

14th District Agricultural Association

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FAIR

Established 1885




BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Board of Directors' Meeting

2601 East Lake Avenue, Watsonville, CA

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

Paddy Smith Park

Approved by: 
Date: 9/12/21

CALL TO ORDER: 6:06 p.m. by President Stephanie Fontana

ROLL CALL, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, DECLARATION OF QUORUM, APPROVAL/DISSAPPROVAL OF ABSENCES.

DIRECTORS PRESENT IN PERSON: Stephanie Fontana - President; Jody Belgard- Vice-President
Loretta Estrada, Tony Campos, Lupe Flores, Michael Pruger.

JR FAIRBOARD MEMBER: Morgan Cole

DIRECTORS ABSENT:

DIRECTORS EXCUSED: Director Barton, Director Dietrich

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO): Dave Kegebein

RECORDING SECRETARY: Mary Bannister

DIRECTOR COMMENTS: none

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA: Becky Steinbruner is delighted that we are going to have a fair this year. She was concerned that the hog and goat/sheep barn had been partially demolished and work conducted without permits and inspections. Jessica Ayala encouraged the Board to talk to the CEO about construction projects and said that PRA requests are not being met. She also said that the CEO was dishonest and misled the Board. Janet Estrada said that we have one of the best CEO's that this fairground has ever seen and that we should be grateful for Dave Kegebein and the Board of Directors. Jennifer Lemon stated that Dave Kegebein has amazing integrity and has devoted above and beyond the call of duty to keep this fair as one of the best in the State. John Prentice with Ocean Speedway stated that he hears from residents across the State that this is one of the nicest race facilities in the State. He commended Dave Kegebein on how fabulous this fairground is. He is proud that this is his home. He thanked staff, the Board and especially Dave Kegebein. He also expressed gratitude

to the volunteers who make this a successful site. He also expressed gratitude from the race community

Robin Turnquist offered a quilt for a Veteran on Opening Day if anyone knows an eligible recipient. Sue Geiger, a volunteer and regular dog walker expressed gratitude to Dave Kegebein for all the work he does and that the Santa Cruz County Fair survives for the community. Sue King, former fair board member, former department head and Foundation Member, supported Dave Kegebein and the work he does. She was disappointed that there are a few who continue to try to find fault when we should be working towards a common goal. Shaz Roth, CEO of the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture thanked Dave, the Board, staff and the volunteers. She expressed gratitude for the food distribution, the vaccine clinics, the emergency response efforts for families, pets and livestock during recent fire emergencies and the pandemic.

Correspondence – \$50 million is allocated in the Governor’s budget for the network of California fairs but CDFA has chosen to grant that money out based on some kind of perceived need. If allocated equally as the fairground CEO’s have repeatedly requested our share would be approximately \$666,000.

CONSENT CALENDAR. Eric Zamost provided written comments that will be incorporated into minutes from the past several months and brought back for approval. Minutes were tabled. *Director Flores moved, Director Estrada seconded approval of the Contracts and motion carried 6-0. Ayes; Directors Fontana, Belgard, Estrada Campos, Flores and Pruger.*

FINANCIALS. CEO reported \$275,000 in the operating account and \$175,000 due to be reimbursed from CDFA for the SB-5 Electrical Project. This positive cash balance is due in large part to State support and cuts in payroll and operations due to the pandemic. GASB 68 Pension Liability is in the \$900,00 range. OPEB Liabilities are high also.

May and June Financials – Jody Kolbach via Zoom had a question about the Financial Report CEO responded regarding training done by the emergency response company and RV Park rental rates. *Director Flores moved, Director Estrada seconded approval of the May and June 2021 Financials and motion carried 6-0. Ayes; Directors Fontana, Belgard, Estrada, Campos, Flores, and Pruger.*

REPORTS

SCC Fairgrounds Foundation - Jeannie Kegebein reported that \$16,000 has been donated towards Heritage Hog Scholarship Program. Excess funds will go towards pens for livestock, which cost \$400/each. Fair Volunteer sign-up sheets are at the back table. Also, volunteer sign-ups for the Fabulous Holiday Lights event are needed.

Agricultural History Project-John Kegebein thanked Dave Kegebein and Jon Prentice for support the Living History Project and especially making available the site adjacent to the track

for demonstrations. Corn has been planted and cultivation and haley baling, done with the Silva's Horses, will be featured demonstrations at the Fair this year. This Thursday is the Ag History Project is hosting a Members Mixer and everyone is invited.

Junior Fair Board - Shannon Cole announced that the Junior Fair Board has started doing their Holiday Lights and preparing for the Fair.

Livestock Committee - Board President & Committee Chair Stephanie Fontana said that the Livestock Committee is working hard getting ready for the Fair.

CEO REPORT – Dave Kegebein reported that everything related to Fair Board meetings is posted on-line and has been since he became CEO in January of 2012. The SB-5 Electrical Project is moving along and should be done in October or November. He noted that the staff, volunteer community and the community of fair supporters are fantastic. “We are in an amazing position right now – we have positioned this Fairgrounds to succeed and have a fantastic future.

He described the current effort to restructure and reorganize DAA facilities to be run by local non-profit foundations. There are successful examples of these structures in the State and updates on developments in this arena will be provided as they develop.

CEO Kegebein closed by talking about a succession plan and ideas for future staffing.

NEXT MEETING

Next Regular Board Meetings are October 26 and December 7, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. via remote-cast as necessary.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.