

**MINUTES OF OCFEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
HELD FEBRUARY 27, 2025**

The following Minutes are a summary of Board action and proceedings. For a full transcript please click on the link below or visit the ocfair.com website.

[https://s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/ocfair.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/21155804/25\\_02\\_February\\_Transcript.pdf](https://s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/ocfair.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/21155804/25_02_February_Transcript.pdf)

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Kovacevich, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

**2. MISSION STATEMENT**

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

**4. DIRECTORS PRESENT:**

Chair Kovacevich, Vice Chair Bagneris, Director La Belle, Director Pham, Director Ruiz and Director Jackson.

**DIRECTORS ABSENT/EXCUSED:** Directors Bilezikjian and Rubalcava-Garcia.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Michele Richards, OCFEC CEO; Ken Karns, OCFEC Chief Operating Officer; Melissa Au-Yeung, Chief Administrative Officer; Michele Capps, OCFEC Chief Business Development Officer; Jason Jacobsen, Director Planning & Production; Cassandra Scott, OCFEC Communications Associate; Summer Angus, OCFEC Executive Assistant; OCFEC Ag programs staff; Josh Caplan, Office of the Attorney General; Reginald Joseph, transcriptionist; Glen Johnson, Centennial Farm Foundation;

**5. MINUTES:**

**A. Board meeting held January 30, 2025**

Action Item

**ACTION:** Director La Belle motioned and Director Ruiz seconded to approve the Minutes from Board meetings held January 30, 2025. **MOTION CARRIED. AYES:** Chair Kovacevich, Vice Chair Bagneris, Director La Belle, Director Ruiz and Director Jackson. **NAYES:** None. **ABSTENTIONS:** Director Pham.

**9. GOVERNANCE PROCESS** (*item moved up*)

**A. Presentation of Black History Month Proclamation by Community Affairs Committee**

Information Item

Director Jackson, on behalf of the Community Affairs Committee, presented the Black History Month proclamation to Connie Jene Jones of Southwest Community Center and Community Action Partnership of Orange County, honoring her for her work in supporting the needs of the working poor in Santa Ana since 1970.

Connie Jones thanked the Board for what they do, including a special thanks for the Keisha Cole concert tickets at the 2024 OC Fair. She discussed the enjoyment at the concert that she shared with her granddaughter and her love for the OC Fair.

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

Glen Johnson, President of Centennial Farm Foundation, announced the Foundation's 4<sup>th</sup> annual charity shoot a Raahauges's shooting range on May 2 to raise money for educational programs at Centennial Farm.

## **7. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**A. Standard Agreements:** SA-017-25SP; SA-018-25GE; SA-019-25GE; SA-021-25GE; SA-022-25GE; SA-023-25GE; SA-024-25GE; SA-025-25GE; SA-026-25AS; SA-027-25GE; SA-028-25SP; SA-029-25IO; SA-030-25HB; SA-031-25HB; SA-032-25HB; SA-033-25HB; SA-034-25HB; SA-035-25SP; SA-036-25SP; SA-037-25HB; SA-038-25HB; SA-039-25HB; SA-040-25HB; SA-041-25HB; SA-042-25HB; SA-043-25HB; SA-044-25HB; SA-045-25HB; SA-046-25HB; SA-047-25HB; SA-048-25IO; SA-049-25IO; SA-050-25HB; SA-052-25HB; SA-053-25IO; SA-054-25IO; SA-055-25IO; SA-056-25IO; SA-057-25IO; SA-058-25GE; SA-059-25GE; SA-060-25GE; SA-061-25SP; SA-062-25YR; SA-063-25SP; SA-064-25SP; SA-068-25YR; SA-067-25SP

- i. **Standard Agreement Amendments:** SA-003-25SP (Amend. #1)
- ii. **Standard Agreement Amendments (Exercise Option):** SA-033-22SP (Amend. #3); SA-016-23FT (Amend. #4); SA-103-23YR (Amend. #2)

**B. Rental Agreements:** R-023-25; R-036-25; R-037-25; R-046-25; R-063-25; R-065-25; R-069-25; SS-2501; SS-2502; SS-2503

- i. **Rental Agreement Amendments:** R-002-25 (Amend. #2)

**C. Active Joint Powers Authority Agreements:** 032-25-506010; 032-25-888420; 032-25-888573; 032-25-888576

### **D. Correspondence:**

Communications to the Board from members of the public related to OCFEC business are identified below and included with the Board materials (available on the OCFEC website). Note that this agenda item includes only those communication(s) that were sent to the entire Board and CEO before the publication of this month's agenda. The deadline for correspondence to be included on the March 2025 agenda is March 14, 2025.

- i. None.

### **E. CDFA Correspondence:**

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

- i. None.

**ACTION:** Vice Chair Bagneris motioned and Director La Belle seconded to approve the consent calendar. **MOTION CARRIED. AYES:** Chair Kovacevich, Vice Chair Bagneris, Director La Belle, Director Pham, Director Ruiz and Director Jackson. **NAYES:** None. **ABSTENTIONS:** None.

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

The Board adjourned to closed session at 9:49 a.m. and resume at 10:36 a.m.

Items to report out of closed session: None.

**8. CEO'S OPERATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES**

CEO Richards reported the following:

- Updates on the bird flu situation and its impact on the fair - hopeful will not impact dairy and poultry shows during the 2025 OC Fair
- OCFEC staff attended the Maintenance Mania event at the San Diego County Fair - members of OCFEC staff lead some trainings
- The Ranch was activated by OC Animal Care for large animal evacuations during the last heavy rains – OCFEC Ranch staff has developed new emergency evacuation intake procedures
- Pan African flag flying for Black History Month at OCFEC
- Centennial Farm impact report for January 2025: 196 Jr. Farmer Tours; 3,810 students; 769 Discovery Day students; 64 Farm & Garden class participants
- Piglets were born on 1/31/25 at Centennial Farm
- Preview of the summer concert series at the Pacific Amphitheatre

**9. GOVERNANCE PROCESS** *(continued)*

**B. Update on Outreach to Stakeholders for Feedback on Five-Year Strategic Plan**

Information Item

CEO Richards discussed the manner of outreach and collection of feedback on the five-year strategic plan.

Director La Belle offered outreach to Orange County City Manager's association to get on their agenda.

**C. Status Report on The Ranch Community Center Facilities and Programs**

Information Item

CEO Richards informed the Board about the progress of The Ranch Community Center (TRCC). She shared details about the mural, The Ranch After School Program, the equine exhibit and the upcoming TRCC Discovery Day in mid-May. She announced a donation of \$14,500 from Heroes Hall Veterans Foundation to cover the cost of equine-assisted therapy program for veterans.

Director La Belle suggested connecting with Boy's Republic vocational programs to assist with refurbishing the donated coaches.

There was discussion about the Board doing a visit to TRCC after the March 27 Board meeting to see the progress.

#### **D. Committee / Ad Hoc Committee / Liaison Report**

##### Information Item

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

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

Chair Kovacevich on behalf of the Leadership Committee, reported:

- Committee met on February 12 to plan the February agenda and discuss the CEO recruitment process
- Next meeting is scheduled for 3/12/2025

Director Pham, on behalf of the Financial Monitoring and Audit Committee, reported:

- It is early in the year for budget revenue comparison
- He presented the January financial reports
- Next meeting is scheduled for 3/24/25

Chair Kovacevich asked the Finance Committee to look at outstanding receivables and report back next month.

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

- The committee met February 5 and reviewed and discussed the following:
  - CapX projects (17 active)
  - Master Site plan
    - Admin Building about 6 weeks behind schedule due to weather
      - Committee to tour progress of building on March 5
    - Midway restroom and showers have 60% drawings completed and moving forward to the estimator and to 90% drawings
  - Updated on The Ranch (as presented in Item 9B)

COO Karns, shared some photos of the administration building progress.

Director Jackson, on behalf of the Community Affairs committee, reported:

- Met on electronically in early February to identify potential recipients of the Black History Month proclamation (Item 9A).
  - Connie Jones, former director of the Southwest Community Center and current Board member of the Community Action Partnership of Orange County was chosen Agenda item 9A and discussed the following:
- Committee is working on identifying a recipient for Woman's History month for March
- Next meeting is TBD
- Acknowledgement of Black History month

#### **11. UPCOMING EVENTS PREVIEW**

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

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

Board members made concluding comments:

- Appreciate presentations of The Ranch and Black History Month
- Praise for Community Affairs presentations
- The Ranch being an educational facility suggestions for (future) - component to enhance wedding opportunities
- Praise to staff for their work
- Honor to meet Connie Jones (Black History proclamation recipient)
- Appreciation for fellow Board members
- Appreciation for Reggie Mundekis' support
- Looking forward to Heroes Hall Speaker Series
- Appreciation to the Vice Chair for her involvement
- Looking forward to the Centennial Farm Foundation Fundraiser

#### **13. NEXT BOARD MEETING: MARCH 27, 2025**

#### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

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Nick Kovacevich, Chair

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Michele Richards, Chief Executive Officer