

# 14<sup>th</sup> District Agricultural Association



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FAIR  
Established 1885

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board of Directors' Meeting  
2601 East Lake Avenue, Watsonville, CA  
Tuesday, March 23, 2021  
The Board Room

Approved by: 

Date: 4/30/21

**CALL TO ORDER:** 1:31 p.m. by President Stephanie Fontana

**DIRECTORS PRESENT IN PERSON:** None

*Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic special arrangements were made to participate remotely via Zoom*

**DIRECTORS PARTICIPATING REMOTELY:** Stephanie Fontana - President; Jody Belgard- Vice-President, Loretta Estrada, Bill Barton, Don Dietrich, Lupe Flores, Maria Elena de la Garza, Michael Pruger (left at 2:30).

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Director Campos

**DIRECTORS EXCUSED:**

**JR FAIRBOARD MEMBER:** Morgan Cole

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO):** Dave Kegebein

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Mary Bannister

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Phillip Carranco commented that State legal counsel has made recommendations as to how committee meetings are being conducted and these recommendations are not being followed. Also, Policy Manual has not been posted on the Fairgrounds website. President Fontana acknowledged the comments. Jody Kolbach recommended that a standing meeting for Policy and Procedures be created and the public be allowed to attend. Jessica Ayala commented that some of her PRA requests remain open and would like to have all the contracts for the race tracks, and for the CEO to email the office hours, and that legal advice be followed. She also said that her correspondence had not been included in the board packet. Becky Steinbruner reinforced comments made by prior speakers. She said that the emergency contract with the county had not been addressed related to the CZU Lightening Complex Fire. Eric Zamost commented regarding PRA requests noted above.

**DIRECTOR COMMENTS:** Director de la Garza stands in solidarity with our Asian American neighbors against violence and in support of our Asian American community.

**President Fontana moved Animal Control Ordinance Updates to next on to agenda.**

**PROPOSED UPDATE TO SANTA CRUZ COUNTY ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE**

Melanie Sobel with the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter presented a summary of the proposed ordinance which attempts to unify the approach county-wide toward animal control policy. The latest draft of the ordinance was included in the board packet. Todd Stosuy, with the County, was grateful for the input from the Fair staff and equestrian representatives.

Director Estrada asked how this will impact equestrian events at the fairgrounds. She asked about animals being used for entertainment including pig racing, camel rides and the ever-popular turkey races. Todd Stosuy responded that promoting or forcing an unnatural behavior for an animal is their concern, but animals doing natural behavior, such as running would not be a problem. Director Dietrich noted that page 15 of the ordinance precludes camels and that there are issues with cutting and cattle penning events. Todd Stosuy said this is early on in the process and they will continue to take this type of feedback. President Fontana asked about rooster facility licensing as it applies to 4-H projects. Director Pruger asked if we could consider a carve-out for the County Fair itself.

Tim Baldwin – general counsel for the Salinas Rodeo and participant in both the Salinas Rodeo and Santa Cruz County Fair commented that there is State code related to conduct of rodeos and other events, and asked that a subcommittee be appointed to provide input. He will submit his comments in writing.

Greg Estrada with Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau noted that they have been working with the County Animal Control and they still have concerns regarding the use of live animals for entertainment, particularly related to cutting, team penning, etc. Jessica Ayala noted that the independents and grangers were left out of the ordinance. Becky Steinbruner asked what the goal of the ordinance is – if it's uniform enforcement. She asked about animals being brought in from an evacuation event and how the regulations would apply to them. She also had concerns related to noise ordinance limitations with respect to roosters, and with the 50-foot buffer from residences. Melanie Sobel clarified that during an evacuation they would not enforce vaccination requirements but they would act if there was a public safety issue or an animal was in danger or injured. Melanie encouraged anyone with questions or comments to contact them directly – information available on their website.

**CONSENT CALENDAR.** Approval of Minutes of November 17, 2020, December 8, 2020, January 26, 2021, and February 23, 2021. A correction was made to December 8, 2020 minutes under Election of Officers.

President Dietrich Nominated Director Campos as President. The original minutes reflected Director Fontana voting twice. The second Fontana vote should have been Director Estrada. *Director Barton moved; Director Estrada seconded approval of the minutes including the as corrected December 8, 2020. Motion carried 7 - 0. Ayes - Directors Fontana, Belgard, Estrada, Barton, Flores, Dietrich and de la Garza.*

Acceptance of Contracts – Public Comments - Jessica Ayala asked questions about the carnival catering fees, & the Hot Tub sale. Becky Steinbruner asked about rates for kitchens and campground rates and the private investigator. CEO reminded public that these contracts fall under his Delegation of Authority, and he responded to the questions. *Director Barton moved; Director Estrada seconded approval of the contracts.*

*Motion carried 5 - 2. Ayes - Directors Fontana, Belgard, Estrada, Barton and Flores. Noes – Director Dietrich and de la Garza.*

**FINANCIALS.** CEO reported \$275,000 cash in operating account. A \$100,000 reimbursement expected soon for the SB5 project, and \$120,00 in reserve. As reimbursement for the CZU Fire evacuation support we received \$85,000 in utility reimbursements. February Financials will be included next month. *Director Barton moved; Director Flores seconded approval of January 2021 Financials. Motion carried 6 - 1. Ayes - Directors Fontana, Belgard, Estrada, Barton, Flores, and de la Garza, Noes – Director Dietrich.*

## **CEO REPORT**

**Chamber of Commerce** – Holiday Lights event received Event of the Year award from the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce, demonstrating the immense popularity of the Holiday event during the COVID pandemic.

**Drive Thru Vaccinations** – Santa Cruz County set up the site in the parking area and has had challenges - trying to vaccinate 1,000 people/day. The reservation system is very challenging. CEO is in discussions with PAMF to do one day a week. Recently, the Farm Bureau did 1,200 vaccinations of farm workers in one day with Dominican Hospital in the Crosetti Building.

**SB-5 Project – Electrical Upgrades– PG&E** Pre-inspection this week.

**2021 September Annual Fair** – Looking more optimistic today but still very challenging proposition. Orange tier allows us 50% attendance, yellow tier would allow 66% attendance – green tier may mean “go” which might allow 75% attendance.

CEO reported that racing was scheduled to start 2 weeks ago – but has been rained out the last 2 weeks. This Friday night will be the first race.

Becky Steinbruner asked if the foundations stolen dump truck had been recovered. CEO said it has not. Jessica Ayala recommended that the board review the contracts related to RV rentals. CEO noted that the courts are not enforcing rental contract evictions due to COVID considerations. Jody Kolbach said that communication from Livestock last month stated that exhibitors are only allowed to exhibit one small animal – this policy change should be approved by the Board. CEO reminded everyone the communication Kolbach was referring to clearly said it was just a preliminary inquiry to determine livestock exhibitor interest. As stated in the letter responses would not “lock” anyone into anything.

## **OLD BUSINESS-**

**Proposed Santa Cruz County Animal Control Ordinance** – (moved to top of agenda).

## **NEW BUSINESS - none**

## **CORRESPONDENCE-**

CDFA 2021-02 – STOP Template 2020  
Steinbruner E-mail – Public Records

Steinbruner E-mail – 2015 Audit

Director Barton responded to the questions posed by Ms. Steinbruner in Correspondence related to the 2015 audit. He noted that the recommended changes were made as noted in the 2015 audit.

## REPORTS

**Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds Foundation** – Jeannie Kegebein reported a \$167,000 grant to the Fairgrounds in 2020. We have been chosen as the Organization of the Year by the Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce. The *I Love My Fairgrounds* challenge met the \$20,000 match donated by the Cooley's, Rodriguez's, Sunrise Rotary & Keller Williams – Chuck & Ramona Allen + Renee Mello. The Crab Feed was March 6th and included a to-go dinner, and an on-line.

**Rodgers House Update-** Director Estrada reported they had a meeting last Wednesday. Stonework is under way around the Gazebo and front of the house. The Garden Committee is up and running full speed.

**Agricultural History Project** – John Kegebein said the Holiday Lights event was a fantastic experience for all involved. Several tours have been held for private groups. Their Board is considering options for the upcoming year.

**Junior Fair Board** – none

**Livestock Committee** – Held first meeting of 2021 and is formulating plans. A Livestock tab has been added to the fairgrounds web site. Meeting schedules, agendas, minutes, and other documents are being posted there.

## NEXT MEETING

Next Regular Board Meeting is April 27, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. via remote-cast as necessary.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 4:13 p.m.