

CALIFORNIA EXPOSITION & STATE FAIR

Minutes of the Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Held Pursuant to Due Notice
March 13, 2020

California Exposition & State Fair
1600 Exposition Boulevard
Sacramento, CA 95815

Directors Present

Director Jess Durfee Chair
Director Rex Hime, Vice Chair
Director Rima Barkett
Director Sonney Chong
Director Rina DiMare
Director Brian May

Directors Absent

Director David Mallel

Staff Present

Rick Pickering, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Tom Martinez, Chief Deputy General Manager (CDGM)
Samantha Brown, Deputy General Manager, Administration
Margaret Mohr, Deputy General Manager, Business Development & Marketing
Marcia Shell, Assistant General Manager Expo Events
Rachelle Weir, Programs Manager
Jay Carlson, AG Programs Manager
Sue O'Brien, Recording Secretary
Heidi Turpin, Contracts

Others Present

Amber Williams, un/common
Brantley Payne, un/common
Clark A, Peri, P.E., PMP Cal Trans
Nathan Dietrich, Director of State & Federal Relations
California State University, Sacramento
Professor Michelle Stevens,
California State University, Sacramento
Cara Allen, Sr. Environmental Scientist,
Wildlife Conservation Board

*May not include all others present in the room or arriving late.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Durfee called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. Chair Durfee dispensed with the reading of the Mission Statement, Policy Statement and the Public Comment Statement.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Durfee asked Director May to lead the Board and Staff in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present. Director Mallel was not present and asked to be excused.

Motion:

Vice Chair Hime moved to excuse Director Mallel. Director Chong seconded the motion. **All in favor, motion passes unanimously.**

Chair Durfee congratulated Director Barkett, Director DiMare and Director Mallel on their reappointment to the Board by the Governor.

Chair Durfee welcomed Director May to the Board of Directors.

4. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS & STAFF

5. PRESENTATIONS

None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

In accordance with state law, the Board will not comment or otherwise consider Public Comment matters until and unless such item has been properly noticed for future meeting.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

All items on the consent agenda are to be approved in one motion unless a Board Member request a separate action on a specific item.

- a.** Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for December 13, 2019.
- b.** Approval of Board Committee Minutes for December 13, 2019.
- c.** Accept Cultural Advisory Council Meeting Minutes for November 14, 2019.
- d.** Accept Cultural Advisory Council Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2020.
- e.** Accept Agricultural Advisory Council Meeting Minutes for June 18, 2019.
- f.** Accept Agricultural Advisory Council Meeting Minutes for December 17, 2019.
- g.** Accept Notification of Contracts/Purchases under \$100,000.
- h.** Approval of Contracts/Purchases over \$100,000.

Deputy General Manager Brown reviewed items g & h with the Board. Chair Durfee reviewed the other items making note of item d. The Cultural Advisory Council did not have their February meeting and therefore could not approve their Meeting Minutes of January 9, 2020.

MOTION:

Chair Durfee called for a motion. Vice Chair Hime moved to Accept/Approve items a through h, omitting item d. Director Chong seconded the motion.

Discussion: None **All in favor, motion passes unanimously.**

8. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

a. Annual State Fair

CEO Pickering reported that the Annual State Fair Committee met earlier this morning and had extensive reports from a number of key staff. Therefore, as not to repeat this morning's meeting, staff will review the high lights of their staff reports.

o Marketing

Deputy General Manager Mohr introduced Amber Williams and Brantley Payne from un/common to give a sneak peek of the 2020 State Fair Campaign. Hey, the California State Fair is back and it's also a Food Festival - Joining together.

Deputy General Manager Mohr reported that the launching of our Concert and Discount tickets was going to be early April however, due to Covid - 19 it been moved to the end of April.

o Programs

Programs Manger Weir reported that in Expo Center there will be many of the favorite competition coming back. Building 2 will have a new selfie exhibit all related to candy. Building 4 you will see Cats & Dogs. Building A/B will have canning and baking, the Chef/Cooking series and our grant "Outstanding in their field" will be coming back for its 2nd year. The big high light will be the New Counties Exhibit.

o Competitions & Exhibits

Ag Program Manger Carlson reported that the Home Brew competition was completed last week. The Spring Farm Tours are scheduled for April 7 to May 7, 2020 and the Fall Tours are scheduled for September 15 to October 22, 2020. This year during Fair there will be a Monarch Butterfly exhibit at the Farm along with a container gardening exhibit and a fiber exhibit. At the Horse Arena, there will be special Equine Entertainment. The AG Heritage Breakfast will be July 22, 2020. There will be a new event for 2020 that aims to provide a fun, interactive and educational opportunity for fairgoers to learn about California agriculture at the California State Fair. California Crafted, the new and improved Beer Festival will be August 2, 2020, at the Golden 1 Stage and will have live music throughout the evening.

Chief Deputy General Manager Martinez gave an update on the 3rd Annual Youth Mariachi Competition. There are 10 youth groups coming from the San Diego area, Bay Area, Central Valley and Santa Rosa. Mariachi Vargas will also be returning. He went on to report that there would be a Statewide Cannabis competition. This will be held prior to fair like our wine, cheese and olive oil competitions are held. We will display the names and information of

the winners along with having a display that complies with all State regulations. There will be no sales of Cannabis at State Fair.

- Commercial & Food Vendors
Assistant General Manager Shell reported that they have received many applications and are reviewing them now. Planning on contracts going out the 1st week of April. There is a RFP out for one premium food stand space.
- Exposition & Facilities
Assistant General Manager Shell reported that her report goes through the end of 2019 and it shows a 5 % increase in income for the events last year. Events Services finished 7 events that came to Cal Expo from the Sacramento Convention Center remodel and 13 events schedule for 2020. Events have cancelled through the end of March. Satellite Wagering is closed through the end of March. Harness Racing will operate for the next 3 weekends, Friday and Saturday without a public audience. Horses will be on the track at the regular post time. All other events for the month have either cancelled or been rescheduled to a later date.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

None

10. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Cal Trans American River Bridge Widening. Request to use Cap Expo as possible staging site for the contractor.
Clark Peri, Project Manager and Andrew Wong, Project Engineer presented a short Power Point Presentation to give an overview of the project. Cal Trans is asking the Board for conceptual approval for temporary use of Cal Expo parking lot for contractor staging during construction of the American River Bridge Deck Replacement.

Motion:

Vice Chair Hime moved that we would conceptually approve temporary use of a portion of the Cal Expo parking lot for contractor staging during construction and that we would work with Cal Trans to address a variety of issues raised today as we move forward. Director May seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Director DiMare would like to make sure that we have a healthy discussion about the parameters of the contract on the record. There are a number of items of concerned.

Director Barkett indicated that she had the same concerns and would like a clearer description of the roads involved.

Mr. Peri pointed out that the draft EIR is targeted to come out mid-May. It is a public document that will go out to the public for a 30-day review. That is another opportunity for Cal Expo to express any concerns on the whole project.

Chair Durfee closed discussion and asked for a vote. **All in favor, motion passes unanimously.**

11. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Review for Approval Agricultural Advisory Council's recommendation of the 2020 Agriculturalists of the Year.

AG Programs Manager Carlson reviewed the staff report recommending acceptance of the Agricultural Advisory Council's recommendation to honor Bill and Carol Chandler as the 2020 Agriculturalist of the Year. The Chandler's are third generation farmers in Fresno. Both graduated from U.C. Davis and continue to serve on many boards and commissions.

Motion:

Director DiMare moved to accept the Agricultural Advisory Council's recommendation to honor Bill and Carol Chandler as the 2020 Agriculturalist of the Year. Director Chong seconded motion. **All in favor, motion passes unanimously.**

- b. Presentation and Request by Professor Michelle Stevens for support of the Bushy Lake Conceptual Restoration Plan.

Professor Michelle Stevens and Nathan Dietrich, Director of State and Federal Relations for Sacramento State University reported that in 2015 Sacramento State's Department of Environmental Studies spearheaded the Bushy Lake Pilot habitat restoration project. Sacramento State is in position to receive a grant from the California Wildlife Conservation Board. Sacramento State is asking for California Exposition and State Fair's support of the grant application.

Motion:

Director May moved to direct staff to continue to dialog with Sac State and the Wildlife Conservation Board and to bring back more information to the April 24, 2020 Board Meeting. Vice Chair Hime seconded the motion. **All in favor, motion passes unanimously.**

- c. Review and Consideration the use of Teleconference Board Meetings, as outlined in Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Laws.

Chair Durfee asked that this be discussed at this meeting. Looking through Bagley-Keene is does allow teleconferencing into State meetings as long as the person calling in is at a public venue and it has to be posted at that public venue. On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency as a result of the threat of COVID-19. This executive order is waving that condition.

Motion:

Chair Durfee made the motion to direct staff to work on language to change our policy for teleconferencing into Board Meetings. Vice Chair Hime moved the motion and Director Barkett seconded the motion. **All in favor, motion passes unanimously.**

- d. Review and Consideration of enhancing Board delegated authority for the Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Board in certain instances.

Motion:

Director May made a motion and then withdrew his motion based on Vice Chair Hime's recommendation to have staff/CEO bring a draft policy back at a later date.

12. MATTERS OF INFORMATION

a. CEO Comments

CEO Pickering commented on the Board being updated on COVID-19. He mentioned that Deferred Maintenance project are moving along and will have an update at a future meeting. Mr. Pickering report that there is a new Chief of Plant, Mitch Pyer.

b. Directors Comments/Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Director May: Happy to be here.

Director Chong: Happy to be here in changing times.

Director Barkett: Happy to be here. Need to have a Plan B.

Vice Chair Hime: Great Staff – onward and upward

Director DiMare: Reported that she attended the Unified Wine and Grape Symposium and it was a great event.

Chair Durfee: Thank you to Rick and staff.

c. Next Board Meeting – Friday, April 24, 2020

d. Other, if any

13. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Hime moved to adjourn the meeting and Director Chong seconded the motion. **All in favor, motion carries unanimously.**

The Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 2:21 p.m.