



Meeting Minutes

Agricultural Advisory Council Meeting

Held on
Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.
Cal Expo Boardroom, Administration Building

Attendees

Council Members

Marit Arana
Barbara Butterfield
Eric Carleson
Teresa Castanias
John Chiles, Chair
Sandy Creighton-Fiack
Judy Culbertson
Sara Curtis
Richard Engel
Bob Gore
Megan Huber
Jennifer Johnson
Gail Kautz
Marcia Kimura
Randy Lovell
Sharon Lynch
Lloyd McCabe
Dannie Mitchell
Harold Peterson

Len Richardson
Mary Richardson
Lee Ruth
Erica Sanko
Ron Schuler
Brett Tank
Terry Witzel
Chris Zanobini, Vice Chair

Board, Staff and Volunteers

Rick Pickering, CEO
Tom Martinez, Chief DGM
Jay Carlson, AG Programs Manager
Don Callison
Natalie Minas
Sue O'Brien
Emily Reed
Michelle Solorzano
Jake Parnell
Jenna Forster

1. Call to order

Chair Chiles called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

2. Introductions

Introductions were made around the room

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 16, 2016

Motion:

It was moved by Council Member Engel and seconded by Council Member Peterson to Approve Meeting Minutes from February 16, 2016 as presented. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

4. New Member Report and Approval

Council Member Engel reported that the new member committee has been working on growing and diversifying the Agricultural Advisory Council. Two names are being brought forth for approval as new members.

- a) Linda (aka Sam) Ose is a local Sacramentian. She is involved with the United States Equestrian Federation and the US Pony Club. She is being recommended by Suzanne Opegard to help grow our Equestrian programs.
- b) Sandy Creighton-Fiak has relocated to Sacramento from Fresno. She works for Zenith Agribusiness and has previously worked for Judy Culbertson, CA Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom and Cal Farm insurance. Her business has been providing publications and sponsorships and she is looking to getting actively involved.

Motion:

Council Member Engel would entertain a motion to accept these two candidates and recommend to the Board of Director for approval. It was moved by Council Member Zanobini and seconded by Council Member Ruth. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

Move agenda item 5f

Chair Chiles suggested taking item 5d out of order. A motion was made to move item 5f after item 5a. It was moved by Council Member Sanko and seconded by Council Member Ruth. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

5. Committee Discussion/Reports

a. Ag Heritage Committee

Committee Chair Culbertson thanked Cal Expo Staff Don Callison for helping with the creation of a ¼-page ad that was used in various agricultural publications. He was responsible for the post card that was mailed to over 700 people to help

promote the Ag Heritage Committee, remind people of the Ag Heritage Breakfast on July 13th and well as recruit for new members. The web site has also been updated so joining or becoming a sponsorship is an easier process.

f. Youth Development and Recognition Committee

Committee Chair McCabe reported that this committee had help score the 2016 scholarship entries. There are 12 finalists that will be participating in the final interview on May 5th.

i. Sale of Champions Presentation

Jake Parnell of Parnell & Dickinson, auctioneer for the Sale of Champions gave a brief history of prior years' Sale of Champions. He expressed the challenge he felt in finding new sponsors for this event. There was a discussion with many ideas about finding new sponsors for this event.

Chair Chilies returned to the order on the agenda.

b. California Recognition and Celebration Committee

i. Sponsorship Report

Committee Chair Lynch reported that the sponsorships for the gala are on track. If members of this Council had names and contact information for possible sponsors or items for the live auction to contact Ruth Gottlieb.

ii. Friends of the Fair

Committee Chair Lynch shared a short history of Friends of the Fair and their relationship to the California State Fair. She reported that FOF had been meeting with State Fair Staff to discuss the awardees and program for the gala. Videos of awardees will be shorter and moving the event from Friday to Thursday night would prior a "Business ending time" to the gala.

c. Equine Committee Report

Committee Chair Suzanne Oppeward was not available so Sara Curtis presented her report. The Equine Committee had a good meeting. There will be several new programs for the Cavalcade arena. Best of Show with a new class of Miniature Horses, Equine Champion Challenge and New Costume Contest for Horse and Rider. The 2016 Headliners will be, Texas Trick Riders, Chandelier Horse Productions, Capital City Aerialist and the Vintage Cinderella Carriage.

d. Farm and Food Committee

i. Farm School Tours and Activates

Staff reported that the spring tours are happening at the Farm. Tours are being taught how to create their own planting pot, mix their own soil and plant the seed. Anticipating approximately 1300 students going through the farm for the spring tours. In addition to the farm tours, the forest center has opened to teach the children about the forest. This program has about 10 volunteers.

Some are from the Friends of the Fair and others are from a non-profit that coordinates volunteers from Sac City and Elk Grove School Districts.

e. Livestock and Animal Welfare Care Committee

Committee Chair McCabe reported that at their last meeting they heard from CEO Pickering who gave them an update on the State Fair and AG Programs Manager Carlson who explained the various educational programs available. The Committee also reviewed the Animal Welfare handbook and there were no changes.

6. Cal Expo and State Fair Report

CEO Pickering reported an update of Cal Expo and State Fair. He mentioned a few highlights, expanding the shade, 50% more community acts and 10 days of live horseracing. Cal Expo received a grant to do a new Whale tails exhibit and Butler Family Fun is installing a new sky ride

7. Adjournment

Committee Chair made a motion to adjourn the Agricultural Advisory Council Meeting.

Motion:

It was moved by Council Member Schuler and seconded by Council Member Peterson to adjourn the meeting. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

The Agricultural Advisory Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.