three weeks before the proposal is due. We do hope that the short time frame does not dissuade any bidders. I would like to remind you, that in 2022 we stated that the Lopez works bid, which was the only bid, would result in a loss of \$100,000 per month, and that you should not enter into that contract, and that the fact that there was only one bid showed that there were problems with the bid process. In this particular</p>

case, the RFP requires that all equipment used be less than five years old. Why is that a requirement that seems like something that would dissuade potential bidders? Is that requirement even allowed in the state contracting manual? Also, is it necessary to include AQMD requirements in the RFP considering the type of equipment required? Those are questions we believe the board needs to ask. Other thoughts on the RFP, how are the proposed firms incentivized to maintain cleaning stalls without using too many shavings, and in other words, cleaning the stalls properly, means adequate bedding, but not throw away the clean stalls which just increases, rather not throw away the clean shavings, which just increases the cost, and those manure disposal costs. The RFP requires twice daily maintenance of arenas, but there's no mention of a reduction in the maintenance or dragging on the days when the arenas are sealed due to rain. Although there is mention of the necessary storm drain maintenance required in rainy periods. I would like to point out that the scope of work is much smaller than the Lopez works contract. Now, of the 137 stalls, 60 are designated for private boarding. The other 77 single stalls are used for TRCC community programming, and at least at this point, are not designated as equine use.

**Nick Kovacevich** We are at time. Sorry, yeah. Thank you, we gave you some extra time because the feedback, but thank you for the comments. Okay, great. So, Summer, do we have any other public comments?

**Summer Angus** We do not.

**Nick Kovacevich** Okay. So that concludes Agenda Item number six, matters of public comment by moving on to Agenda Item number seven, which is the consent calendar. All matters listed under consent calendar operational matters about which the board has governing policies, implementation of which is delegated to the CEO. It will be enacted in one motion. There will be no discussion of these items prior to the time the Board of Directors votes on the. Motion unless members of the Board staff for public request specific items to be discussed separately and or removed from this section, any member of public who wishes to discuss Consent Calendar items should notify the chair of the board at the time requested and be recognized by the invitation to chair to address the board. So no, I don't see any public comments on this agenda item. Are there any comments?

**Doug La Belle** I do have one on an item Mr. Chair and it's R-002-25 and it's just a question for Michele to kind of review what that particular rental agreement is for. It's a fairly large.

**Michele Richards** It is a fairly large rental agreement for an event. This was the the item that I pulled last month because there was an error in the date, so we're bringing it back. It's an event that's going to happen in March. It's an all grounds event, a good event. They were here before, under a different name in 2020 kind of retooled the event. Took some hits during the pandemic, but they're back again. It'll be in March of 2025. As you can see from the consent calendar. They're taking up all of the buildings and a lot of the areas, so it's over \$200,000 just in rental. That doesn't even count parking revenue or in ancillary food and beverage revenue as well. So it's going to be a really good event. So this, this was the one that we just had the date, wrong now its back on.

**Doug Le Belle** What type of activity is it Michele?

**Michele Richards** So it's called Overland Expo. It was an Outdoor Expo last, last time it was named, but it's everything, outdoor vehicles, exploration, off road vehicles, very, very good event.

**Doug Le Belle** Perfect. Thank you.

**Barbara Bagneris** Mr. Chair. I move the consent calendar.

**Michele Richards** Oh, I have one more comment. Not I'm not pulling anything, but you'll notice under the standard agreement amendments, there are quite a few listed, and I neglected to cover this last month, but you'll continue to see a lot of contract amendments. The language is being added to all of our contracts regarding AI. So the state has a requirement now that if your company in service of a contract with a state agency uses artificial intelligence in any way that you have to disclose that as part of your proposal, as part of the contract. So we're adding that language to all of the existing contracts. So it's a process of just getting caught up.

**Nick Kovacevich** Now, did you did you add that manually, or did you use ai?

**Michele Richards** Good question, but I added it manually.

**Barbara Bagneris** Thank you for that extra input.

<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	We do have a motion.
<b>Barbara Bagneris</b>	Second.
<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	Motion and a second, Summer.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Chair Kovacevich?
<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Vice Chair Bagneris?
<b>Barbara Bagneris</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Director La Belle?
<b>Doug Le Belle</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Director Rubalcava-Garcia?
<b>Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Director Ruiz?
<b>Robert Ruiz</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Director Bilezikjian?
<b>Tanya Bilezikjian</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	And Director Jackson?
<b>Dimetria Jackson</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Thank You
<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	Okay, thank you. Now moving on. After a robust starts the meeting, we're going to take a break to go to closed session, and we'll come back as soon as we can, see everyone back here ready for closed session.
<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	Welcome back everybody. We had a decent closed session in terms of length, but nothing to report. We will move on now to agenda item number 10, we will revisit nine. 10A is a presentation of the 2023 audit

by financial monitoring and Audit Committee and an action item to vote on whether or not to accept. And we do have some outside folks here, so we want to get to this quickly. I'll turn it over to Michele.

**Michele Richards** Yes, and I'd like to introduce Adam Odom from LSL, Lance, Soll, & Lunghard our audit firm, Adam, thank you for hanging in there with us. He is on a tight time schedule, so I'm going to turn it over to you to go over the 2023 audit for us.

**Adam Odom** All right, thank you. Can you all hear me okay?

**Michele Richards** Yes.

**Adam Odom** All right. Would I be able to share my screen? Screen at all. I know, since I can't...

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Yes, you can definitely do that

**Adam Odom** If not I could, I think you all have the financials in your packet. Anyways, I could kind of talk through it.

**Summer Angus** Try it now. Adam, share screen. I'll stop. I'll stop. My share. Okay, there we go.

**Adam Odom** There we go. Okay. You there. All right, perfect. So we audited the 2023, financial statements. One thing that always causes kind of a bit of a delay, is the OPEB liability that we actually just got late last week. So we were able to finalize the financials in quick time, and we are good. So here are the finalized financial statements. The audit is split up into two different parts. One is an interim finance, or interim process, where we go through the procedures, policies, controls, at the at the entity and the DAA had everything great, there's nothing, no, what we call significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. The second part of the audit. The second part of the audit is the going through the actual numbers. So that we we test based off sampling. We don't take the full population, we take a sample that's representative of the population, and make sure that the financial statements are fairly stated in all material respects. It's called an unmodified opinion, which the DAA did get an unmodified opinion, which is great. That's what this goes through the auditor's report. Couple things we are required to have professional skepticism. So anything that the finance department tells us we have to be skeptical of we have to

make sure that it coincides with our testing procedures going on to the financial statement. So one thing I wanted to point out was the current ratio. So current assets divided by current liability, so pretty much you have a 10 to one current ratio, which is amazing. It's really almost unheard of having that that great of a ratio. That means that what's due in a year is only 10% really of what you have coming in through the next year. So that that's a current ratio. Your total assets are 124 million. About half of that consists of your capital assets. Your current liabilities, like I mentioned, was 5.6 million. Non current which is mainly your pension liability, that is 25.5 million. A lot of the pension and OPEB liability, there's really nothing you could do about it to change that amount. It's all based off actuarial reports, valuations and all that. Going on to the next, this is a statement of changes in revenues and expenses and changes in net position. You have revenue of 56 million in 2023 compared to 52 million in 2022. Your expenses did go up quite a bit, but the main reason of that is that change in your pension and OPEB. And if you look at prior year, OPEB, it went down, and pension, it went down 6.7 million, which improved your income. This year only went down 1.1 million. So total change in that position, kind of your net income was 11 million, which is a great, great year. And lastly, what I'm going to present is changes cash flow. Cash flow. So you did have about 12 million in cash provided by operating activities. You did pay about 27 million in capital assets, the majority of that related to the administrative building. So you did have a decrease in your cash. The last part are your footnotes to the financial statements. I'm really not going to get too much into this. I will get into the debt.

**Summer Angus**

Did we lose audio?

**Jason**

No, I think Adam's muted.

**Adam Odom**

There we go, can you hear me? Sorry, I don't know what happened. All right, so your SB 84 loan is started with the pension liability when pension came in a handful of years ago, a few years ago. One thing is that we still haven't heard from the state on what the payment plan is, or actually how to repay that debt. So we are continuing to grow the current portion of that each year, each year, So until we can pay it, we're gonna, let's do based on the contract that month, in that year, That's really the biggest part of the audit, yeah, and the rest of supplementary skills. Any questions on anything. I did meet with the Finance Committee last week,

and we went through the financial statements and very detailed, detail, yeah, so we are good on that.

**Nick Kovacevich** Great. Thank you. Adam.

**Adam Odom** All right, thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you. Okay, does the committee have anything else to add?

**Newton Pham** No, I mean, it's, it's a pretty boring, you know, audit opinion. That's a good thing, exactly. So with that, you know, I make a motion to approve this.

**Barbara Bagneris** 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 Le Belle** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Pham?

**Newton Pham** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

**Natalie** Yes.

**Rubalcava-Garcia**

**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** Great. Moving on to the item number 10B, both on whether or not to approve staff requests for out of state travel to attend the 2025 Western Affairs Association convention, January, 19 through 22nd in Reno, Nevada. And I'll turn this over to CEO Richards to introduce.

**Michele Richards** Okay, so this board approves all out of state travel for our employees. There's an opportunity for us to take advantage of some early discounts on flights and whatnot, to be no Nevada. January 19 through the 22nd is when the Western Affairs Association convention will be held. We're hoping to bring a number of staff and some of our board members as well. So this, we're estimating cost to be about 30,000 which is within the CEO Signing Authority. But what the board is approving is the out of state travel.

**Nick Kovacevich** Right? Any comments from the board on this?

**Barbara Bagneris** Standard operation right?

**Michele Richards** Yes, we do this every year.

**Doug Le Belle** I'll make a motion or unless we have comments.

**Nick Kovacevich** **No comment.**

**Doug Le Belle** Okay, motion to approve.

**Barbara Bagneris** Second.

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

**Summer Angus** Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneris?

<b>Barbara Bagneris</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Director La Belle?
<b>Doug Le Belle</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Director Pham?
<b>Newton Pham</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Director Rubalcava-Garcia?
<b>Natalie</b>	Yes.
<b>Rubalcava-Garcia</b>	
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Director Ruiz?
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Director Bilezikjian?
<b>Tanya Bilezikjian</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	And Director Jackson?
<b>Dimetria Jackson</b>	Yes.
<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	Great. Look forward to that. Moving on to 10 c presentation of proposed 2025 board meeting schedule and vote on whether or not to prove to approve again, I'll turn this over to CEO Richards to go through the schedule.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Thank you.
<b>Michele Richards</b>	So this being the annual meeting of this Board of Directors, we always look ahead to the board meeting schedule for the new year. These are the proposed dates and times, hopefully at least half of them will be in our new administration building by then. I'm looking at Ken a couple of notes. You'll see an asterisk by the January board meeting. So because we are going to be taking staff and hopefully some board members with us to the Western Affairs Association. And convention. Normally, our board meetings are the fourth Thursday of every month this year, in January that happens the fall on January 23rd, which would be the day we would fly back from the convention. So we're proposing to move the January board meeting to January 30th instead all of the other dates would be in line with our typical schedule.

**Barbara Bagneris** Director Bagneris, I move the schedule.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Second.

**Nick Kovacevich** All right, we have a motion and a second to approve the schedule.

**Summer Angus** Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneris?

**Barbara Bagneris** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director La Belle?

**Doug Le Belle** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Pham?

**Newton Pham** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

**Natalie** Yes.

**Rubalcava-Garcia**

**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. Moving on to 10B, this is consideration of and vote on the Board of Directors nominating task force recommendation at election of

board officers. I'll turn this over to the Nominating Committee, which is Director Rubalcava-Garcia and Director Ruiz, whichever you'd like to...

**Robert Ruiz** Yeah, thank you, Director Rubalcava, If you want to take this one.

**Natalie**

**Rubalcava-Garcia** Yeah, I'll go ahead and kick it off. Thank you, Director Ruiz. So thank you, Director Kovacevich, or Chair Kovacevich. We have met and discussed a recommendation that we would like to propose to the board for the incoming Chair and Vice Chair. And after a lot of consideration, we would like to recommend extending the current Chair and Vice chair. So we would like to offer, or ask Chair Kovacevich and Vice Chair Bagneris to continue serving in their capacity for another year. Would you like to add anything?

**Robert Ruiz** It's just, you know, to keep the continuity that we have going right now. You know, I always, I've been here for 10 years now, and I've always felt that it really should be a two year term. Sometimes we pick on things that we'd like to finish as as chair, and with everything start going now, I think this is a great recommendation of the board to keep the current chair and vice chair, and I'd like to hear from the board and see what they think.

**Doug Le Belle** I agree, and I make the motion to accept the committee's recommendation for you Nick and Barbara. They've done a great job on the leadership committee, and obviously we're right in the midst now of a whole lot of things, primarily to transition to the new Master Site Plan. And I think the continuity is perfect. So i'll make the motion.

**Nick Kovacevich** Yeah, I think the you know, if they're up for it. So, I'm supportive. Yeah, thank you. Well, we truly appreciate your guys's support of what my Vice Chair myself have been doing in the leadership committee. I think it's been the board's been working very great together and be honored to accept another term and hopefully continue this positive momentum.

**Natalie**  
**Rubalcava-Garcia** Perfect, you know, and Director Kovacevich, sorry, Director Bagneris, I know you're probably going to say something, but you know, as Director Ruiz and I have both served as chair of the Fair Board, and we know how much work and time goes into it, so we do appreciate your consideration and extending your service to the board. It's been a very busy year, and we just think that you guys have done a great job leading the organization forward, and we hope that you will consider doing it

again. And I hear Vice or I hear Chair Kovacevich saying he will do it, and I'm hoping that Director Bagneris will do the same.

**Barbara Bagneris** Without question. I appreciate it, and I, too, am honored that you would ask us to do that. And this is not new. This has happened over the years where people have thought about having that second year, so I think this is a good time to do it, and I'm honored, and I definitely accept.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you. All right, we do have a motion from Director La Belle.

**Newton Pham** I'll second.

**Nick Kovacevich** Then we have a second from Director Pham.

**Michele Richards** Normally, at this time, we present a plaque to the outgoing chair. We assess the normal plaque that has been given out. I know Vice Chair Bagneris, you...Vote?

**Summer Angus** Yeah, Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** Yes. Do I vote?

**Doug Le Belle** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneris?

**Barbara Bagneris** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director La Belle?

**Doug Le Belle** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Pham?

**Newton Pham** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

**Natalie  
Rubalcava-Garcia** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz** Yes.

<b>Summer Angus</b>	Director Bilezjikjian?
<b>Tanya Bilezikjian</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	And Director Jackson?
<b>Dimetria Jackson</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Thank you.
<b>Michele Richards</b>	Okay, so sorry normally, we give a wooden plaque with a gavel, and I know several of you in this room have had that, we decided that it was probably good to retire that old look. And so we went in favor of a nice, sleek acrylic, which is not here yet, right? So we'd like to at least present you with a cheap photocopy, but that's for you with our appreciation for serving and happy to have you serve again.
<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	Thank You.
<b>Barbara Bagneris</b>	And as Vice Chair, I want to personally thank you, Director Kovacevich, that you have been a outstanding leader for us. You are, I mean, I really can't say enough, but you've always kept me informed. You're very open about what you what your feelings are about things that allow me to say what I want to say, and I really appreciate you, and I think that this board is better today for having you as been the chair.
<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	Thank you so much, it means a lot.
<b>Doug Le Belle</b>	May I just make a comment really quick too. I would also like to recommend that the I know that we had looked at this before, and I don't think we have a policy in place, but if the Governance Committee could consider looking at extending the chair position to two years moving forward.
<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	Yeah, good idea. Yes, governance committee will look at it. Thank you. Okay, moving on to Agenda Item 10E, which is the committee reports. So we do have committee reports for three of our committees. The first would be the leadership committee. And as usual, I think this will be a very brief report I'm happy to read. The Leadership Committee did meet to discuss the board agenda for this board meeting, we met on the ninth of October, and the next committee meeting is going to be on the sixth of November to plan for the November board meeting. That concludes

that report, moving to the second report, which is from the financial monitoring audit committee. I don't know if there's anything additional that you guys want to add.

**Newton Pham** Well, yeah, we met October 16, in addition to the audit presentation. So we did our usual monthly open financial recite, which came out pretty favorable the budget by about 1,000,006. But I can let Michele later, because her report so...

**Michele Richards** Yeah, here are the numbers for September, we're in good shape for the month favorable to budget by 1.6 million. Year to date, we're tracking close to one of 6.2 million favorable to budget. And then, of course, our cash and cash equivalents, we're doing really well, kind of rebuilding that cash after the spectacular fair. So we're at a little over 61 million in cash and cash equivalents. So good shape.

**Nick Kovacevich** Great. Usually, when you see that kind of over performance, there's allegations of the budget being sandbag. But, I think its fair to say that we are over achieving..

**Michele Richards** You can thank our fair guests for that too, right? It turned out, really good.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you guys, and the last committee report is the Facilities Committee, but we do, before we give the report, have one public comment, and that is Denise Xagorarakis. Yes, Denise would like to come.

**Denise Xagorarakis** Are we just standing over here?

**Michele Richards** The podium is right up here.  
**Denise Xagorarakis** So my name is Denise Xagorarakis. Just wanted to say thank you for letting us speak to this item. I wasn't able to attend a meeting in September, and I just wanted to make a quick comment on the now "Ranch" over the rebranded equestrian center to the Ranch. the over the summer, wait guys were out of session. The conditions were unfavorable to the horses and to the people who utilize the facility, and we appreciate that that was... My horse, personally was affected his physical health was affected by that. He is actually today in the hospital for his arthritis. So, um, we spent two years rehabbing him back from that, and now

we're back to dealing with it. Um, walking on the hard ground for a month was detrimental, but if in order to avoid having additional damage to his body, I did sign the agreement, and part of the agreement was we provided a deposit or which was not previously required. But we provided the deposit, and we did request that his stall be repaired because there was a lot of deferred maintenance to the stall, or the bottom of the stall was rotted out the and and I just wanted to say thank you to the Facilities Committee for making sure that those items got addressed and his stall was repaired. And I believe that we, we were able to do that, but it took a huge hardship on us, just as a group. And from what I can't say speak for other people, but from what I've heard, the conditions were detrimental to our horses to us, and we appreciate the adjustment with with that, I did Just want to say thank you to the Facilities Committee for making that the repairs possible to keep him safe and his space. And that is all. Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you, Facilities Committee.

**Robert Ruiz** Yeah, we met on October 1, we it was an on site. We put on our hard hats and our vests and did a walk through, and it's actually kind of nice. And so staff gave us an update on phase one, which is going along great. And I believe at the time you met, we are like a week behind Michele, and I don't know if that's a change. Okay, well, yeah, okay, yeah, it's going to be great, and the project was phenomenal. Yeah, restroom, showers, 60% completed. I'm sorry, yeah, yes, prior to the fair next year, and hopefully, you know that's that's going to go over. Well, The Ranch, Director Bilezikjian, you want to highlight on that?

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Director Ruiz if you wouldn't mind, there's a pretty significant echo for us on the on the call.

**Robert Ruiz** No problem. Yeah, The Parking Lot Striping has been completed with the new banner that's Arlington and Newport. Looks great. Looks great. Other than that, you know, the projects are coming along. Great. The master site plan and our Admin building is looking again, like I said, awesome. So looking forward to seeing the completion of that. So that's going to be it for our report. If anybody has any questions, I, we would be glad to answer them.

**Michele Richards** We have a few photos that Ken would like to share.

**Ken Karns** So steel is arriving, starting to go up. Steel studs inside starting to take shape. A little bit procurement. HVAC units are arriving. Generators here. So yeah, things under our control, procurement being one of long lead items, no red flags. Work is going well. Weather is cooperating. Yes, there's anxiety about, are we going to be ready and moved during fair and get rid of Lego village. Today, there's confidence things out of our control, state fire marshal inspections and things like that. We'll deal with it as it comes. But today we're doing quite well.

**Robert Ruiz** Alright, that's going to be it for the report. Thank you.

**Doug Le Belle** Question. Actually, I think of Michele, the board is going to be getting together. What's the beginning November to talk about the whole Master Plan process and where we're at and?

**Michele Richards** Yeah, our strategic planning session is scheduled for Friday, November 15th.

**Barbara Bagneris** We should have a birthday party too, my birthday is four days later.

**Doug Le Belle** Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** Great. And Director Ruiz, I know you're no stranger to putting on the hard hat and rolling up your sleeves. I appreciate you bringing that to the table here for us. Thank you. So these committee goals, so thank you. Okay, that concludes our Agenda Item number 10. We'll go ahead and jump back to Agenda Item number nine, which is the CEO operational announcements and updates.

**Michele Richards** Right? Thank you for the reminder. There we go. So the evening, right after our September board meeting, Vice Chair Bagneris and Director Rubalcava-Garcia joined COO Ken Karns and me at the annual Black Chamber gala event. Was a wonderful event celebrating the success and accomplishments of not only black owned businesses but the entire black community. We even got a photo in with the very dapperly dressed black chamber commerce Executive Director Bobby McDonald. And Director Ruiz mentioned about the Facilities Committee visit to the construction site, that happened on October 1st. So we went over pending capital projects and the status of the two master site plan projects, and then we were able to take a walk through of the site. It was coming along very well. Yeah. The following Saturday, the 2024 OC Pride Parade and Festival debuted at the OC fair Event Center, and the organizers were

very pleased with their new location at the Orange County Fair and Event Center, and praised our staff for the work they did to manage the event. First time events are always a challenge for everybody, but things went very well. OC, pride also honored us with an Ally of the Year Award, which I was pleased to accept on behalf of the Board and staff. And it, too is an acrylic award that I'm holding in that picture, but that will go in our new building as well. And you might remember from last month, the Community Affairs Committee honored judge Frederick Aguirre with the proclamation for Hispanic Heritage Month. Judge Aguirre was not able to make it in person during last month's board meeting, but Director Rubalcava-Garcia and I met with the judge last week to present the proclamation in person.

**Barbara Bagneris** Okay, before you leave, I know you mentioned Bobby looking so dapper, but Ken's jacket... knows how to dress.

**Michele Richards** Here we go. Alright, sorry, Ken.

**Ken Karns** Bobby and I made the magazine.

**Michele Richards** Andy, it's that time of year again when staff rolls up our sleeves, we fire up our calculators and sharpen our pencils to create the budget for the next year. We just finished two full back to back days of budget meetings. Was with our staff. We'll be doing more work on that, as Director Pham mentioned, or No, I think no, we did. We mentioned the budget study session. Yes. So that will be on Wednesday November 13th, at 4pm in this room that will be led by the finance committee. But other board members are welcome to attend as observers. And of course, it's open to the public, so all are are invited to attend, and there have been some folks sitting here in the front row for quite a while now that we wanted to introduce you to I was approached by several board members after last month's ranch presentation that You all wanted to meet the team that have been putting those plans together, so I'll turn it over to Michele, or would you like me to do the introductions?

**Michele Capps** Either way.

**Michele Richards** Okay, okay,

**Michele Capps** So this, they are here. Led by Evy Director of ag programming, and from our creative services department that helped put the entire

presentation together. We have Melody Avena designs that you saw came from our other two from...

**Michele Richards** It's your game.

**Barbara Bagneris** Thank you.

**Michele Capps** Yeah, they put a lot of work into all of that job.

**Doug Le Belle** Fantastic presentation. Really, was really, that's the story. Yeah, good.

**Michele Richards** Well, your staff doesn't often get to hear all the compliments that come from board members, because they don't normally attend board meetings. So we passed along all the great comments, great stuff.

**Michele Richards** Okay, Michele.

**Michele Capps** Talked a little bit about the ranch, so things that have been happening over at The Ranch. You've already mentioned that new sign went up. The website was also updated. So if you go to that page, we will continue to populate it with the programs as they are added and developed the first Ranch after school program has already started. That was, I think we're three weeks into it. That's at the new location. And those are the photos of the kids starting the gardens, and they're holding pens, and we have some rabbits over there that they've been working with. We also have a meeting scheduled with the Newport Mesa Unified School District Director of engagement partnerships and expanded learning to discuss the expansion of who will actually be attending our programming in the future, and so how we can get our outreach for the program. The mural will begin next week, and the exhibits, the exhibit creation is all in progress and scheduled for January, and we'll just keep recording here as we build that program out. And one additional thing, the meetings continue with North Orange County Veterans Program, and the logistics are being planned with how that program will be developed. Everything is on track moving forward. Very happy about that.

**Doug Le Belle** Michele, when does the Stage coach arrive?

**Michele Capps** The team went and looked at it a few weeks ago, that and the other two coaches. We've got all the measurements, we have the requirements of what we need to do to bring it here. It's going to need some sort of a cover over it. We need to make sure that we have the foundation that can

hold the way. And so we're working on all of those logistics.

**Doug Le Belle** Now, the stagecoach we're going to get is, is that the one, I know, there's two or three of them that say the Butterfield Overland Mail company that's a stagecoach, or?

**Michele Capps** Yes, yeah, is that will be all, though. And then there's the doctors and the West, yeah, but it is the overland.

**Doug Le Belle** Perfect. I think I mentioned last month the doing little research, the Butterfield Overland meal company had a stop in Chino Hills. Wasn't Chino Hills at the time, it was, I think LA County actually before it became San Bernadino County, and the ranch there was on what is now Boys Republic property. So there's some history there that ties this in with to VR and it I got doing some some research. I talked to one of my former staff members, who is the president of the Chino Hills Historic Society, so she filled me in on a lot of details, and that was really interesting. It's going to be good. I think there's a lot of educational possibilities that are going to tie into everything, not just the stagecoach, but the other stuff the beginning.

**Barbara Bagneris** You use to work on Knott's Berry farm, didn't you say that too?

**Doug Le Belle** Pardon me?

**Barbara Bagneris** Was it you who worked for Knotts Berry Farm?

**Doug Le Belle** Oh, way back in the beginning of time, I worked with my father, who was headed up the farm market. I don't know if it's still there or not. And there was another store that he managed, and he and I, or he hired me, different time, different place, paid me out of the cash register. And he also hired his boss's son, who's one of the grandsons of Walter and Cordelia Knott's, so he's still a good friend of mine. We immersed quite a bit. So anyway, long time ago.

**Nick Kovacevich** Nice.

**Michele Richards** You want to continue with the upcoming events?

**Nick Kovacevich** Yeah, agenda item number 11.

**Michele Capps** Home, alright. So tonight Fight Club, so we've got, we're finishing out

October with a few things. We have the fight club tonight, which is a series of six boxing and MMA fights. Happy Hour begins at 5:30 over at Baja Bar and Grill, and the first fight will be at seven tonight. This weekend, we have Bucha. It's a haunted October fest with three hours of unlimited beer tastings and live performances by lit safe Ferris and COVID Rocky. There's gonna be a costume contest, so pull those together and come on down to the fair on Saturday night. And then over the weekend, we have Veg Fest, an entire weekend event designed to engage your curiosity and inspire your consciousness in people of all ages. For the largest vegan festival, there will be free plant based food sampling, music, guest speakers, cooking demos and more. The Pumpkin Patch is out there on the corner. Sure you've seen it. There's the petting zoo, the train inflatables and all of those pumpkins. So bring your family out for that next slide we have the next weekend is the great junk hunt, which is one of the largest antique and vintage collectible shows and home report, beginning Friday at 4pm you can pay to be one of the first pick shoppers comes in, and it's going to be filling four buildings. And then we have the Sugar Plum Festival. It's the biggest family owned arts and crafts show in Southern California, offering 1,000s of handmade crafts, and over 175 artisans will be there that same weekend, we have the Wine Fest. There's going to be two sessions on Saturday, one on Sunday, for about the price of one good bottle of wine, you can come and sample all you want during the first during three hours, and on November 9, is our annual Veterans Day celebration over at heroes hall this year, it's a celebration of where saying military service meets the power of artistic expression, and we'll be shining a spotlight on the ways art connects with military service, and How it's a powerful tool for healing, storytelling and connection for veterans and active duty service members, this celebration will include swing dancing and musical performances, arts and crafts, cookie decorating contests, and offer opportunities to connect with local veterans organizations, free hot dogs and drinks as well. So come on out. We hope that you guys can be joining us for that.

**Doug Le Belle**

Question, what kind of stuff comes in there? I need more stuff for my grandkids.

**Michele Capps**

All kinds, I don't know, until the vendors... okay, yeah, yeah. And then we the repticon Explore rows of reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates and more. You can stock up on supplies and feeders and everything you need

for your snake and more. And then we're going to finish that off with the cat extravaganza, calling all cat lovers support global charities and rescues and fitness beautiful cats strutting down the catwalk, and that's on both Saturday and Sunday Over in the hangar. And then we finish it all out with our centennial farm workshops. This weekend. We have the fall fruit focus. It's already sold out, and it's Southern California citrus and avocado care. And then we have another discovery Day on November 5. And we have, I want to say, over 900 kids that will be coming to that. And then our other workshop is taught by UCCE master gardeners. The topic is hydroponics for home gardeners. And as you know, every Thursday farmers market.

**Michele Richards** And one more quick note, um, we were very remiss in not also wishing Happy Birthday to Director La Belle. Look right. Right after our. September board meeting, so the day after Director Bilezikjian birthday, because we had it mistakenly on our calendar for October 13, right? So Happy belated.

**Doug Le Belle** Thank you.

**Michele Richards** A month, I'm so sorry. Yes, I completely skipped over. Ken does have a few more operational updates as well? Sure.

**Ken Karns** Sure. Thank you. Just this month, first the Antelope Valley Fair visit. A few of us had the opportunity on Saturday, September 28 to try drive to Lancaster, California and visit the Antelope Valley Fair. The property is absolutely beautiful. The team there does put on a tremendous event. And really, no matter where you go to visit, you're always learn something when you go to another fair, they have a very, pretty cool, AG, museum, a pavilion, gazebo area with a waterfall. It's a great spot for photos, small partings, weddings, and they did a tremendous job. And...

**Michele Richards** it was only 95 degrees there .

**Ken Karns** That's a beautiful breeze, always a beautiful breeze, and it's a dry heat. It was a very nice drive. California Zoom meeting. So we continue to regularly have regularly scheduled meetings with the leadership of two other large fairs here in California, the LA County Fair and the San Diego County Fair. We started that years ago. So on October 9, we had our zoom. We had the chance to review our 2024 fairs with each other,

seeing if there's anything else we need to do to help each other as we go into the development of our 2025 fairs. And speaking of fair, my third item to report is our fair development team meetings. The 2025 fair planning is underway. Many folks and teams are responsible for the fair, but we have two groups of teams in particular that start the process. And on Thursday, October 10, we held our first fair development team kickoff meeting. Some great initial brainstorming was had as we start planning to find your happy at the 2025 fair, along with FDT. The fair development team is FLC, and that is our fair logistics committee. Those are the folks that take all our ideas and dreaming and turn them into all the planning and the reality. And those meetings are scheduled, and we'll start very soon. And lastly, I'm going to go off script, because as I have one additional item. Late into the evening of Tuesday, October 22 the OC Fernando Event Center, welcome a brand new fair brat into the fold, my very first grandchild, Annabelle rose, my daughter in law, Barbara, Son, Curtis and the are all doing that's great. And that concludes my report.

**Nick Kovacevich** Save the best place. Thank you. Alright. Great meeting today. We're going to go ahead and move to close here, finishing up rounding out with Agenda Item Number 12, board directors, matters of information. Our information sometimes matters. Hopefully, we'll go ahead and start with our friends on Zoom. Director Bilezikjian, I see you first.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Sorry I had trouble getting off mute. Nope, nothing for me today. Just it's a little hard to hear everything that's happening when when we're on Zoom. But thank you for everybody and all their work. And I just amso proud to be part of this board and take part in everything that it has to offer, including the fair.

**Nick Kovacevich** Right director Rubalcava-Garcia?

**Michele Richards** She took off.

**Nick Kovacevich** Okay, and then we'll go around the room here, starting with Director Jackson.

**Dimetria Jackson** Oh, great meeting, happy late birthday to all the October babies, yes, October, and congratulations to our vice chair and chair who will be taking their you know your leadership, and we're glad to have you. I'm looking forward to the vegan festival. I will be there this one day,

hopefully both mind that was a pumpkin patch. I mean, come on. This is a great opportunity. So I'm looking forward to it. What building will that be in?

**Michele Capps** Several, Several.

**Michele Richards** I think it's on the plaza. It's on Plaza Pacific. Now I'll find it. Yeah, there you go.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you. Director La Belle.

**Doug Le Belle** Thank you Nick. Congratulations to Nick and Barbara. I think that's a great idea and very interesting. I'm just serving the last month of my two year tenure as the president of Voyager public board of directors, and we have had two year term presidents for as long as I've been on the board. So it allows time to build some understanding and continuity and that sort of thing. So I think it's a great idea, and the Governance Committee will obviously come back with some thoughts on that. I really enjoyed my tenure on the on the board here, and hope to continue for a while longer. Thank you for the birthday wishes 81 working on 82 so we'll see everything keeps going. So anyway, thanks to all of my colleagues on the board, we all bring something different in terms of a perspective, and I think that's what makes this a very successful board. Robert and Barbara and I have been on a long time and obviously all of the new board members, as they come on, they bring different perspectives. So thank you all for your continued service. So with that, done, great,

**Newton Pham** Yeah, no, awesome. You know, looking forward to the you know, appreciate the continuity. You know, I think staff has done a really great job all year, and congrats to Ken.

**Nick Kovacevich** Great, thank you. Director Ruiz.

**Robert Ruiz** Yeah, I just wanted to thank you both for accepting the nomination. Great job as always, keep up the good work. And I just wanted to say happy belated birthday to Director La Belle and congratulations and on your new addition, and hope to see some of you at the Veterans Day event we're having here. I know I'll be here. Many of you are coming, looking forward to see you. Other than that, that's it. Wish everyone a happy and safe Halloween. Thank you.

**Barbara Bagneris** I too echo the happy birthday. I love birthdays. So anybody's birthday I celebrate. So happy birthday to you, congratulations, grandpa. Next month we expect to see more pictures, and then when you go to the Veggie fest, let me know, so you can tell me what the stuff is. Okay, yeah, so just let me know, and I'll meet you there. I thank the Nominating Committee for deciding to do this and the board for accepting it? I've already, I can't heap enough praise on this guy, so I've already said what I'm going to say about that, but I enjoy meeting this crew right here, yes, because when we saw that presentation, I know it went well beyond my expectations. You know, I'm I could I have a vision for things, but I don't really see it until I see it. And that presentation with the flyover, your concept of this, just blew me away. And I'm so happy that we're able to meet you and see you, because we think Michele does all this. So happy to have you here today with us, and just to let you know we are very appreciative of what you're doing. I know it's not over, so thank you for all I'm doing, even we can't say enough about you. The whole time I've been on this board, and I cannot say enough about you. So thank you for leading this group, and with that, oh, good to see Josh in person. And with that, I'll turn it over.

**Nick Kovacevich** Josh and I are finishing up our charging of our cars. We should be.. I'll take us home, but yeah, thank you guys again for support and extending the term, and look, it's just testament to the continuity that we're working really well together. Makes me look good, makes Barbara look good. But, you know, we've always said it's the staff, right? And know Michele the executive team, but you know, it's great to get even another layer down and just see that the people that are really making it happen. And I agree with Vice Chair Bagneris. I mean, you know, we come up with this vision. We think it's good, but, you know, it's not a vision. It's how you really see it. And you know, I think we were all overly impressed, and that something that we thought of in our mind, you know, then visualize to be by. You better imagine.

**Newton Pham** I'm bummed I missed that.

**Michele Richards** The recording of the meeting online. I'll send you the link.

**Nick Kovacevich** and, I'll finish off with, of course, some congratulations for birthdays and grandkids. And I'm a long way from that myself, but it's exciting.

**Ken Karns** I'd like to introduce Cannon to Annabelle, you know.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Okay, so last I wanted, I know Director Ruiz and myself are both suffering through a football season here, but series. So some people here should be very happy about that. That's going to be exciting. And warnings are undefeated this year. After last night, expect much from the season, so I'll celebrate. And thank you guys for doing I appreciate being a report I was wondering a few years ago. Thank you guys. And our next board meeting is going to be November, 21 2024 and I look forward to seeing everybody there, meeting adjourned.