Regarding

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING,

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OC Fair & Event Center
Administration Building
88 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, California

Thursday, October 24, 2019
9:00 a.m.

Job No: 3175089

Reported by:

LUIS R. HERNANDEZ

Pages: 1 - 151
APPEARANCES OF ATTENDEES:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
BOARD CHAIR ROBERT RUIZ
VICE CHAIR SANDRA CERVANTES
DIRECTOR ASHLEIGH AITKEN
DIRECTOR DOUG LA BELLE
DIRECTOR NATALIE RUBALCAVA-GARCIA
DIRECTOR ANDREAS MEYER

ALSO PRESENT:
JOSH CAPLAN, ESQ.
MICHELE RICHARDS
KEN KARNS
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Proceedings

EXHIBITS

None
CHAIR RUIZ: Good morning.

(All answered in the affirmative)

I will now call this meeting to order. Just a few housecleaning items before we get going:

For those of you who have never been here before, if you want to use the restroom, they're right behind you on those glass doors. And if I could ask all you guys to please put your phone on vibrate or silent so you do not disrupt the meeting.

Having said that, this meeting is now called to order. All matters noticed on this agenda in any category may be considered for action as listed. Any item not so noticed may not be considered. Items listed on this Agenda may be considered in any order at the discretion of the Chairperson.

The mission of the OCFEC is celebration of Orange County's communities, interests, agriculture, and heritage with results justifying resources expended.

And now, I will ask all of you to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance and I will call on former Director Nick Berardino to lead us.

MR. BERARDINO: Thank you. Privilege. Hands on
hearts. And in memory of all the brave men and women that are serving today keeping this nation and all of us safe, please begin.

(Pledge of Allegiance recited)

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Now we go for roll call.

MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

CHAIR RUIZ: Present.

MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director Bagneris?

(No response)

Director Aitken?

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director Pham?

(No response)

Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Here.

MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

DIRECTOR MEYER: Here.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Thank you.

Now we move onto the next item which is the CEO's Operational Announcements and Updates. I'll turn it over to Ken Karns, VP of Operations.
MR. KARNS: Thank you. Good morning. Just a couple of updates for me this morning. And the slide? There it is.

After the last Board meeting on the night of Thursday, September 26th, early Friday morning, September 27th, was an exciting 48 hours as we picked up, loaded, moved, and reset into its new pedestal -- and its now new home at Heroes Hall -- the A-4M Skyhawk.

Lots of pictures and videos that we will be putting together in a compilation to share once complete after the ribbon cutting on November 9th. So mark your calendars again; November 9th.

I would like to thank Director Rubalcava-Garcia. On Thursday, September 19th, I attended the OCBC Community Indicators Summit. It was one of the best informative meetings I've ever had the pleasure attending. There was lots of valuable information gathered and shared. It was a great meeting. And that's it for this month.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Okay. I do have --

MS. RICHARDS: Oh, Robert. I got a few more updates if that's okay.

CHAIR RUIZ: Go ahead. My apologies.

MS. RICHARDS: All right.

Several hundred members of the community, along with staff and docents, joined us on Saturday, October 1st -- 5th, as we celebrated Centennial Farms 30th Anniversary. There was lots
of dancing and eating and farm tours and crafts and birthday cake and plenty of fun.

And if you're interested, ask me about the Centennial Farm Foundation's Cow-chip Bingo that they did during -- during the celebration.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Tell us about the Cow-chip Bingo.

(Public laughs)

MS. RICHARDS: So Cow-chip Bingo is, basically, a bingo card that is chopped onto the lawn and people make predictions about where the cow chip might land and then the cow is let in and, you know, you can go from there.

(Public laughs)

All right.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Glad I asked.

(Public laughs)

MS. RICHARDS: It's an agricultural tradition.

The couple in the middle photograph, Michael and Leslie, also attended. They were the couple that got married in front of the Millennium Barn during the fair this summer. So they're huge Centennial Farm fans and we were happy to see them.

Do I see Bobby McDonald in the audience? I do. Okay. I'm not going to steal your thunder.

MR. MCDONALD: Okay.

MS. RICHARDS: But I'll leave this up while I talk.

It was a big month at Heroes Hall. About a hundred were in
attendance on October 5th that evening for our Voices:
Storytelling Project performance.

That week as well, Congressman Harley Rouda was here
to host a military academy information night for high school
students and their parents. And then the U.S. Navy celebrated
it's 244th birthday at Heroes Hall.

Some additional information about Heroes Hall:
AMVETS -- and I should mention -- AMVETS is the organization
that created all of the bronze plaques that are currently at the
Walk of Honor at Heroes Hall. Very, very generous donation.
They are, again, generously donating to Heroes Hall Foundation
an electronic digital carillon which the Foundation will then
give to Heroes Hall. Paperwork is in the process for that.

For those of you that are not familiar, an electronic
carillon is an automated system which imitates the sound of
bronze bells. And the beautiful sound of the bells will be
amplified through the Heroes Hall ground speakers and we can
program it to go off at regular intervals. For example, during
the fair or to play during special events.

So, Summer has a little --

(Audio playing)

Beautiful sound, isn't it? Yes. Thank you. So
that's on its way. It's part of AMVETS carillon program that is
a truly unique and ongoing living memorial to our nation's
deceased veterans. Most AMVETS carillons ring their bells in
veteran's cemeteries throughout the world but soon Heroes Hall will have its own carillon as a constant reminder of the sacrifices made by those who gave their lives to preserve our freedoms. So we're very much looking forward to having that.

Once again, our friends and fans throughout Orange County have named the 2019 OC Fair the best. We were very honored to be recently named the best fair or festival in Orange County by Orange County Register readers. And the L.A. Times readers just named the 2019 OC Fair, "The best event in Orange County." So yay us; right?

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Orange County. On Tuesday of next week, 11 of our employees will begin serving a three-year workplace mentoring program with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County.

As the bigs, our employees, will meet their littles who are students from Tustin High School that have been assigned to us, and accompany them through a program to develop workplace skills.

So our employees from administration, purchasing, events, sales, communications, exhibits, and guest services are looking forward to sharing their experiences to help their littles gain valuable workplace skills.

OC Fair & Event Center has been invited to join the inaugural group of venues in Orange County to be part of the newly-formed Orange County's Sport Commission.
The commission will work on our behalf -- and in partnership with our sales team -- to bring sporting events to OC Fair & Event Center. And that's like volleyball, gymnastics, and martial arts tournaments are just a few examples of the kinds of events that the Orange County Sports Commission will be working on to bring to OC Fair & Event Center.

The cost for our membership in the commission will be presented for the board's approval as part of the 2020 budget. So we'll be talking about that more next month during the budget.

Ken Karns and I attended a welcome reception honoring Doctor Angelica Suarez. She's the new president of Orange Coast College right across the street from us. Doctor Suarez spoke to the crowd about her support of OCC staff and students and also thanked those in the community for their support.

We were able to talk privately with Doctor Suarez about OCC's skill trades programs, their culinary program, their student veteran's resources and more, and how their students can enhance our education programs and how our programs can help the students at OCC. So we're looking forward to exploring many more opportunities ahead with Doctor Suarez and her staff.

And it's budget time. Staff is hard at work on the 2020 budget. We're going to present the budget a little bit differently this year to give the Board and the public a more detailed view.
We'll start off with presentations by key budget holders within the organization, followed by a detailed overview of major revenue and expense areas. We'll look at opportunities and challenges and we'll look to the Board to provide more input and guidance for us during that process.

And speaking of finances, let me give the monthly update. Our year-to-date revenue, as you can see, is lower than budget by 1.1 million, and that's mainly due to two additional Pac Amp shows that were budgeted for this time last year but were not booked. This is offset by year-to-date expenses which are lower than budgeted by $837,000. And staff is continuing to do a good job of holding those expenses through the end of the year.

Net proceeds are currently $300,000 below budget but that's expected to normalize in the fourth quarter as revenue is realized from our strong year-end events program.

Cash-on-hand is very healthy, as you can see, with total cash and cash equivalence of $62 million. And that's a 12 percent year-over-year increase.

Okay. I'm going to go through our Upcoming Events very quickly because I know we got a packed schedule. Jurassic Quest is up first. The first weekend of November; Friday through Sunday, November 1st through the 3rd. We're holding a Centennial Farm class of Holiday Craft Making on Saturday, November 2nd.
Sugar Plum is back, Thursday through Saturday, November 7th through 9th. Flying Miz Daisy is back again, Friday through Saturday, November 8th and 9th. We're welcoming back Repticon, Saturday and Sunday November 10th.

Another great Centennial Farm class, Pruning Fruit Trees, on Saturday, November 9th. That same day, our Salute to Veterans Free Community Celebration, Saturday, November 9th. Back at Centennial Farm again on Saturday the 23rd is Kombucha 101. If you want to know about Kombucha.

The last Crossroads of the West Gun Show of the year will be Saturday, November 30th and Sunday, December 1st. Centennial Farm again is hosting a Floral Design class on Saturday, November 30th.

And if you haven't been to Centennial -- or to Heroes Hall yet -- our new exhibit is open, Fighting On the Home Front. This is a fantastic collection of the great propaganda posters of World War II that helped rally everyone toward the war effort. So if you haven't seen it, please go by. It's here through May 3rd.

And don't forget to visit Centennial Farm. Absolutely free to the public as well as Heroes Hall.

And as mentioned last month, Orange County Market Place will be celebrating it's 50th Anniversary this coming weekend with plenty of community entertainment, a classic car display, raffles, food, fun and more. They're also featuring --
as part of Thrill the World -- a world guide dance event -- with zombies dancing to Michael Jackson just in time for Halloween.

And then our Farmers Market every Thursday from 9:00 to 1:00. So that concludes our report.

CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you so much for that.

Now we are going to move onto the next item which is -- I do have one speaker. I do have one speaker and I will call on Reggie Mundekis.

MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. Good morning. I'm Reggie Mundekis. I'm speaking to Item 5, the CEO's Operational Update.

In the financial packet is a list of checks. On that list of checks are multiple payments to Fuscoe Engineering. Fuscoe Engineering is in charge of the storm water management program which we are legally required to have with the State of California.

Staff have submitted plans for changes to the storm water management system, including a construction project involving the desilting basin and a construction project to change the drainage at the campground. They have submitted these to the State and the Board has not seen these projects for what is proposed.

This Board needs -- this Board is here to exercise oversight of what staff does. And when staff goes ahead and leaves the Board out of seeing what's being submitted to the
State -- and just submits it to the State -- the Board can't do their job.

So I'm requesting the Board agendize for the next meeting or December, for a vote -- a review and possible approval of the revised plans for the desilting basin and the campground drainage project and any other projects regarding storm water and drainage that staff were working on.

It's important that the Board and the public and users of the property see what staff is planning on doing because there may be impacts on users that need changes to the projects. And we're not also, you know, there may be impacts that the city needs to be looped in on on some of these changes.

So, please, bring those items forward at a future Board meeting so we could see what staff is doing and discuss and decide if we want to do that or if there's something else we want to do. Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Okay. Since there are no more speakers under that --

SPEAKER: Excuse me. I put in a card for after No. 5.

CHAIR RUIZ: We're going to get to that. Matters of Public Comment is next.

SPEAKER: I'm sorry.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Next item is Matters of Public Comment.

Public comment is allowed on issues not on the current
Agenda; however, no debate by the Board shall be permitted on such public comments and no action will be taken on such public item -- comment items at this time as law requires formal public notice prior to any action on a docket item. Speakers are requested to sign in prior to the start of the meeting and are limited to three minutes.

Comments will be accepted on Agenda items during the meeting. Speakers wishing to address the Board on items on the Agenda are requested to sign in prior to the start of the meeting and identify the Agenda item or items on which you desire to address the Board. Speakers are limited to three minutes.

Okay. I got quite a bit of speakers here so the first one is going to be Mr. Nick Berardino.

MR. BERARDINO: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and honorable members of the Board.

I wanted to thank all of you, of course, for all your help and commitment in getting the jet here. I mean, that was quite a -- quite a project that the Foundation undertook along with staff.

Congratulations to the staff who did an absolutely marvelous job; Ken and his team. Michele, her team, Carol Singleton -- the whole -- the whole bunch. It was -- it was quite a moving event and, you know, we're very fortunate to get this jet.
We had two corporations that were going to try to snatch it from the Hall of Administration. When I found that out, I called Frank Kim, the CEO, and told him and in certain terms that we wanted that jet. He later played my message on the Thursday night we moved it. And it is just so heart -- just beautiful to see it and great work for everybody involved.

I want to call out Doug La Belle -- Director La Belle -- who, you know, he was just, you know, tremendous on this. He made such a yeoman's effort in coordinating and running some interference and doing the kinds of things -- meeting with me during my negotiations with the county for the $206,000. And, you know, when we hit a couple of rocky places, it was that Doug was able to calm me down and, you know, "keep in mind the 206,000."

But we were very lucky, so many, many thanks to you, Doug, and that stands as a great legacy project.

The Foundation, as you can see, has been extremely busy. This is a very active Foundation. It is not one that sits around. I mean, in some cases, I think probably Michele and her team, I think, may get too active. So -- but we have so many enthusiastic people.

I also want to congratulate Director Aitken who's being honored by veterans on Saturday night. Congratulations to you and your dad. I will be there and, you know, throw stuff.

(Public laughs)
And, so -- but thank you to this entire Board. I've asked Bobby McDonald who will speak later about our upcoming veterans event that will be on November 9th. I won't be there. I'll miss the first one because it's my 30th wedding anniversary and my wife decided that she would book a cruise.

But maybe on a Saturday night, Ashleigh, you could talk her into canceling the cruise.

(Public laughs)

I tried to get Michele to do it. She hasn't. Thank you all very and congratulations to all of you for all the great things you're doing. Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

Okay. I will now call on the next speaker, Reggie Mundekis, followed by Mr. Vincent Pollmeier.

MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. I'm Reggie Mundekis. I'm speaking regarding Item 6, Public Comment.

Please move the meetings to the evenings when people can attend. Most people are at work or at school have other obligations during the day and can't attend this meeting.

The -- this facility impacts the lives of many people, including those who live immediately next to it, those who use it, and is designed for use by all residents of Orange County.

So please help us out and please move your meetings to the evenings so that the public who own the property can attend your meetings. Thank you.
CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

Vincent Pollmeier followed by Mr. Doug Ames.

MR. POLLMEIER: Good morning. I want to address two things: First off, the CEO -- or former CEO because I'm not sure which she is -- has been much in the news of late.

And I note that there was an emergency Board meeting on Monday and then there's this Board meeting here today and she hasn't -- the CEO has not been in attendance at either Board meeting. And the CEO's report today was given by -- very ably -- by Vice President's Karns and Richards.

So I think that the Board owes an explanation. What the status is of the CEO. Is she operational? Has she stepped aside? What's the situation? I think the public, the State, the Board -- the Board owes an explanation to public as to what's going on with that situation.

I also encourage the Board to step in and exercise its oversight authority on another matter. Ten months ago, CEO Kramer took a job action against the CFO; this agency. And in 10 months has been trying to put together a case against him. And in 10 months has apparently failed to do so because there's been no action. So I encourage this Board, if they can't make a case in 10 months, they can't make a case.

And I know Mr. Ames, the CFO's counsel, is going to speak in a little bit. But I just want to -- apologies for stealing any thunder he may have. It's time to put this behind
us. This is drug on way too long. We've spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in this investigation, including $40,000 in illegal -- illegal contract with the law firm, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP which was put on the Consent calendar in April for $40,000. It was buried under the title of investigative services and reports have been going to you, Chair Ruiz. This is a law firm.

California law is very clear: "An agricultural association cannot engage counsel for any reason," by the way, that's not my words, those are the language of the law, "without prior written approval of the Attorney General's Office."

That's Food and Agricultural Code, 11042.

Public records requests have been made on both the 32nd DAA and the Attorney General's Office and they've gained the same result: No such authority was granted.

This contract, SA161-19YR is illegal. You guys approved it in April. It's on you. So I encourage you; exercise your authority, end this witch hunt, and let's put this behind us and move on. Thank you.

(Appause)

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. I will now call on Doug Ames, followed by Reggie Goodjoin.

MR. AMES: What a great introduction to my -- to my appearance here.

My name is Doug Ames. I represent Adam Carleton. As
Mr. Pollmeier just summarized, my client, who's, I think, the fourth CFO under -- under Ms. Kramer's -- under Ms. Kramer during her time here -- he was placed on paid administrative time off on December 11th after he opposed Ms. Kramer's various improper activities.

Not only has he been paid for 10 months for sitting at home, the Fair has paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to investigate him, including new contracts up for renewal or extension today under Item 8, to the Morely company and to Haynie & Company.

We've been through hours of -- days of investigation where we submitted to interviews. They have absolutely nothing on Mr. Carleton. They want more money to surveil him, to sit outside of his house and watch him. It's ridiculous.

Let me just -- let me just summarize briefly a few of the items that Mr. Carleton was opposing Ms. Kramer on and why she needed so desperately to get him out of here:

First and foremost, in 2016, Ms. Kramer evidently engineered a payment to an ex-employee of $75,000. This was listed on the 2016 Audit as a quote, "illegal contract and a gift of public funds."

Mr. Carleton repeatedly opposed Ms. Kramer trying to sweep this under the Board and forget about it. She kicked him out to keep him from doing that. There's major problems with the RCS Contract. There's no provision in that contract for how
progress payments are supposed to be made.

There's a major problem with that kind of --

Mr. Carleton was opposing RCS's $300,000 in merchant credit card fees. And what did they do? What did the investigators of Mr. Carleton do? They called in RCS to find out how Mr. Carleton was wrong in protecting the public interest here.

There's a Heroes Hall Foundation box. Mr. Carleton --

CHAIR RUIZ: That's -- your three minutes are up, sir.

Thank you.

Okay. I will now call on Reggie Goodjoin. Did I say that; right?

MR. GOODJOIN: Yes.

CHAIR RUIZ: Followed by Kelly Rueda, I believe. Go ahead.

MR. GOODJOIN: Okay. Good morning. I'm Reggie Goodjoin, Director of Music of New Hope Presbyterian Church in Orange. I come this morning representing New Hope Presbyterian Church and Christ Our Redeemer AME Church.

First and foremost to say thank you. Thank you for your support. This Board, you've -- you were just awesome. We have a program called "Music Makes Us One." This is a program that provides underprivileged kids of all ethnicities and the opportunities to come together to develop friendship and to perform musical, arts, dance, throughout the community.

But with your support and belief of this program, you
allowed us the opportunity to come and perform a concert here in
the large hangar during the Fair.

    I must say this was an opportunity for kids who
probably would not have ever have the opportunity to do this, as
well as kids who have not had the opportunity to even come to
the fair. It was a huge success. We had a lot of comments that
went out through the neighborhood and throughout the papers that
supported it. I would say that with this -- with your
support -- this would not have happened.

    We were able to have kids come in from as far as L.A.,
throughout the southern lower part of the county as well. Just
to have -- to see these kids come together with resources that
we were not able to provide that you all stepped in to help us
do made a world of a difference.

    Again, I want to say thank you for your support and I
pray that this is a continuum that we do, especially bridging
the gap and establishing relationships throughout the
communities. I do say thank you.

    CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Okay. I will now call on
Kelly, followed by Anna V.

    MS. RUEDA: Good morning. My name is Kelly Rueda and
I just wanted to talk about a issue that was brought up last
meeting regarding space for the trucks for RCS and so forth.

    On May 22nd, I emailed Mr. Karns, I emailed Jerry, and
I also emailed other people regarding -- I had space from a
friend that could hold up to 250 trucks and never got an answer. And it was very disheartening after I had made all that time. My husband worked here at the time and he had gone to people saying, "Hey, we have space for you guys." And it never, you know, it was pretty much, "Go away. Don't talk to us."

After that, it seemed like there was a couple people that decided to start being rude and just -- I don't know, like, what the exact word. But it was just, you know, I didn't appreciate that. You could have at least texted me or emailed me back saying, "Hey, we don't need your help today," or something, you know, to say that you got my email. But never received anything.

So I just wanted to let you know I did have space for you guys that was at a very good price that can be used. So I just wanted to -- thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Anna V, followed by Mary Spadoni.

MS. VRSKA: Hi. Good morning.

First, I'd like to second the comments of the previous speaker about moving these meetings to a time that is more conducive to the greatest public attendance. Maybe there needs to be a study done -- what day and what time that would be. But I think the public has been up here probably for the last year or two saying this. And considering some of the things that are going on, I think greater public engagement is very much called
for.

I was mostly going to talk about traffic impacts and how, basically, the Fair Board and staff need to work to make sure that residents are not as impacted as they are by the ramping up of the things that are going on at the fair; there are a lot of problems. And going forward, we really need to work on that more.

But mainly what I'm going to use my time talking about is really CEO Kramer and the poor job that's been done by this Board the last several years of reining her in. We've been up here for a good part of several years talking about the issues that have been going on -- asking for public records, warning about some of the red flags that have been coming up, and this has been allowed to happen.

I know several times I've asked what will it take for you all to see what's going on and for something to finally happen. And I guess it didn't happen until there was, basically, a torrent of articles and public pressure to see -- to finally shed some light on.

I think criminality that has been going on, you know, gifts of public funds, impropriety in terms of State law of getting public funds to an institution that discriminates improper and questionable contracts against the public good over and over and over again and the witch hunt against Adam Carleton who has tried to shed light on some of the stuff that's been
going on.

So shame on the AG here or who has continually just
turned a blind eye and shame on you for not doing a better job
of reining this crap in that's going to end up costing not only
the hundreds of thousands of dollars that it has already cost,
but probably a lot more money in litigation and other fallout
that's going to follow. Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Mary Spadoni followed by
Bobby McDonald.

MS. SPADONI: Good morning. I was going to speak on
another topic; however, after hearing some of the comments
regarding the employee that is on administrative leave, I am
outraged. And I'm outraged that the Board isn't outraged that
this has gone on for almost a year come December that the
allegations can't be proven.

I'm going to tell you, I was a police officer and a DA
investigator for 25 years. I could have done 10 homicides in
the time that you're doing this administrative witch hunt. And
not only is it costing us money, but I'm assuming that his job
is being taken over by some other employee that's also getting
an undue work-bump -- load.

So if there is something -- and it appears there is
not -- why are you torturing this man and his family? This is
stressful. You know what's going on. To hire investigators to
do these things on our money -- on the taxpayer's money. I
don't want my money spent like that. I don't want your $55 million reserves to be used for some slush fund for a vendetta against your employees. And don't put my name on any of this or any of the residents on this because it is outrageous.

I'm sure you all read the Kern County Fair article about what they were doing with some of their monies and how it wasn't being spent wisely and how their counsel was trying to rein in public comments, and how the meeting became so angst that the Board member had to call the -- that particular meeting off.

Those things shouldn't happen if you've got your eyes open and you're watching out for the community and the money. This is a jewel of Orange County. This is a jewel of the State of California. And you do have a responsibility and you have a responsibility to the employees.

And as someone said before me, you know the amount of money this has cost, not only in the investigative fees, but what is going to wind up costing in litigation. And I wouldn't blame the employee for going on to keeping his family and that type of turmoil for almost a year. I find that egregious and I have to put the blame on -- well, Kathy Kramer's not here -- so I have to put the blame on the Board who's supposed to be the overseer.

You're not there just to, you know, meet once a month and just "okay" whatever this CEO does. And if the CFO -- in
this case that's on leave -- was trying to protect the Fair, then you should try to protect him. Thank you.

    CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

    (Applause)

    I will now call on Bobby -- Mr. Bobby Macdonald followed by Mr. Jay Humphrey.

    MR. MCDONALD: Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Chair and honorable Board. I appreciate your time.

    As Ms. Michele Richards put up on the screen earlier, we shared the 244th birthday of the United States Navy a couple of weeks ago. By my cold heart, Steve Briggs in on the Board with us. We got together this year and tried to make sure that Michele got some extra gray hair. And we worked on trying to do all of the birthdays from each one of the different branches of the service. We thought that this would be -- bring more people in and at least start the process of doing this over and over.

    I can't thank you enough for what you've done for Heroes Hall. And part of our Board is to make sure that we keep improving on it, keep -- and make it go on.

    As you can see now, this is one of the United States birthday welcomes that we did. We managed to have -- very fortunate to have a naval academy graduate that happens to be the City Council, Andrea Marr. We had her as our Mistress of Ceremonies.

    We managed to also bring in Mr. -- the CEO and the
Chairman of the Board, Brett Lane, of Southern California Gas Company -- a separate entity -- to be our keynote speaker.

And to keep the education component alive and well, we brought in the Troy ROTC -- ROTC group to bring in their color guards.

We're going to continue with this. And, unfortunately, we can't be bigger than the Marine Corps' birthday this year because they get to dedicate the big new Marine Corps' A-4 that's going up on Heroes Hall for the dedication.

But, again, I wanted to call -- come to the meeting today to say thank you and invite you to the Veterans Day program that we're going to have. The dedication that we're going to have. And, also, he's not here so I can't beat up on the Marines, but the Marine Corps' birthday this year. But we did that and we're looking from an educational component to do it.

And, again, one more time: Thank you, thank you, and thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Okay. Mr. Jay Humphrey, followed by Doug Ames.

MR. HUMPHREY: Good morning, Board. Jay Humphrey, Costa Mesa resident. Couple things.

First off, he so eloquently allowed that Andrea Marr from the city had been at his event. And one thing that I would
suggest for this Board to do is remember that the City of Costa Mesa has now gone to Districts. And this facility sits directly in the middle of Andrea Marr's District.

So it would be wise of this Board to develop some relationship with the District City Council member to deal with those issues. So you may want to think about that. No longer does the city have at-large members.

The City Council is now made up of District members. And this next election will be all District as we're making that transition. So it's a new and different thing for you guys, so I make that suggestion.

Secondarily, I echo everybody's comments that you've heard so far about having public meetings at night. The reality is -- and Kern County is a perfect example -- if, in fact, the public had been listened to in a number of places, what would have happened -- well, it's kind of a pesky thing to have to put up with some of us because some of us tend to, you know, get very demonstrative and what have you.

But if you listen to the jewels, what you find out is what's really going on because those people are all taking an interest in watching and seeing and watching how things are going. So it's in your best interest to get the absolutely best public input you can.

And let's face it, we know that at 9:00 o'clock in the morning, the vast majority of people who might participate at
night cannot participate because they have day jobs and they
take care of their families and what have you.

And I would ask that you guys -- once again, I would
ask that you guys would find a way to have Board meetings at
night and highly publicize that issue. I'll bet you'll have a
bigger population show up; maybe initially, maybe not. But you
definitely have better input and more consistent input.

Lastly, I want to thank staff; absolutely. As you
know, I'm one of the members of the hearing impaired folks out
there. And you guys, as a Board and what have you, have stepped
up to the plate and provided assistance for those of us who have
problems in hearing.

And I truly appreciate that and I know that my fellows
also appreciate it. But I also want to let you know how
professionally your staff has been.

Normally, when I go some place, I have to go fare out
the person, find out what's going on and where I can get
something to help me out if they have it at all.

Here, I walk in the door and they walk up to me and
say, "Jay, here is your equipment." That's a very professional
step. It is a function showing that you guys, especially your
department, heads up this process of helping the hearing
impaired, thinks about the job, and thinks about caring for the
public. I appreciate that very much, and thank you very much.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. That's going to wrap up
public comments.

I'm going to move some of the items on the Agenda around and we're going to go into Closed Session for now. Thank you.

(Closed Session)
CHAIR RUIZ: Good morning, again. I will now call this meeting back in session.

And we move onto the next item on the Agenda which is the minutes.

MS. RICHARDS: Nothing on Closed Session?

CHAIR RUIZ: No. There's nothing -- my apologies. There is nothing to report under Closed Session. Thank you.

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: I so move the minutes.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Second.

CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second for the approval of the minutes. Roll call vote.

MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director Aitken?

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. We now move onto the next item on the Agenda which is the Consent Calendar.
All matters listed under Consent Calendar are operational matters about which the Board has governing policies, implementation of which is delegated to the CEO. They will be enacted in one motion. There will be no discussion of these items prior to the time the Board of Directors votes on the motion, unless members of the Board, staff, or public request specific items to be discussed separately and/or moved from this section.

Any member of the public who wishes to discuss Consent Calendar items should notify the Chair of the Board at the time requested and be recognized by invitation of the Chair to address the Board.

Okay. At this time does anybody want to pull any items?

(No response)

Okay. Move on. Do we have any speaker cards? Okay. I have some speaker cards on Item 9A, and I will call on Reggie Mundekis, followed by Vincent Pollmeier.

MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. I'm Reggie Mundekis. I'm speaking to several items on the Consent Calendar contracts.

There are two contracts; one with Morley and one with Haynie where the Board is being requested to add more money to these contracts.

I request that the Board turn down these contracts and tell the CEO to stop investigating people. These contracts are
a waste of the public money. We have spent over $175,000 of
public money on personally motivated investigations which serve
no public interest. It's time to end the contracts with Morley,
Haynie, and Burke, and to release any and all documents
regarding those investigations. These were paid for in public
money. We have a right to know how our money was spent.

I also request that the Board put on hold the contract
extension with the executive event services for security
services. The Board wanted to take a break and evaluate, hiring
people to actually perform security services as they were done
in the past.

It's only in recent years under VP Karns that there's
been a push to outsource security. We're not sure why. In the
past, security was always provided by staff members. So the
Board is requested to put the Executive Event Services Contract
on hold pending discussion of in-sourcing security services.

The Board is also questioned about why we're approving
an increase in change and scope of work with the IMW Agency. No
direction was, you know, it's not clear whether direction was
given regarding increasing that contract by 20 percent. So the
Board is requested to put that contract on hold until the Board
formally approves and discusses having an increase in the
contract and a change in the scope of work. Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Vincent Pollmeier, followed
by Doug Ames.
MR. POLLMEIER: I, too, want to -- I, too, want to ask that the contacts to the Morley Group, SA255 -- SA-255-19YR -- to the tune of $25,000 and to the Haynie Group, also to the tune of $25,000; SA-261-19YR be pulled.

This is throwing good money after bad. Investigating somebody that in 10 months, we haven't been able -- they haven't been able to put -- build a case against. And so this should be -- this should be stopped.

I also think, again, like the prior speaker, Contract SA-163-18YR, a $19,000 increment to the IMW Contract for the branding exercise supposedly for a change in scope. No change of scope that I'm aware of has been approved by the Board.

This is just a -- you know, throwing -- again, this may be -- branding exercises are great things. This may be well worth $19,000. But it should be brought to the Board when you're talking about something as important as an effort of branding, and it's a change in -- it's a 20 percent increase in the cost.

And then, finally, you should pull for discussion at a future meeting Contract SA-230-19FT. This is the Executive Event Services Calendar. It's half a million dollars. Actually, $505,323 for security services.

When this came up just prior to the last Board meeting -- or the last fair -- that it was too late to do anything about it. And I recall several Board members saying
that "before we go through with outsourcing all security at the
next fair, we really should discuss this."

    Well, here it is in the Consent Calendar with no
opportunity to discuss; par for the course. Exercise your
oversight authority. That's why you're appointed by the
Governor.

    Pull this contract and discuss whether or not we
should be outsourcing security services or doing it in-house as
we formerly did. Thank you.

    CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Mr. Doug Ames, is he still
here? No, he's gone. Thank you. Okay. I will now bring it
back to the Board.

    DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Chair Ruiz, I -- I would like to
ask a question: We did have a fairly lengthy discussion about
doing in-house -- the security services. Is there any reason
why we need to move forward now with the extension of the Events
Services Contract or Emergency Services Contract? Or can we put
that off and have that action take place -- whatever that action
might be -- as a part of our budget review over the next couple
of months?

    MR. KARNS: Yes, you can.

    DIRECTOR LA BELLE: I would recommend then, on that
item, if we defer that item for a discussion as a part of the
budget review process in the next six to eight weeks.

    CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Thank you.
DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I second that.

DIRECTOR MEYER: I agree with that as well.

Before we move to the vote, Michele, can you just describe the scope change on IMW.

MS. RICHARDS: Sure.

In communicating with the committee, the Branding Committee -- Directors Meyer and Aitken -- we determined that what was critical for this process is public review of the creative that is been developed by IMW.

So rather than just a review by staff and the Board, that we would conduct focus groups -- random public groups -- to test some of the creative that's being developed. So the scope was expanded to include that cost.

DIRECTOR MEYER: Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. There's a motion on the floor.

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: It's been seconded.

DIRECTOR MEYER: This is the motion to table the --

CHAIR RUIZ: Yes, correct.

DIRECTOR MEYER: Second.

CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second. Roll call vote.

MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.
MADAM SECRETARY:  Director Aitken?

DIRECTOR AITKEN:  Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY:  Director La Belle?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE:  Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY:  Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA:  Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY:  And Director Meyer?

DIRECTOR MEYER:  Yes.

CHAIR RUIZ:  Okay.

Now, do I entertain a motion to approve the rest of the Consent Calendar?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE:  So moved.

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES:  Second.

CHAIR RUIZ:  There's a motion and a second. Roll call vote.

MADAM SECRETARY:  Chair Ruiz?

CHAIR RUIZ:  Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY:  Vice Chair Cervantes?

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES:  Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY:  Director Aitken?

DIRECTOR AITKEN:  Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY:  Director La Belle?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE:  Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY:  Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA:  Yes.
MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. That wraps up the Consent Calendar. We now move onto the Governor's Process Item 9A.

To ensure compliance with the Bagley-Keene Act, Committee reports are only for the purpose of the Committee Chair. Ad Hoc Committee members or Liaisons to provide verbal update. Should the Board want to discuss any Committee work item not already on the Agenda, those would need to be agendized at future Board meetings.

Okay. I do have quite a few speakers on this, so I'm going to call them up now. And the first speaker is Reggie Mundekis.

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Chair?

CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Would it maybe make more sense -- because I know a lot of the issues that have been brought up in Public Comment are going to be addressed by our committee reports -- would it maybe make more sense for us to give our individual committee reports first and then have public comment?


We will go with the first one which is the Heroes Hall Veterans Foundation. Director La Belle or Vice Chair Cervantes, is there a report?
DIRECTOR LA BELLE: I think Bobby McDonald and Nick Berardino pretty well covered it earlier in the meeting.

The Board has not met recently. We will be meeting again later this month -- or later next month, I should say -- after President Berardino gets back from his cruise.

And the general fundraising efforts are continuing with regard to what the Foundation is doing. And Michele, I think, covered very well the item about the bell system. We, as the Foundation in support, we certainly want to thank AMVETS for their donation. It's about a $13,000 donation and want to make sure when we do the final paperwork on this, we can make sure they get notified and honored as it may be.

And that would conclude my comments, unless Sandra has something else.

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: No. That's good.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Thank you.

We now move onto the next one. It's the Centennial Farm Foundation. Vice Chair Cervantes, do you have --

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: I think that also Michele covered that very well. And Michele is there anything to report?

MS. RICHARDS: Just Cow-Chip Bingo.

(Public laughs)

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

Okay. The next one would be the Financial Monitoring
Committee. Director Pham isn't here, so unless Michele --

MS. RICHARDS: We can give just a very brief overview.

Ken and I met with Director Pham and members of the finance and accounting staff. And this is not a meeting that Ken and I have attended in the past, so it was very informative -- very productive meeting.

We reviewed our performance against budget and were able to identify some key areas for improvement that will, you know, build into the 2020 budget. And then we also previewed Director Pham on how we'd like to move forward with presenting the budget to the Board next month during the study session and then the November Board meeting as well.

CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Question to Michele: Michele, has a date been set for the evening meeting on the budget?

MS. RICHARDS: It has. On the 14th of November.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Okay. So 14th of November would be a meeting in this room. We're going to even go through all aspects of budget?

MS. RICHARDS: Yes.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: 6:00 o'clock?


CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you.
Okay. We now move onto the next one. The Legislative Monitoring Committee. Director Aitken, do you have anything to report on that?

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Just briefly.

As the Board may be aware, the legislature has adjourned for 2019, so it’s going to be a slow committee reports from now going forward until they go back into session in 2020.

We decided, as a Board, just as a reminder because of the myriad of complications with the 50/50 raffle and trying to partner with WFA to try to get that moving forward. There were more obstacles that it seemed like we were going to be able to -- more obstacles in our way and success was not ensured.

So we have stepped back on that. We did not submit that language. Going forward, I'm going to reserve until Item C, some upcoming notifications that have to do with gun shows on State property. So I'm just going to wrap that small report up with Item C and would just like to ask the Board, as well as members of the public, if there are ideas for legislation and things that we would like to have our lobbyist work with, please let me know, and we are going to be moving forward with that or when the legislature starts up again in 2020.

CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. I don't have anything to report. You pretty much covered it and thank you for that.

Okay. Next one is the Tenant Liaison Committee. Vice Chair Cervantes, do you have anything to report on that?
VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Ken, do you have a report for that? No? I don't have anything to report.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. We move onto the next one. The Board of Directors Governing Policy Manual Review Ad Hoc Committee. Director Meyers or -- Director Bagneris isn't here. Do you have anything to report?

DIRECTOR MEYER: Just that we're -- our work is underway. It's a very heavy lift this project. We appreciated the feedback from the Board and the members of the public on the sketch of our work plan that we discussed last month. We've been going through that with the consultants from Moss Adams. We've been working on a table of contents for the policy that covers the topics that are going to addressed and we discussed with them prioritizing as our top priority -- compound policy to get to our code of ethics and core institutional values.

And I think that's where we're going to begin our work and we'll be moving our way down the long list of policies that we need to all get to. That's my report

CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. Thank you for that report.

Okay. The next one is the Safety and Security Committee. Vice Chair Cervantes? Ken, do you have anything to report on that? Please, if you have something that you could share, that would be great.
MR. KARNS: Sure.

For communication sent to the Committee, we sent our Security Supervisor to attend the OC Corporate Security Symposium put on by Homeland Security. And also staff is starting process of updating our current Property Emergency Use Agreements for 2020 and sent to the Committee was a two-page summary of the current contracts and LOUs.

But we'll work towards continuing that update and then there's been some preliminary discussions that have been had with the City of Costa Mesa and also Newport.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

Okay. We now move onto the Building and Maintenance Committee. Director Aitken or Vice Chair Cervantes?

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes. Thank you.

We have been extremely busy as a committee and have had several meetings starting with the sending out the RFP and receiving back qualified bidders.

At the last meeting -- just to remind the Board -- we did select someone to help us with an Infrastructure Committee Report, and so this month we've been working with CCA which is our governing authority, and it's going to be the project manager for this -- for this project.

We had a really nice meeting with Vice President Karns and Jerry about what the project -- what we think the timeline is going to hopefully be in order to get this project-wide --
property-wide infrastructure report done. And we're going to, obviously, try to do that in a timely manner as we can.

But that's only one of the things that we have been working on. We also have ongoing responsibilities with our storm water management and Fuscoe Engineering is going to have their report. They've concluded their report for our storm water management which we do on an annual basis.

We had our desilting basin been cleaned out which we do do on an annual basis. And we did that this week. We do have a potential for the installing of a new desilting system which is likely going to be on our 2020 list of infrastructure projects.

But it is something that we need to work with the city. We need to coordinate with this city to help us draw plans into really tie in their groundwater system to make sure that everything we're doing is in partnership with the City of Costa Mesa. So we will have an update on that at a future meeting.

We also discussed our future capital projects. Every year, as we enter our budget system, there are things that we think we're going to get done and we do get them done and there's also things that come up.

So we just discussed about what contingency funds we had to use, what capital projects that we're going to be moving to the 2020 list because we didn't have a chance to get them
done this year, and what our approach is going to be for the
2020 budget.

We obviously have a signage project that we're going
to be working to beautify and to really help way-finding around
our project and I'm going to be turning to VP Karns just for a
short summary of the Planning Commission meeting. It was a very
positive meeting. We got good with feedback. So if you could
just, kind of, give us a small summation of, kind of, the
Planning Commission and where we are with our signage.

MR. KARNS: Happy to.

So before that, a couple things hot off the press:
Just got this LOU back from CAA signed. So we just go that
while we were on break.

And there's going to be -- it's an agendized item for
signage, so I can happily wrap that up into the agendized item
that's coming up. But to that, we had full discussion with not
only the Building and Grounds Committee because it affected our
parking, storage, and traffic. We also updated that committee
on those initiatives.

CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you.

Okay. We now move onto the Audit Ad Hoc Committee.
Director Rubalcava-Garcia or Committee Chair, Director Meyer, do
you have anything?

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: So on the audit, we will
be approving the letter in a later item on the Agenda, but I
just wanted to report on the progress that we've been making on the audits moving forward.

So the 2017 Audit is very close to being complete. As soon as we get this letter out which we did share with the public, as well as the Board members at the last meeting, we added to this Agenda so it would be an action item and the Board can vote and approve and we can hear public comment on it.

But we have spoken with our auditor and the 2018 Audit, we'll be able to come to the Board for review as soon as we close this out. We'll get a management report. Director Meyer and myself, we'll turn that around as quickly as we possibly can to make sure that we can present it to the Board and the public at large.

As soon as that is complete, the 2019 process will soon be underway. So we are preparing for that. We'll make sure that we have all of our meetings set up and internal meetings set up and report what we can as soon as we know it. Do you have anything to add, Director Meyer?

DIRECTOR MEYER: Just that I've been frustrated and I think you have, too, Natalie with the delay that occurs with these audits getting completed.

And we are very committed to driving this process forward so that we get to the completion of an audit, not a year-and-a-half after when we should have been done with it. And so we're really trying to focus on that and to create a real
work plan and deliverables and deadlines so that we are finally out of this back-log that we've had with old audits that should have been dealt with long ago.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I have to commend Chair Ruiz for appointing us to -- or creating this committee to make sure that we're tracking the progress on the audit.

There was quite a bit of delay on a lot of different parts, whether it was the lack of staffing at the State level Auditor's Office or just not being able to get the information that they need.

But in our capacity, we have truly been working on behalf of everybody here to make sure that we're making progress. And I am happy to report that we have -- this 2016 is closed, 2017 is nearly closed, and the 2018, we'll be able to address.

CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you.

And now, I'll move onto the next one which is the Branding Project Ad Hoc Committee. Director Meyers or Director Aitken, do you have anything to report on that?

DIRECTOR AITKEN: We have a lot to report.

DIRECTOR MEYER: I'll let you go first, Ashleigh.

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yeah. No. I think that -- so -- another -- one of the -- another committee that has been extremely robust in meeting -- really looking at where we -- what we have done up to this point and what is the vision that
we have going forward.

I know that VP Richards has put together a really nice timeline of what our creative concepts were and what are the recommendations going forward. And would you like to address that briefly and we can jump in?

MS. RICHARDS: Sure. So we can talk about next steps.

On Tuesday, our in-house creative team met with IMW at their offices to preview the initial creative concepts. We were looking at logo options for Centennial Farm, Imaginology, and the Equestrian Center.

It was determined from the feedback -- public and stakeholder feedback -- that the Heroes Hall logo and Pacific Amphitheater have great brand equity, so there are no changes that are recommended at this time. Those both tested very high.

But we were able to preview their recommendations for property naming options -- tag line options to position the facilities. And then, for some sort of graphic integrator that would tie all of our separate brands together so that when people see it, they know that it belongs here.

We are comparing calendars with the committee to set up a time so that I can review all of those recommendations with you. Following that meeting, we will begin testing with random public groups to see what our public feels about the creative recommendations. And, of course, the Committee is invited to
observe along with our creative staff on those tests.

The agency is recruiting people for those focus groups right now with the criteria that they must live in Orange County. They must have attended at least one OC Fair & Event Center event in the last year, and they must plan to attend future events as well.

So we will bring all of that back in a summary report to the Committee. And then depending on, you know, what our results are from that summary, we'll either be ready to bring it to the full Board for consideration in November, or if the timing is not right and maybe we need to do some adjustments, then we'll look to December.

And then following that begins the launch plan. If there are changes, how do we launch that? And then how do we communicate internally and externally on any changes.

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Thank you.

I've been really happy and pleased with this process so far. I might have been a little skeptical at the beginning because I think everything about the fair is perfect as is, but I think going to this exercise, every decade is really important and I really like that we have added the ability to have random public feedback that's not necessarily just Board driven or staff driven, but we're reaching out to our community about some of the things that we might be enrolling.

And I'm very, very excited to work and develop a
launch strategy and to have this be public.

    DIRECTOR MEYER: I agree.

    And I will say I appreciate how responsive you've been, Michele, to taking our feedback and direction. Something that I think was so important was that we shift the direction of the project and really focus on the public mission of the property and the mission that we have up on the wall and that we are a community resource.

    And so that really seems like it's been heard loud and clear. I appreciate the redirection on that. And I just want to say that I think this is such a healthy way of interaction between management and the Board as representatives of the public that we have this kind of engagement. We thank you for engaging with us.

    Ken, I understand that that's happening in your areas of responsibilities with other committees as well. I just want to let you know that I think this is a wonderful change in practice.

    MS. RICHARDS: Very good.

    CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you.

    And the last one is the Storage, Parking, and Traffic Ad Hoc Committee. Director La Belle?

    DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes, Chair Ruiz. Thank you.

    Ken and Barbara and I met last week with Ken and staff to talk about the parking issues, principally, the storage
issues which as they say, "Houston we have a problem." We've got to really focus on coming up with some solutions.

Ken reached out to Jason Gonsalves, our lobbyist, and had a very good conversation with him and introduced himself to Jason. Jason suggests that there's some things in the works at the State level relative to some of their surplus property and suggested that we forward a letter to general services to, kind of, indicate we have an interest and we'd like to meet with them.

A couple of properties, particularly are the National Guard Armory and the Fairview Center over there. There may be some others. So we have prepared this draft letter -- Ken has -- and Barbara and I have -- I'll give some copies for the audience.

(Draft letter copies distributed)

Barbara and I have reviewed it and provided our input. It commits the Board to nothing. It's just to, kind of, get the process going. There is some time sensitivity in letting the State know that we want to engage in some dialogue with them.

We cite Barbara and I, as the Committee, and we copied the Board on this. Ken, you want to add some more detail to that?

MR. KARNS: Thanks, Doug.

No. I think it was an excellent kick-off meeting.

And as Doug was -- as the Chair of that Committee, so that
happens. We have that -- identified it as the number one issue for us to address and that came out a lot during our discussions. And we'll try to leave no stone unturned and this is just one piece of the puzzle; there's no singular solution out there.

Timing was good when we talked to Gonsalves as it relates to what's happening in Sacramento. So we'll -- at the -- as to the Committee, we will get this letter. They'll be our liaison through to DGS and we'll see where that takes us with a future meeting and continue to report back if anything or any opportunities present themselves.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: I think what's important there is -- as I've indicated previously to the Board -- and I know Ashleigh has had some interaction with Gonsalves -- they're a highly professional firm. They're very responsive. They'll save us a lot of time by knowing who to go to and who to talk to on this issue.

And that's been my past experience, whether it's been acquiring property from State, Fish, and Game or dealing with corrections issues with Chino Prison -- all kinds of things.

They have the ability to identify who you need to talk to and make it very productive when you meet with them. They get you through these meetings. No guarantees you'll get anything at the end of the day, but it's a very effective way to try to address this.
And I think there are some real opportunities -- some of these properties try to enter into a partnership with the other state agencies to make this happen.

So, anyway, that concludes my comments.

CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. You know what, Ken, can you remind us how many parking spaces (unintelligible)?

MR. KARNS: Actually, so right now, we're in a crunch because of the amount of what's happening at OCC. But when they're all said and done, they'll actually have more spots; when they are done.

What we don't think we'll ever get back -- we know we won't get back -- is the open storage for that -- for some of our carnival operations. But for staff and/or our customer parking, when they're done with their Master Site Plan, they're going to have more spots.

CHAIR RUIZ: Nice. That's good to hear. Okay. That's going to be it for the reports.

I'm now going to call on the public speakers on these reports and the first one is Reggie Mundekis.

MS. MUNDEKIS: Okay. Hi. I'm Reggie Mundekis. I'm speaking regarding Item 9A, the Committee Reports.

A very fundamental part of California government is that the people's business is conducted in public. And what's happening with these two-person -- in some cases, a one-person committee -- is that business is not being conducted in public.
And as a result, discussions are being made which impact the public and of which the public doesn't see it until a decision is very far down the road.

For instance, the storm water issues. We found out that staff had submitted plans to the State for changes to the storm water management system. When I pulled down the report, staff had submitted from the State website. That's how we found out about it.

We need that committee to be meeting in public with agendas and minutes. Same thing for the Storage, Parking, and Traffic Committee. Now, why you're trying to address some of the storage issues, there was at least one member of the public who said that she had ideas and she had leads on storage areas that needed to be followed up on.

There's a number of neighbors in the City of Costa Mesa who need relief from the five weeks of gridlock that's so bad that some of them just leave town. And there's no way to access that committee because it's held some time in, you know, some two-person committee held some time.

We need to have the people's business done in public. And that means that these two-person -- or in some cases, one-person committees -- have to be done in public. You have an Agenda, you have public input, you keep records, and that's the way this needs to be done going forward. It's not that hard.

And, you know, maybe some of these committees can be
combined or reduced if you don't want to do that, but we need to do the people's business in public. Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. I will now call on Mr. Vincent Pollmeier. You have five cards for five different reports. I'm assuming you're going to use all 3 minutes for all five committee reports?

MR. POLLMEIER: No, I'm not. But because -- I really -- a lot of it is duplicative, but I do want to talk about a couple of things.

One, I can't repeat any strongly -- more strongly than was previously said. We're hearing about the Branding Committee. We're hearing about the Audit Committee. We're hearing about storage and parking. These are all fait accompli. They've been done. Back room deals between one, maybe two Board members and staff. There's been no public input. There's been no public knowledge.

I asked -- I asked to pull the IMW Contract because no one knew that there'd been a change in scope because apparently, they'd been negotiated in secret. Now, you say, "Maybe it wasn't intentionally in secret," but it was a secret. Nobody in the public knew that you'd gone back to this.

And speaking of that contract, is it really wise to only run your branding past people who've been your past customers and who are committed to being your future customers?

You know, this is the kind of thing that the public
could give input -- valuable input. Part of branding is attracting new customers. They should be running this branding past people who haven't -- in addition to people who have been here -- people who haven't been here.

But nobody from the public could give that input or that "sage advice" to use a phrase that Ken Karns likes. Because no one from the public was ever told about it.

Same thing with the signage plan. And by the way, the signage plan meeting was not a success, but I'll talk more about that later.

The -- and obviously audits. I want to make the point about one -- a specific point about the audit. You need to be getting some people publicly involved in the audit. I appreciate that you published the response letter. But the response letter is a response to an audit that the public has never seen and cleverly, can't ever see until you respond and close it.

So the public has no idea what's in that audit. Okay. But you're responding to it, and we're supposed to make public comments about your response letter but we've never seen the thing you're responding to. Okay. So that's a real problem and I'll talk more about the audit response letter and, specifically, when that Agenda item comes up.

But all of this comes down to the fact that I follow the goings on of this fairgrounds very closely. I've seen no
public announcements of a single committee meeting for the past six months; none. You're doing the public's business in secret. So either make these committees three-person committees so they have to be agendized in public meetings or just agree to do it because it's the right thing to do.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Okay. That wraps up the comments.

We will now move onto Item 9B which is the Consideration of Vote of the Scheduling the January 2020 Board of Directors Meeting to January 16, 2020 and the 2020 Out-of-State Travel Budget to Allow Staff to Participate in the Annual Western Fairs Association Convention in Reno, Nevada on January 19 through the 22nd -- excuse me -- to the 22nd, 2020. For that, I'll turn it over to Michele.

MS. RICHARDS: Yes. Thank you.

So Western Fairs Association is our main trade association here in the western U.S. The convention this year is being held in Reno, Sunday, January 19th, through Wednesday, January 22nd.

The typical Board meeting in January would put it at Thursday, January 23rd as we're just getting back from travel back to Orange County.

So staff is requesting that we -- the Board reconsider that date for the January meeting and plan it for the week prior January 16th. So that gives staff time to prepare for the Board
meeting before we leave for convention.

In addition, because the convention is in Reno, Nevada this year, that's out-of-state travel for staff and that requires prior Board approval. And because of dates and it falling so early in January, we would like to request approval for that out-of-state travel.

Historically, the OC Fair & Event Center has been one of the major sponsors of the convention and there has been a $30,000 sponsorship fee that has been included in past budgets. And we're looking toward doing that again for the 2020 budget.

That sponsorship is, in part, including registrations and hotel accommodations for the employees that attend in addition to promotional and marketing exposure for the OC Fair.

So the proposed $30,000 in the 2020 budget would include on-site and media promotion of the OC Fair & Event Center, logo inclusion in the WFA Association Magazine and on their website, an opportunity for a representative from our organization to give the opening remarks at the general session of the convention, seating at the closing awards dinner, and then a small suite for us to conduct industry meetings. We are not proposing doing a suite night this year.

So convention, registration, and lodging for up to 24 of our staff and Board members to attend is approximately $20,000 in value, leaving the other 10,000 for the pure sponsorship of the convention.
The changes that you see in bold and then crossed off at the bottom are some last minute changes that came in yesterday. We were able to negotiate more from WFA in terms of the sponsorship.

So it is up to the Board's discretion, but we're looking to approve rescheduling the January Board meeting to Thursday, January 16th. We're looking for the Board to approve that out-of-state travel to Reno for employees to attend the convention. And then we're looking for budget approval to allow OCFEC to sponsor the convention.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I have a question.

CHAIR RUIZ: Sure. Go ahead.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: What are some of the benefits to us sponsoring an event like this?

MS. RICHARDS: Well, it provides support to our trade association. It gives us, you know, much exposure within our industry as a leading fair. And as you know, we're the second largest in California, so that puts us in that top grade.

It allows us, you know, the suite in order to conduct meetings and the, you know, the hotel accommodations as well. And then there's exposure in the industry magazine throughout the year as well.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: And who are the meetings with? Are they with vendors?

MS. RICHARDS: Yeah. They are. So it's a great
opportunity while the fair is not going on for our concessions and our commercial merchants department to conduct meetings for us to see what new entertainment is out there to possibly book for the following fair.

It's also an opportunity for us to meet with key partners like the carnival, for example. Our big kick-off meetings with RCS typically happen at the WFA convention when everybody is together.

CHAIR RUIZ: Yeah. I just have a question: Do you know at the top of your head how many people attended last year?

MS. RICHARDS: I think there were 30 that went last year. So we paired it back. And, you know, next -- sorry, in 2020, the convention will be back in Anaheim and that allows -- sorry, 2021 -- will be back in Anaheim and, you know, that allows us more staff.

I think one of the key benefits to staff for attending WFA are the educational sessions, many of which are our staff teaches as well. So it gives a great exposure for leadership within our organization to teach what we know and our experiences to some of the smaller fairs that don't have that -- those kinds of resources.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Director Meyers and then Director Aitken.

DIRECTOR MEYER: So Sandra and I attended the WFA in Reno last year. I thought it was a very good conference. I
mean, there's a lot of technical information that's shared. It
seems like a great opportunity for folks to figure out what's
state of the art. What's leading best practices in different
areas.

One thing I would ask is that if we're going to
approve the sponsorship that whichever Board members may choose
to attend this year, be involved a little bit more in the
ongoing activities for a couple of reasons.

First, I think it's great education for us. Even if
it's areas beyond our responsibility, just for us to understand
the business better. It is also a great opportunity for us to
spend time, you know, that's a chunk of time that we get with
you and you get with us -- whomever is there -- to build
relationships and get to know each other better.

And so to the extent the sponsorship is enabling the
fair to sponsor specific activities, I'd love that Board members
could be included.

MS. RICHARDS: Yes. Agree.

CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. Director Aitken?

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yeah. I was just going to -- kind
of similar to what Director Meyer said.

I've been to the international convention when it was
in Las Vegas, and I was really blown away by the amount of
educational opportunities that are available both to staff and
to me as a director. Learning what works and what doesn't work
for different fairgrounds.

    Just the security planning alone -- how to make fairs safer, you know, crowd and way-finding inside fairgrounds. It's a really, really important time for all of the industries to get together.

    And I think as one of the larger fairs -- members of Western Fairs Association -- I think it is wonderful that we are good stewards as part of the fair family for our staff that has extreme success, that has one of the larger fairs that just has industry knowledge that a lot of our smaller fairs do not have.

    I think it's really a responsibility and a duty for us to share what we've learned, whether it's things we've done absolutely wonderfully and then things that we wish we could have done better and to make sure that we share with other fairs what we've done well and maybe what we could have done better so that they don't make the same mistakes or they can have the same success that we've had.

    CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. Any more questions or comments from the Board before I go to the public?

    DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Just one, Chair Ruiz.

    Speaking from past experiences and things I used to do, it's a great opportunity when you go to the League of California Cities or the National League of Cities or whatever, whatever -- to network, to talk to your colleague from another area.
And I found that the exchange of information among just informal conversations with other fair people or other city people as the case would be is as valuable as the seminars themselves because, you know, you can engage in a dialogue and exchange a lot of information. I think it's very beneficial. And I would fully support this.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Great. Thank you.

I'm now going to go to the public speakers. I have two speakers who want to speak on this item. I will call on the first one: Reggie Mundekis, followed by Vincent Pollmeier.

MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. I'm Reggie Mundekis. I'm speaking regarding 9B, the WFA Convention.

You know, first and foremost, Kathy Kramer -- who the Board has not told us if she's still working here or not, even though there was an announcement given last week that she was leaving and taking another job in Yakima, Washington.

Kathy Kramer should not attend WFA and she should not attend any other conference or meeting on behalf of the OC Fair & Event Center and her travel privileges should be suspended as should her credit and any signing authority.

Regarding this item, I have just so many questions regarding the money for this. Each year, we write a $30,000 check to an entity called the Blue Ribbon Foundation.

I've been told in the past that $30,000 check to the Blue Ribbon Foundation is our sponsorship fee. The Blue Ribbon
Foundation is not part of WFA. It's a separate non-profit that's run by Becky Bailey-Findley, the former CEO of the Orange County Fairgrounds, and now the person who runs California Fair Services Authority. So I'm really not sure how a $30,000 check to the Blue Ribbon Foundation translates into comp hotel rooms.

Also, I'm not clear how last year when we bought a sponsorship, why we still have a hotel room bill and a whole bunch of bills from meals. There is just a lot of financial questions regarding the transactions, regarding the WFA Convention.

And why I do appreciate that there's been effort by staff to reduce the number of people going to Reno from one-third of the staff to one-fifth of the staff -- or in other words, from 30 percent to 20 percent of the staff -- that's still a lot of money and still expensive.

So we need to have more transparency regarding these financial transactions with WFA because I'm not sure where the money is going and what the $30,000 sponsorship is for and who the Blue Ribbon Foundation is and who benefits from it.

So we need to have clarity on the finances regarding this convention. Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Mr. Vincent Pollmeier.

MR. POLLMEIER: Many years ago I used to work for a Federal Government Agency. Whenever we had to go on travel conventions -- and we did go to conventions -- there was a
careful and detailed justification process that every person had
to do individually: Why am I going to this conference? What am
I doing at this conference? Why is this benefitting my
organization?

    I hear a mission -- I hear nothing individually here
worth taking 24 people -- a quarter of the permanent staff. I
hear, "Well, we're going to learn a lot. There's a lot of
educational programs, and we teach most of them." Well, do you
see the contradiction there? If you're teaching them, you're
not learning from them.

    Now -- "and we need to go because we need to use this
to meet with our vendors." Well, "and possible entertainers.
Well, one of the criticisms of this fairgrounds is that you have
the same food vendors and the same entertainers year after year
after year.

    I mean, literally, you guys -- the motto for this
fairground should be "Orange County Fairgrounds: Ditto." Okay.
So why -- apparently, they haven't been doing a very good job
meeting them in the past.

    And then, we're the second largest fairground fair in
the past, but we have to go to this out-of-state convention to
meet with vendors. If we're the second largest fair in the
state, they'll come here to meet with us. Got a clue. I
guarantee it.

    Now, I'm not saying we shouldn't go. I'm not saying
that wouldn't be a good investment. But there needs to be a whole lot more documentation of who should go. Why they should go. What they're doing. And it needs to be made as a business -- it needs to be made as a decision: Is there a return on investment for this person to attend? And the bottom line is that's not happening here.

We're just saying, "Let's all go to Reno in January and have fun." Okay. And let's not kid ourselves, Western Fairs Association is a lobbying group. It's a trade association lobbying groups that somehow has figured out that it's going to represent both fairs and fair vendors.

Now, how you manage to represent both sides in a trade organizations? I don't know. But that's what they do. So, basically, we need hardcore detailed specific procedures for approving who goes, what they're doing, and how they're representing this fairgrounds. Thank you.

(Applause)

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

Okay. I will now turn it back to the Board for the approval of Item 9B.

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Motion to approve 9B.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I second.

CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second. Roll call vote.

MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?
CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director Aitken?

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

Okay. We will now move onto Item 9C and I will turn that over to Michele Richards.

MS. RICHARDS: Yes.

Yes. So crossroads of the West Gun Show has been a client in good standing with OC Fair & Event Center for 34 years. They we are planning five gun shows at OCFEC in 2020, specifically, in January, March, June, August and November.

The five shows represent projected combined revenue of approximately $715,000. That includes property rental, equipment, labor, and then ancillary food and beverage and parking.

Last year, at the October Board meeting, the Board of Directors approved six gun show rental agreements for 2019. One
of those shows was subsequently eliminated by the promoter in
order to give the promoter time to plan and promote those
events. So staff is presenting today the five 2020 gun show
rental agreements for the Board's consideration.

    Again, the timing on that is to give the promoter time
to plan for those events and then also to give staff direction
regarding the 2020 budget.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Great. Thank you.

Any questions or comments from the Board before I go
to the public?

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

CHAIR RUIZ: Director Aitken.

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Since I mentioned it earlier in my
committee report, we saw the Legislative Monitoring Committee, I
just wanted to provide a couple of brief updates and comments on
this issue because I know I've been very vocal on it in the
past.

So in speaking with our lobbyist in Sacramento, the
update on gun shows and whether there's going to be statewide
legislation has been very unclear. But one of the things that
has recently been in the news pertains to the Del Mar Fair.

So I just want to give the Board, you know, and all
transparency -- an update on what's going on with that and how
that affects our hosting gun shows going forward.

So the City of Del Mar -- and, please, our attorney,
if I misstate anything, please let me know -- but Del Mar Fair Board had made an action to not have gun shows on their fairgrounds. It resulted in litigation on behalf of some of the -- of the gun show promoter and some non-profit groups.

And there was a finding in Federal Court that they hadn't taken the proper steps in order to make that decision to not have gun shows on the property.

What is different in the Del Mar, and that is a preliminary injunction that is on that property going forward. The Del Mar property then worked with local legislators in Assemblyman Gloria to pass a bill through the assembly that just for that fairgrounds is going -- I believe it starts in 2021 --

MR. CAPLAN: I'm actually going to interrupt you, Director Aitken.

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Oh, please.

MR. CAPLAN: The 22nd DAA had no involvement with and did not cooperate at all with Assemblyman Gloria on that legislation. They remained entirely independent and neutral on that bill.

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Okay. So Assemblyman Gloria then passed -- went -- decided to introduce and pass the bill that then the -- is going to -- and, I believe, is it 2021 or 2022?

MR. CAPLAN: Again, because our office is not -- was not involved with that process, I'm not familiar with the details of the bill as I sit here today, so I can't answer that
question.

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Okay. I believe it's 2021. So Assemblyman Gloria signed a bill that is going to make it so that they cannot host gun shows on that property. So they ended up going on a road of a legislative fix versus independent actions of the Fair Board.

So I just wanted to update the Committee that I'm talking to our lobbyist. I was interested in if that there was going to be any statewide movement by the Governor's Office in order to do a statewide legislative fix. They have not --

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: You're saying "legislative fix" as if we all agreed that that's what we want?

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Well, no. That the assembly -- that they were going to pass through the legislature whether they're going to have an -- so they have a -- right now, based just for the 22nd DAA -- a legislative fix and that they're not going to be having gun shows on that property for -- and it's a different issue than ours. There's a lot of factors that went into that.

My question for our lobbyist just so that we are as informed going forward is is there going to be -- or has anyone heard -- is there going to be movement from the Governor's Office -- who's been very vocal on this issue -- to do a statewide ban?

I think that would be helpful for information for us. And there's been no movement so far from the Governor's Office
to do a statewide ban. I think that's instructed to us. And --
but I have reached out to our local assembly members and local
elected officials and I believe there's going to be movement
going forward from our local assemblywoman to address that issue
on this property; however, that has not -- that has not --
there's been no final decision and no legislation introduced at
this time.

I just thought that background would be helpful moving
forward given that we do address this issue. I will try to keep
us informed if any legislation is introduced that is going to
affect our property. And -- but that is the information that we
have going forward at this point.

I always find this to be an extremely troubling issue
because when we look at whether we want to approve this, I have
definitely my own opinions and insights about whether this fits
into our mission of having family friendly -- family friendly
entertainment, and whether this is given the surrounding areas
and the urbanization of our fair, whether this is something that
fits in to the family friendly brand that we want to put out in
the community.

However, I do have to take my role as a Board member
seriously and not getting us into unnecessary litigation given
that it's uncertain. So it weighs on me heavily. And I just
wanted to put that forward as we go into public comment and
discuss whether we want to continue having gun shows on this
property.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: If I may comment, when you're working in the capacity as the Legislative Committee, I would just caution you to be careful not to speak on behalf of the Board on personal positions when it comes to this topic because some people may not feel that it is -- people may feel that it is a family friendly event that you could attend on the fairgrounds since there are no guns that are actually sold at any of these events. And a lot of the things that those promoters are doing are promoting safety.

So those are some of the things I just think we need to be cautious about when we're -- maybe talking about this issue externally, and not engaging the public just -- since you brought it up.

DIRECTOR AITKEN: When Chair and I -- Chair Ruiz and I, I copy him in all of my emails. I am asking for what is the current status of legislation and if they are aware because they speak to all assembly people and all senators. Is anyone going to introduce any type of legislation that affects this property? Or is there going to be a push from the Governor's Office? That is the only information that I am interested in so that I can report back. It has nothing to do with my personal feelings.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay.

DIRECTOR MEYER: Robert, let me just make one other
quick question or comment on that.

CHAIR RUIZ: Go ahead.

DIRECTOR MEYER: Something that I think is very
different down in Del Mar is that the Board had taken a position
on it before the legislator decided to get involved and pursue
legislation in response to the litigation.

And I take issue -- I'm happy to say publicly -- with
any of our local elected officials -- deciding they know better
than the Fair Board about what should occur on this property.

And so I really have an -- as a matter of principal, a
real problem with the fact that there have been candidates for
office suggesting they're going to introduce legislation to
direct us as to what it is we're supposed to do. But I think we
can reach that view ourselves first.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

You know, and I just have a comment: If any of the
directors have not attended, I urge you to attend this --
this -- this gun show. I attended, I think, two of them. And,
you know, from what I saw, it was regulated. A lot of safety
was being taught like Director Rubalcava had said.

So if you haven't attended, I don't know if any --
Director Rubalcava or Meyers have attended -- you should do so.
It's a -- it's a -- I think you get a lot of information from
those gun shows.

So if none of the directors have any questions or
comments, I'm going to turn it over.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: I do have one question,

Chair Ruiz.

CHAIR RUIZ: Director La Belle?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Michele, can you, kind of,
summarize with the Board and the audience the type of activities
that occur at the gun show, what type of concessioners are
there, what sort of information is distributed.

MS. RICHARDS: It's a very mixed show. A lot of
components to it. There are merchants who display products that
they sell.

And I should add that the controls that are in place
regarding gun shows and gun sales in California are amongst the
strictest in the nation and those are all observed during the
show.

So no one can walk into the show and outright purchase
a firearm and take it home with them. There's a, you know,
there's a whole process for turning over ownership and
background checks and what not. And certainly Nick Buffa, our
Director of Safety and Security can elaborate on that if you
have questions.

There are concessions. There are Americana clothing
and decorative items that are for sale. Lots of safety classes
that are -- you know, and other educational workshops that are
held during the event as well. I know both of you -- several of
you have seen.

CHAIR RUIZ: Yes. Thank you.

Any questions or comments from the directors before I go to the public?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: I think -- and if I could get some assurance that -- I think the event itself is fine. And I noticed in the exhibits that there are fun set aside for Orange County sheriff, et cetera, et cetera.

I'm a little concerned about what may be occurring outside the event itself. Does ATF, the Federal agency, do they have any representation there? Is there sheriff's booth that, kind of, goes through and tries to deal with concealed weapons permits and other things of that nature?

I just think the more we could do in terms from a -- and I know Dick does a very good job -- I think the more we can do to make sure that we enhance the safety aspects of it so that things aren't occurring external to the event that should be occurring.

I'm not saying they are. I don't know. But, you know, I just think that we need to make absolutely certain that there's adequate security there during the course of the --

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: And I definitely recommend -- have you ever attended, Doug?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: No, I have not.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I highly recommend. It is
a misconception, I think, on -- I would say a misconception of what it actually is. But I would highly recommend attending and you'll see it's like a normal parking lot; people driving up, walking in. There's not a lot of external activity taking place in terms of, like, comparing guns or I don't think anybody would bring their gun into the gun show.

And for the concealed weapons permit, there are -- it's highly regulated. There are rules that people to need abide by. And so I think -- just experience it. I recommend it.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: No. I'll make sure I do that.

And, again, I'm not saying that I have any evidence of anything is occurring. I'm just saying that gun safety and gun issues are extremely important and we should be focused and aware of what's going on there.

And the more we can do to generate good practices relative to gun safety and that sort of thing is -- it should be encouraged.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Absolutely. Agree.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Thank you.

I will now be calling the public speakers. And the first one is Michelle Watson. Are you still here?

MS. WATSON: Yes.

Hi. Thank you for hearing me today, Board. My name is Michelle Watson. My family owns Carol Watson's Orange Coast
Auctions in Anaheim. We are a fine firearm antique and weapons auction house. We are a Federal firearm's license dealer. We come to this gun show, every show, and we go to gun shows all over the country.

I want to ask: When are you going to start standing up for the majority? And I'll tell you who the majority is. I'm the majority. This room is the majority. Law-abiding citizens.

Next, I'd like to address the inappropriately coined phrase, "gun show loophole." Some of you here seem to understand what I mean by that and some of you perhaps don't quite get what that means.

If someone were to purchase a gun from my table at the show, all it merely is is a conversation that they're going to purchase the gun, and I mark it sold, and then everything else goes back to my shop.

They must provide me a proper driver's license, a firearm safety certificate. They must fill out a lengthy background check. They have to wait 10 days of cool down period, if you will. And then they can come back and get the gun. Nothing, like you said, Director or Michelle, maybe, no one is leaving with guns from the show.

Also, you all are big fans of trade shows. This is a trade show. This is where businesses of -- of -- of likely -- or businesses that are in the same industry, are there to
promote and educate and show new state of the art things in the industry.

There's background checks now in California. Those are all being followed. LAX, one of your big vendors at that show at the Crossroads, they have computers. They set it up. They follow all the rules.

We have the Department of Justice of California regulating us. They're our big brother. They're always watching us. And we -- we have happily expose ourselves to them. We are hiding nothing and we follow everything that we're supposed to do.

Penal Code 26500 states that "any person selling a gun must be licensed and all gun sales, transfers, or releases must be done through a Federal firearms license dealer and a background check must be enacted at that moment."

If you don't follow the rules, you can go to jail and/or pay a penalty. We ask that you sign the contract. Let us conduct our business here. I go to gun shows all over the country and this is my best show. In my backyard -- in Orange County -- where all the sales tax collected from sales at this show go to a special fair fund. It's all in your best interest.

So I please ask that you renew their contract and let us continue with our lawful sales and promotion at the show.

Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. I will now call on
Heather Allen, followed by Amanda Garner. Are you still -- are both of you -- okay. Heather Allen left. Amanda Garner?

MS. GARNER: Hello. And thank you for hearing us today. My name is Amanda Garner. My husband and own Real World Shooting in Huntington Beach here in Orange County.

This gun show is one of our best events that we have done. We are -- like the previous speaker just said -- it's the highest regulated industry in the United States when it comes to background checks.

We have so many different laws that we have to follow here in California, far more than most of the other states. There is nothing that is done without being over -- you know, the oversight of the California DOJ and also the ATF. We have both of those entities watching over every transaction that is done.

Shooting is something I was raised with. It's something that I've done with my family, with my kids. It's a family event that everyone has always gone to. This has been a wonderful event that's been happening here over 30 years. There's not been any issues with it. And if you actually go and walk around, you'll see there's lots of different groups; the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts are there. There's so many family-oriented activities that can be done.

So I just urge the group to please renew the -- the rental. Thank you.
CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Okay. I will now call on Mike Garner. Are you here?

MR. GARNER: Good afternoon, everybody. Thank you for allowing us to come here and speak.

Like my wife, I'm the owner of Real World Shooting in Huntington Beach and we've been doing the gun shows for a number of years, as well as operating a full retail gun store.

I'd like to address the family aspect of the shooting hobby. The fact that we -- many times, the first time kids will see guns is at a gun show. But it's also with their parents presence, with me -- a licensed gun dealer -- and/or a safety instructor, and/or a shooting instructor and former police officer providing them a safe handling demonstration.

Part of the safety aspect that's required in California is that every person who purchases a gun must receive a firearm safety certificate. We do 30 to 50 of these at each of those shows.

In addition, we do well over another 50 safe handling demonstrations where we will teach people how to safely handle a firearm.

So the safety aspect and the family aspect are there. As a firearm dealer, I'd like to assure everybody in this room, there's no such thing as a gun show loophole in California. You go through every step at the gun show that you would if you walked in my shop.
Literally, there is no way that a person can legally walk out of the gun show with a firearm. We -- every show, leave with more firearms than we started because private parties who would like to legally transfer a gun from one person to another have to do it through us. So we take it for the cool down and waiting period.

And as my wife said, this is the most regulated industry or business in America. You hear the ATF. You hear the DOJ. What you don't hear about is how the Second Amendment community -- polices itself. Nobody would allow anything to go on whether it was another vendor in the parking lot or any place else without immediately knowing and letting the police or sheriff's know because this is an important safety issue and the Second Amendment community takes that very seriously.

Thank you all for hearing us.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

Okay. I will now call on Kevin Small if you are still here, followed by Mike Leland.

MR. SMALL: Good afternoon, Board. I appreciate you letting us talk to you today. I am here to urge you to renew the contracts for the Crossroads of the West Gun Show.

When I kind of think about this aspect, I kind of go back to the bigger picture and that is what is the Board's responsibility and their oversight. It always takes me back to the mission statement: "It's a celebration of Orange County's
I think it's pretty obvious that it speaks to diversity in Orange County which I think there is a lot in it. That's why you use plural words like "communities" and "interests." And the firearms community is part of that. And I believe that we should be able to be celebrated.

You're going to be hearing from a lot of people, I'm sure, about how safe and family friendly the gun shows are. I just think it's important to understand that this is part of your community.

There are even a couple of statistics that would show that Orange County shows more interest than all other counties in California in firearms.

So like I said, I'm just hoping that you vote to continue this celebration instead of beginning a new trend of suppressing a part of the community. Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Mike Leland, are you still here? Followed by Linda.

MR. LELAND: Thank you. I would just like to offer my support for the gun show.

I know it's -- it's not really considered all the other things that are involved in the gun show. I have two boys. I've taken the boys to the gun show since they were really little. We practice safe procedures and it's -- it is a family event.
Retired -- fire 33 years on the job, and I definitely understand safety and the ramifications of things. But I really would hope that you would support something that many of us practice as families. Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Linda, are you still here?

Linda?

(No response)

Okay. I will move onto the next one. Mike Brumbelow, followed by Tiffany.

MR. BRUMBELOW: Good afternoon, my name is Mike Brumbelow. I'm an attendee of the car show. I don't own a business. I have no business connected interest in the show whatsoever. But I just want to talk about the educational opportunities the show has afforded me and my family.

I've been attending this show for a number of years; myself, my sons, my grandchildren. We have a long history of military service in our family. Going back, personally, people in my family to serve World War I, World War II, Korea War, and Vietnam.

And as we walk through the gun show, there are a lot of curio and relic dealers there. I could take my sons and my grandchildren up and talk to them about the arms that were used and maybe one of your relatives carried one of these arms at that time. They can touch them with the permission of the vendor. They can pick them up and hold them.
But what that does, that opens up the conversation about why were the arms used at that time. That'll open up a conversation about world history. Why were they used? What was going on in the world politics at that time?

So anyway, I just wanted to share with you my opportunity for educating my sons and my grandchildren through Crossroads of the West Gun Show. Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Tiffany? Can you pronounce your last name for me, please.

MS. CHEUVRONT: I can. It's Cheuvront.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Thank you.

MS. CHEUVRONT: Good afternoon. I represent B&L Productions at Crossroads of the West Gun Show. I'm with Michel & Associates and I've been here several times addressing this Board regarding this issue.

Just want to, again, because I know we do have new Board members say the gun shows have been shown to be doing everything lawfully. They're following all state and Federal regulations and Penal Code issues that they have to -- they have to follow. All of the shows have the law enforcement that was already spoken about. And that's both inside the gun show and outside. There's law enforcement outside patrolling the parking lots as well. So hopefully that will take care of some of your concerns.

I did to want address the Del Mar issue because not
only did the -- has the Court found that maybe the Board did not
have the proper facts when they passed a moratorium there which
would ban the gun shows, but it's also a violation right now of
the First Amendment and the Court did find that the plaintiffs
had the ability to win that court case. And so because of that,
they invoked a preliminary injunction to allow the shows to
continue.

I would encourage you to get from Mr. Caplan that
order. I know it's available. I would encourage you all to
read it specifically because it's very, very detailed. There
was one that came out that was just an order and then there was
one that was more detailed with the judge's analysis of the
case. And it's very informative for you as Board members as you
make these decisions.

But for now, I would just encourage you to pass the
contracts for 2020, continue with the show that's been here for
more than 30 years with no issues, and don't ban the gun shows
here in Orange County. It's an institution here at
Orange County Fair. Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. I believe that wraps up
public comments on this item. I will now turn it back to the
Board for any questions or comments or do I entertain a vote?

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: I so move that we renew and
approve.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Second.
CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second. Roll call vote.

DIRECTOR AITKEN: I want to make comments before I vote.

So I just want to -- following up on public comment -- you know, share that I have attended the gun show several times. When I was a brand-new first year Board member and brought my family when I was Chair because I thought it was important to support a lot of the events that we had going on throughout the year on this fairgrounds.

And I have never disparaged -- small business owner on this property that shows up at the gun show nor have I ever made any comments about the gun show operator or alleged that any of the attendees or the operators are engaging in any type of illegal activity. I do not believe that to be true.

And I do acknowledge that California has some of the strictest gun laws in the nation. We are leading, I believe, the nation on this issue.

But I am trying to find intellectual consistency as a Board member, and so just want to remind that -- the Board and also the public -- that several years ago, we had this issue with tobacco products. And whether we thought it was in the best interest of the community and the best interest of our fairgoers and our fair members and users of this property to sell tobacco products and to have smoking on this property.
And we found that it was not in the best interest of our community and it was not in the best interest of people to visit this property to have smoking during our fair.

Shortly after that, we had this issue with cannabis products. It was new law coming down the pipeline for California. We had the potential to have cannabis shows. I believe it's CBD or -- I think CBD oils and oils and products -- hemp made products -- on this property.

And there was a lot of public comment and a lot of feeling that the cannabis and the CBD and all those types of products was not in the interest of this community and it was not something that we wanted to -- we thought it was in the best interest of fairgoers and our surrounding community with schools and our neighbors. So we decided to ban cannabis shows and related CBD products.

Shortly after that around the same time period, we had to deal with an issue of high-risk events. That, at that time, centered around political speech and political rallies, but we had to develop a policy about high-risk events.

And we felt we had the right, as a Board, to determine and to take into account whether certain events -- this one centering around political engagement -- were in the best interest of our community and it really had the neighborhood and the fairgoers, the people that come to this -- the users of this property -- whether they had their best interest of the fair.
room.

So I have a very -- a hard time saying that there is no reason for us to have cannabis shows, there is no reason for us to sell or allow people to use tobacco on this property, but we have no problem with the sale and -- later distribution -- but sale and distribution of firearms and ammunition on this property.

I might be alone in my feelings on this issue, but I think it is just illogical and inconsistent, in my view, for us to to make determinations but decide that we would like to sell firearms on State-owned property when there are plenty of shops throughout Orange County and there are plenty of other opportunities for people to purchase, get educated, and distribute or sell back their firearms.

So I am going to be voting no on this, and I just wanted -- I thought the public had a right to know why. Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Thank you for your comments.

Any other comments?

DIRECTOR MEYER: I'd like to make a comment --

CHAIR RUIZ: Director Meyers.

DIRECTOR MEYER: -- just so the record reflects why I'm voting the way I am.

So after I joined the Board, I did take the opportunity to go and visit one of the gun shows and it was very
edifying for me. The reason being that I come from a background
that has no contact with guns whatsoever. I never touched one.
Honestly, I'm not sure I've even laid eyes on one.
And I got a terrific tour of the show from one of the
organizers and had the chance to speak with various people
throughout the show.
And what I was so impressed by was the willingness to
have dialogue among the community that was in attendance of the
show about the challenging issues around gun violence. And
multiple people that I spoke to indicated a willingness to
engage a conversation about how we protect our communities from
gun violence and they were supportive of certain measures that
then Vice Governor Newsom was proposing. And I really thought
it was terrific.
And so as I think about the problem of gun violence
which I think is an epidemic, what I think -- this presents an
opportunity to do is work with the members of the community who
support guns and own guns and have an interest in guns -- to
think about how we can collaborate and have solutions to gun
violence.
And so in that regard, I don't want to alienate that
community. I want to embrace that community. And I really love
the comments that one of the speakers shared about the diversity
of our county and about the importance of celebrating all of our
communities. And I'm not going to dictate to anyone else what
things they want to be interested in.

And -- so just wanted to -- the record to reflect the reason why I'm supporting it.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I would like to expand on that.

So I'm voting yes today as well to maintain the gun shows here on the fairgrounds for a couple of reasons:

Diversity of interest. People have different interests and we are not to tell them what they should like to do.

I feel safer taking my child to a gun show than I do to allow them to eat a deep fried item at the fair. So I think that when we try to, you know, say that something isn't okay because it's not something that we believe, we're not doing our due diligence in representing the community at large.

So for those reasons -- and the other things is, banning a gun show at a fairgrounds is not going to solve the safety and security issues that we have. So I think it's irrelevant to sort of make those one and the same.

We're talking about hosting a show here that doesn't allow for taking a gun away from the show that they have purchased. And it also provides safety opportunities. And you're getting this from people who are experts in this area. We've had people from the law enforcement community come in here and testify on behalf of their -- their well-being.

These are people who are providing economic
development to our community. They're feeding their families by selling guns legally here. Whether or not people approve as to what their product is, the fact of the matter is it's okay for them to do that.

And for us to say that we're not going to allow them to continue to generate revenue for this State for their family is -- today, I will be voting yes on allowing them to stay.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Thank you. There's a motion on the floor.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Call for the question.

CHAIR RUIZ: Call for the question. Roll call vote.

MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director Aitken?

DIRECTOR AITKEN: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Okay.

(Applause)
Okay. Now moving onto Item 9D, the Wayfinding Signage Project Status Update. I'll turn it over to Ken Karns, VP of Operations.

MR. KARNS: Thank you. Wayfinding.

The purpose of this Agenda item is to update the Board on Wayfinding Signage Project and clarify any confusion regarding the public meeting process with the City of Costa Mesa.

Although this project has been mentioned previously in other Board of Directors meetings -- particularly the perimeter signage -- staff does take full accountability and apologizes for not being clear that part of the process will entail a public meeting with the City of Costa Mesa Planning Commission.

Staff is committed to ensuring that future communication with the committee -- that's the Building and Maintenance Committee and the full Board of this project is robust.

Subsequent to that, we have previously discussed that -- a great conversation was had with Building and Maintenance Committee during our committee meeting. And also because this does tie into our Parking and Storage Committee, it was also -- full engagement of this conversation was had during that committee meeting.

Subsequently, we did get some feedback from the city staff which was forwarded to the Building and Maintenance
Committee. Also, the link to the video from the meeting was provided and happy to provide that to anybody that wants to review it. Again, I think it was a good meeting and a lot of great intelligence was shared.

So staff began discussions on this project in early 2019 by engaging the City of Costa Mesa as a result of us losing our wayfinding signage along Arlington Ave during that upgrade project.

Although there was not collaboration with the City of Costa Mesa in past digital signs, the OC Fair & Event Center staff felt it was important to do so moving forward and an application for this project was filed with the City.

We were informed of the meeting -- tentatively informed -- a tentative meeting. And that it was scheduled for October 14th and we would be included on that Agenda item. Staff did attend the hearing. City staff made a full presentation and we were able to engage, answer questions, and contribute information.

We came away thinking the meeting was very positive, very productive, received valuable feedback from the commission, and members of the public who attended. Information is gathered during the meeting and is being summarized -- which we now have -- and next steps will be developed and we're thrilled to have the Building and Maintenance Committee want to be going on this journey with us. And I'm sure they'll be a valuable help.
So we attached a concept drawing and it's labeled "concept." You know, one of the things that -- because of our engagement and that the State had not done this, the City -- we knew that this was an information, fact-finding mission. We never anticipated getting any approval. We wanted to know what we were dealing with so that we could communicate back to the Board.

There's been a lot of discussion about cart before the horse. And we had a lot of debate about that knowing that if we had brought something to the Board, we would have been showing something to you that we couldn't accomplish because we didn't have enough background information. And that was discussions happening in this Board room in the past that we haven't brought enough information.

So we can debate the process and that was discussed at the committee meeting -- the criticism of the process. But at the end of the day, I think we've gathered more valuable information. We'll be able to address issues. We'll be able to modify. We'll be able to continue conversation and go back to the City. So lots yet to be done. Once we get to where we need to go -- and, again, there is budget money and this can improve our wayfinding.

One of the things that we see is the ability to speak to our customers in realtime. Our ground signage that we currently put out in fair time or during the rest of the year is
at ground-level and you don't know what -- until you get to it.

Being able to see in advance where you need to go or what's opening or what's closed or what lot is full, I think it will not address issues on the highway, but it will definitely address our ability to communicate to people in realtime so that they know where they're going to go and what they need to do.

We have engaged with the City of Costa Mesa PD, especially during fair time. And one of the criticisms of them is that they will not speak to the public because they're trying to move cars. They're opinion is that if they have to stop and talk to someone, of course, it slows everything down and everybody wants to ask them where to go. The signage can do that to keep things moving.

So it's an important piece of the puzzle and we're thrilled to keep everybody involved going forward. Happy to answer any questions.

DIRECTOR MEYER: Just one quick question.

CHAIR RUIZ: Sure. Go ahead, Director Meyer.

DIRECTOR MEYER: If we end up changing the name or logo, would this be able to adapt to that?

MR. KARNS: Absolutely. Yeah.

And -- and let's look at, you know, the -- both of these projects traveling down the road. It could very well happen that by the time we got to building a sign, if there is a change, we may get the change before we ever build a sign.
And I know I speak out of turn, but I don't know on that list that he gave of logos, was this one -- this one was not on that list? We had the Equestrian Center -- anyway. Regardless, we can change it if we need to.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Good. Any other questions or comments from the Board before I call on the speakers?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: I have a couple.

CHAIR RUIZ: Sure. Go ahead.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Chair Ruiz. Cart before the horse a little bit. And I do think this is something that ought to go to the Master Site Plan Committee or the Building and Safety Committee.

With all due respect to our neighbors -- the City of Costa Mesa -- that's their logo on there. I would be much more -- when you go to a shopping center, the major tenants there are identified.

I'd much rather see it incorporated into the sign Heroes Hall Veterans Museum, Centennial Farms, Equestrian Center -- whatever the case may be -- incorporate it into the signage program.

I want to make sure we get adequate input from all of our neighbors. Obviously, the electronic message boards, the height of the signs and all of that are going to have an impact on the surrounding neighborhoods. And I want to make sure that we -- from this point on -- we get adequate input before any
final decision is made.

One of the criticisms that this Board has received --
and I've received personally from -- from attendees at the
fair -- is they're not happy with being in a cue for an hour to
get into the site. But they're really not happy when they get
to the end of that hour and there's no place to go.

So whatever we end up doing out there needs to be done
in realtime. So there needs to be a way that we could
communicate with our customers. Not only at fair time, but, you
know, we have other activities that occur on the site and we
need to use these message boards to be identifying those.

Signs are pretty high. And somehow, we've got to get
into the system a way of making sure we're not getting out in
front of what Natalie and Ashleigh are doing in terms of the
Master Site Plan.

To the extent we can defer this until we get further
down the road in that process. That would be my recommendation.
But that's obviously the decision the Board is going to have to
make. Those are my comments.

MR. KARNS: Robert, if I could just -- for
clarification.

CHAIR RUIZ: Sure. Go ahead.

MR. KARNS: So with regards to the city logo that was
made -- suggestion made from the City as it related to
encroachment and the partnership, so we showed it.
Neighbor input. Again, I'll reiterate the comments from the commission -- are taking to heart. We'll absolutely do. And that's part of it, along with photometrics with regards to impact on any illumination on the neighborhood commented to -- and actually the City staff has also provided us with somebody that has the ability to do that which is, again, an excellent idea.

Realtime communication. Absolutely. When you're out there and you don't know what's going on, so they'll be a mount between the height to be able to see what's going on. So, yeah, that's part of that strategy.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yeah, Doug. Just to expand on that.

Ashleigh and I did have a chance to connect with Ken through the Buildings and Maintenance Committee. So we did take a look at this and saw some of the renderings as well. You bring up a great point about Costa Mesa. Not that we don't want to be good neighbors, but it does make sense to promote some of the brands that we have here on State grounds.

One of the things we did talk about is also bringing it to the Board first. So in wanting to definitely get out there and share some of these plans with our City partners, we also want to make sure that the Board members and the public are aware of what the fairgrounds would like to do with some of this before presenting to planning commissioner or any other city
MR. KARNS: Yeah. Lots of work to do before we ever get back to that next step.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Great. Thank you.

Okay. I will now call on the speakers that want to speak on this item. The first one is Reggie Mundekis, followed by Vincent Pollmeier.

MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. I'm Reggie Mundekis speaking to the Signage Program Issues.

There are many issues with this program which have been addressed in several letters received by the Board. First, today, there's a big problem with this being an information only item. This is a failure of the Board to take on their -- their legal oversight responsibility by having this as an information item.

The first time the public saw these plans is when the Costa Mesa Planning Commission published them in their Agenda packet. Staff had had these plans for many months and hid them from the public. I thank the Planning Commission for letting us see the plans.

Mr. Karns really works hard to spin the meeting which was perhaps very -- it was a waste of the Planning Commission and planning staff's time. Mr. Karns apparently also has not told Mr. Caplan that the City would like an MOU regarding the encroachment on the property -- on the City property of the base.
of the signs on several of the gates and possible use of the City logo on the sign.

The City stated that they want to see public input and public workshops on this. Mr. Karns thinks that having three-minute comments at a Council -- at a meeting is public input. No. You need to have an actual workshop and get public input from the neighbors. The neighbors found out about this when they received notices.

These signs are too big. They are 25-foot in a residential neighborhood. And quite frankly, they're hideous. They need to be redesigned to more -- to better harmonize with the size, scale, and appearance of the general neighborhood.

The bases on signs along Arlington Drive will obstruct views along the bike path in place by path users in jeopardy for their safety, so there needs to be a redesign for that.

The -- this plan relies on a 2013 parking study which staff concealed from the Planning Commission. I got a copy of it from the City. This study is out of date and does not address the massive traffic backups and parking and parking issues.

We need to find a way to address the traffic backups which are actually miles long going back to Paularino Avenue at times and causing OCTA buses to route in Mesa Del Mar neighborhoods and the lack of adequate parking during the fair. If you're going to bring in that many people, you need to have a
place to put them.

    And, again, staff needs to be working on these issue.
You have $62 million in the bank. There's nothing barring you
from hiring a traffic firm to do those studies and to locate
parking and trying to find rental lots. Like, four months out
from fair just doesn't work.

    We need a comprehensive traffic management and
planning plan. This project should be folded in as part of the
Master Site Plan. There's little value to be gained from this
project if we don't have a comprehensive traffic management and
parking plan. And this could, quite frankly, be a waste of
money. Thank you.

    CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

    DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I -- I just need to make a
comment really quick. And you can stop me if I'm speaking out
of bounds, Josh. But --

    MR. CAPLAN: So long as your comments are focused on
the Agenda, you can make your comment.

    DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I think it's just very
difficult for me to hear what anybody is saying when they're
personally attacking staff or members of this Board.

    So we taken into consideration what everybody says,
but please, try to stay factual as possible.

    MS. MUNDEKIS: I was stating facts.

    CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Thank you for your comment.
MR. POLLMEIER: Ms. Rubalcava-Garcia, did you watch the video tape?

CHAIR RUIZ: You have not been recognized yet.

MR. POLLMEIER: Oh, I'm sorry.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Thank you for your comment.

With that, I will call on the next speaker, Mr. Vincent Pollmeier.

MR. POLLMEIER: Yeah. I would like to ask -- and it's a rhetorical question because I know she can't respond -- if Ms. Rubalcava-Garcia actually watched the video tape link I sent to her? As well as to all members.

You know, there's a thing called Hanlon's razor which says: "Don't attribute to malice that which may be adequately explained by ignorance."

And I'm going to try to apply that here. I've never seen a plan -- I've been to many Planning Commission meetings. Not just in Costa Mesa, but other places. What I saw was a Planning Commission that was very confused. And they were confused because what was presented to them was repeatedly described as a conceptual plan and yet it was an application for final approval of that plan.

At one point during the meeting -- I'm not sure. I don't recall if it was Jason Jacobson or if it was Mr. Karns who made the comment -- who basically laid out a timeline where it could be a couple of years before these signs are built.
The Zoning Application expires after a year. What there was here was a fundamental lack of understanding of what the whole process should be. And the process should have been to bring this conceptual design to the Board and to the public. To have public workshops, not public meetings where people are limited to three-minute comments. But public workshops where the public can actually have meaningful -- can ask questions of staff and can have meaningful input.

And by the way, I certainly hope that the budget meetings next year -- next month -- are workshops and not just meetings where -- where we're required to limit our comments to three minutes because we need to have workshops.

And, in fact, that's what Planning Commissioner Zich said. When Ken said to -- Ken said, "Well, I understand that people are upset that this is the first they see it. But the first time that someone sees something is always the first time they see it."

And Commissioner Zich said, "Well, there's a big difference between," won't you agree, "seeing it a couple days before final approval meeting and seeing it for the first time in the first of several workshops."

That's the point. We shouldn't be going off seeking final approval for plans until they've been workshoped with the public. Ditto the budget. Ditto the Master Site Plan. Same is true of the branding exercise -- all of these things.
Embrace the public. Don't hold them in arms' length
Don't have secret meetings between staff. Public -- "secret"
may be a -- unpublicized meetings between Board members and
staff. Bring the public in. Make them your partners because
that's what this is about. This is about failing to address the
public.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. I will now call on
Mr. Jay Humphrey, followed by Anna V.

MR. HUMPHREY: Good afternoon, Board, again.

This presentation for both here and at the city, I
applaud the fact that you're trying to get different parts and
pieces all, kind of, in place and what have you together. I
think that's wonderful.

And I appreciate the fact that you guys would, in
fact, have -- whoever instigated -- would go to the City to find
out what they're going to do, keeping in mind that there -- the
proposed signage would encroach on City property.

So while the City doesn't normally need to approve
anything you're building -- you can build wherever you want here
because the State approves it and the City has no word on it --
until it encroaches on City territory. And when it does that,
then you need to be talking to the City.

So -- but I applaud the fact that people say, "Well,
it might be encroaching so we need to get there." Keep in mind
that if the encroach is in the City and the City doesn't like
it, they can just say, "Tear it down." And I'm sure a Court
would say, "Follow that up." Making sure it's no longer
encroaching. So I applaud you guys for doing that.

My problem is is that it was clearly -- as has been
brought up -- horse before the cart. And the problem here is is
that in my estimation that part of the process should be full
information to the Board. And I look at the -- what I saw on
the Board packet -- the only thing I could get in the Board
packet is this piece of paper and a letter. That's it.

The same packet -- and by the way, all these pages --
the same packet -- is now available at the City which is a total
packet of what this program is and the packet is very
substantial for the Planning Commission -- the Planning
Commission -- to make a decision to allow a final approval of
these plans. These plans come from your consultant, not from
the City. The City didn't generate this. You guys generated
it.

So it's important to keep in mind that here is
material that has been done. And I got to see it the first time
two days before the Planning Commission -- three days, pardon
me -- before the Planning Commission to see it. And I only
became aware of it because the City put a sign on the ground
saying that this is going to happen. If the City hadn't put
that sign there, I would have never known it.

So keep in mind that this lack of information, whether
it was intentional, whether it was simply something that
somebody just overlooked because they don't necessarily know all
the processes, it gives the public the sense that they're not
being involved with their neighbors.

And I know that you guys all keep telling me that you
want to be good neighbors, and I accept that. I accept that
everybody wants to do that. But sometimes the steps have to be
taken that force that to happen.

I appreciate this fact by that process, and I would
like to make sure that you guys expand it. Thank you very much.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Anna V, followed by

Mary Spadoni.

MS. VRSKA: Ms. Spadoni had to leave.

First, to Member Rubalcava-Garcia, put your big girl
pants on and suck up the public comments. It's actually very
inappropriate for you to, in essence, have a chilling effect on
public comment by criticizing public comment. It's a First
Amendment right issue. Otherwise, don't choose public service.
That's my comment to you.

My comment to VP Karns is what a heaping load of crap.
You can try to put lipstick on it and dress it up, but that's
what it is. The way this process should have been done is as
follows: It should have been done -- it should have brought to
the Board where it is discussed.

After that, there should have been extensive public
outreach to make sure that it conforms to, you know, fits in with the neighborhood. I understand that the fairgrounds wants to do what they want to do in terms of boosting business, but you still live -- I mean, this still is property within the bounds of Costa Mesa and you have to live within the neighborhood.

So putting them in jeopardy in terms of safety, in terms of subjecting them to further traffic problems, visibility issues, is not being a good neighbor and is not good. Then, and only then, once all that process has been done, it should have gone to the Commission.

Having this gone straight to Commission makes me wonder, I mean, how -- how many years has VP Karns been here? How many years have you all been doing this? You don't know the process about going to the Planning Commission and what that entails?

I think everyone was confused about what the heck was going on. And what makes the thing even more egregious is that this signage doesn't even conform to the rules and regulations. In some instances, it's asking for 300 percent more signage that is allowed.

I mean, so you all can package it up and put bows on it however you want, but this is exactly what the public has been criticizing in so many areas. And the reason we come up here and criticize is not because we don't have something better.
to be doing than sitting here six hours, is because you all are not doing your jobs and overseeing the stuff that needs to be done. You can delegate authority, but you cannot delegate responsibility. Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. I will now call on the next speaker, Beth Refakes.

MS. REFAKES: Beth Refakes, Costa Mesa resident.

I did attend the Planning Commission Meeting. And from my perspective what was presented wasn't quite ready for prime time.

First of all, the project was brought to the City prior to any approval by the Fair Board. Second of all, there was no community outreach. There were residents there who had just found out about it. They didn't know anything about it.

And if you say you're going to be good neighbors, you have to do community outreach before you kind of ram this stuff down people's throat.

There's no light study on the impacts surrounding residents. Some residents that were at the Planning Commission meeting said that they were already bothered by some of the lights from the fairgrounds.

I was a volunteer at the -- the car show here on -- on the first Friday of October. And when the show was over -- which was about 7:00 o'clock -- it was dark out. The illumination from the main sign at the main gain gate provided
so much light, we didn't need to have any additional lighting to
pick up all our stuff and pack it onto our vehicles. So there
is a lot of light given off by these LED signs.

The other problem is that the project is based on a
2013 study. You should have a traffic study done and a parking
study done. I think there were also issues that were brought up
in your Master Site Plan about re-striping the parking lot to
get more vehicles parked. So things have changed since 2013 and
I think you need to look at that.

The other thing is that the signs are too high. And
you're going to have people driving along looking up at the
signs and they're not going to be paying attention to the
pedestrian traffic. So I have a lot of concern with that.

The footings along Arlington are too large and they
can cause visibility from -- for pedestrians. Okay. You're not
going to be able to see pedestrians when they're walking along
these large solid footings.

And I know this went to the bike --

Walkability Committee that the City has and they were also
concerned about the safety of pedestrian traffic along Arlington
because of the size of signs.

And since the state cramps local control, is there any
ability for the City to enforce the conditions of approval
because there were a lot of conditions of approval attached to
the approval process for dimming when they had to be dimmed and
different issues so that the LED lights were not so invasive and
could impact the residents. So I hope you rethink this. Thank
you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Okay. Any more questions or
comments from the Board before we move onto the next item?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Just a couple.

I -- I -- clearly, this needs to be an action item
where the Board can actually provide some direction to staff.
So at some point in time, I'd like to see this come back as an
action item.

Before that, I would like to see input from the
community. The, you know, all we have is an example of what the
sign would look like. We don't how many, where, et cetera, et
cetera. So I think going forward with this at this point in
time is premature.

But, again, it's just an information item, so I just
share that for whatever is worth.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Thank you. Okay. We'll now move
onto the next item which is Item 9E. And I will turn that over
to Director Rubalcava-Garcia and Director Meyer.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: So today, the
Audit Committee would like to get approval on the response
letter related to the 2017 Audit.

Everything in here addressed the items in the
management report. So we did also, as a mentioned earlier,
provide a copy to the public for review and comment. So if anybody else has any questions, I'd like to get a motion to approve.

CHAIR RUIZ: Is there a motion?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: So moved.

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Second.

CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second. Roll call vote.

MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

CHAIR RUIZ: My apologies. Back up. I didn't see the public speakers. I'm sorry. I will go back to that. Need to get another cup of coffee.

Okay. I will call on Reggie Mundekis, followed by Vincent Pollmeier.

MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. I'm Reggie Mundekis. I'm addressing 9E regarding the 2017 Audit.

I am having issues with the letter that you're proposing. At the last Board meeting, the draft of the letter was passed out to the audience and that was only -- that only came after a letter was sent to the Board regarding: "Where's the audit?"

So in paragraph 3, Internal Control Weaknesses and Contracting Policies and Procedures, I am really having a great deal of difficulty with the way that you're trying to soft-pedal the way that the previous audits were delayed and held back and
hidden in many ways and prevented resolution of the issues in a timely manner.

You know, it says: "This finding was a matter of timing," in quotes, "as it was a reportable action from the 2016 Audit and action correct was taken at the May 2018 Board meeting."

We need to be clear on that -- that critical information was hidden from the Board. That the CEO was not sharing the audit reports with the Board in a timely manner, and there needs to be stronger wording on that.

There needs to be clarity as to the facts as far as what happened, instead of soft pedalling it with "timing" in quotes. And you need to be clear in what you're doing as far as preventing audits from overlapping again.

When you lay out a timeline of the way that audits are performed by CDFA and how this Board deals with the audits, you find that there are multiple audits open from CDFA and that the Board is just taking their time in dealing with these issues.

These issues were supposed to be dealt with within 30 days of the audit being completed. And, you know, while you're trying to -- I'm not exactly sure what the policy is from CDFA, whether they want the audit resolution letter within 30 days from the closure of the audit after the auditors tell you what the findings are, or from the final delivery of the report.

Either way, the auditor meets with you at the end of
the audit and says what needs to be corrected. So it's easy at that point to start putting in the corrective actions and getting the draft letter ready. That way, you are ready to go and close out that audit.

It is very bad that this organization does not deal with audits in a timely manner. And that letter needs to be corrected to actually show the truth of what happened.

And we need to be honest that there are a lot of issues here. And we need to start addressing those very clearly and taking the necessary corrective actions which involve -- may involve retraining or replacing staff as needed. Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. I will now call on -- yes. Go ahead.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: So in response to that -- and you may expand if you have to add anything to that, Andreas -- so everything in this letter is factual.

And the way the process does work, is all of this feedback that we are addressing is directly from the auditor. So these are the auditor's concerns to the audit.

So we are, in essence, responding. I did put my girl pants on when I wrote this letter and addressed everything as professionally as I possibly could.

There are some duplicate responses in here as it relates to Item 3 as mentioned by the public comment. And the reason why it's a duplicative is because we addressed this when
we did the 2016 Audit. It was -- there was the same -- this
issue was also brought up in that audit. And due to the delay,
we responded to it here as well.

Moving forward, we should not have overlapping because
as -- I can speak to Director Andreas and I -- have worked
diligently in making sure that we're closing these audits out.
And moving forward, there should not be an overlap. And
that's -- that's all I have to say about that, so --

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Great. Thank you.

Mr. Vincent Pollmeier.

MR. POLLMEIER: Well, first off, I want to -- I want
to commend Directors Rubalcava-Garcia and Myer and their goal of
trying to stop this -- this -- the lengthy delays of these
audits and move them along expeditiously and get them resolved.
And I also want to commend them for releasing this letter for
public comment.

But there's a problem. And the problem is that the
letter responds to the -- responds to the management report.
The conclusions of the management report from the audit.
There's no way for the public to know if these responses are
adequate, reflect the needs of the public, or anything --
without seeing that management report too. And that was never
released. And the State -- the CDFA has taken the position that
until they receive this letter, they can't release that audit.
So it falls upon this Board. This Board has the authority, and
apparently, the responsibility to release that.

Now, specifically, I have an issue -- I want to draw an issue to two of the things of the responses. So in response for payments for outside legal counsel, it says:

"With respect to securing outside legal counsel at its meeting of May 23rd, 2019, the Board adopted a policy prohibiting the District from engaging outside legal counsel, unless those professional services are proved by the Attorney General's Office in writing." That sounds great. But that's the law.

What you just said there is: "We agree to not break the law any more." Okay. Then if you look to 3, "In response to finding the management report, the District did not establish written policies and procedures regarding its contracting as required by Section 4051 of the Food & Agriculture Code.

The District -- the Board adopted an amendment to District's asset protection policy requiring the District to procure any goods or services complying with any and all applicable portions." And it goes on to list several state laws and regulations.

Well, if you look at Section 4051 of the Food & Agriculture Code, it basically says that an association can contract in accordance with -- has to contract in accordance with (A) the written policies and procedures for contracting that are developed and maintained by the Board of Directors of
the Association and all applicable state laws.

So, again, what those written policies and procedures are supposed to be -- policies and procedures -- are the procedures to make sure that you follow State law.

Saying, "We're not going to break the law any more" is not an adequate response. Now, I recognize -- and so one of the things I want to make sure is that in the effort that's going forward with Director Meyer, as you guys do your -- your policies, that your policies include specific procedures to make sure that contracting does follow the law -- all the laws.

And by the way, I'll point out as I pointed out earlier in the meeting, you have a contract right now that's illegal with a law firm. You're breaking this.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Thank you.

DIRECTOR MEYER: Robert, can I just make a few comments on this following up on what Natalie shared.

First, I completely agree -- and both of us completely agree that the timing of these audits getting completed is just not acceptable. And it's something that we are working on, correcting. We are also both frustrated by the fact that it took until this meeting for this to be brought forward. And we've expressed our unhappiness about that fact.

Onto the specific items that are discussed in the letter, I actually would be comfortable with making this language a little bit stronger if -- if the Board is interested.
in doing that as well. I do think it's concerning that it took until 2018 to correct an audit finding that actually goes back to the 2015 Audit Report. I think that's just unacceptable.

I will say that the language that's in the policy that was adopted in 2018 was reviewed by the auditor and he indicated that it was sufficient to abate this audit finding. I think it's not a very well drafted revision of the policy, and it's something that's on our list for the Governing Review Process to make it clear.

That said, the Board won't be adopting a 200-page contracting manual because one exists at the State level and that's what we're following, and I have a lot of confidence in our contracting staff that they're following it appropriately.

So there are going to be some specific restrictions around contracting and the Board will address in the policy, but I don't want there to be a misunderstanding about what's required because the auditor has been clear to us that by adopting the safe contracting manual as the policies and procedures that apply to us, that's sufficient to meet the statutory requirement.

CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. Go ahead.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: So what amendments would you make? Because I don't -- I am all for amending it, but I don't know if it's worth the delay.

So if we amend this, then we can't close it out and we
can't start getting the 2018 then. We're well into preparing for 2019. And I'm all for making -- believe me, like, for those of you who know me, I'm a very direct person and I have no problem with stronger language; however, I'm not sure it's going to help us in this case.

So, you know, I appreciate that. And moving forward, we can draft stronger language when it comes to delays. But -- so -- that -- that's --

DIRECTOR MEYER: This has to get closed out today.
CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. All right. Is there a motion on the floor?

DIRECTOR AITKEN: So moved.
VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Second.
CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second. Roll call vote.

MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?
CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.
MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?
VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.
MADAM SECRETARY: Director Aitken?
DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.
MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?
DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes.
MADAM SECRETARY: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?
DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.
MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

Okay. We now move onto the next item, Item F, which is Consideration of and Vote of the Board Policy Regarding Public Comment During the 32nd DAA Board Meetings, Including Whether a Member of the Public Can Cede Speaking Time to Another Member of the Public.

Director Bagneris wanted this on the Agenda, but, obviously, she isn't here today. So I'm going to read the background on this:

"At the September 26th, 2019 Board of Directors meeting, a member of the public read a statement provided to her by another member of the public not present at the meeting. The member of the public did not exceed the three-minute limit.

Director Bagneris asked to agendize discussion of public comment during Orange County Fair & Exhibition -- I mean, Event Center Board meetings, including whether to allow one member of the public to seek his or her time to another member of the public."

And I do have some language here, Josh. Can I read the --

MR. CAPLAN: Sure.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. This is the language she was -- wanted to see on here and it reads like this:
"Speakers are requested to sign in prior to the start of the meeting and are limited to three minutes." That's current language.

This is the new language that she wanted to adopt. It's, "Speakers may -- speakers' time may not be modified based on the number of public speakers. No speaker may cede his or her time to any other speaker. Public comments on Agenda items will not be accepted during the meetings as items are addressed.

Public comment on issues not on the current Agenda is allowed; however, no debate by the Board shall be permitted on such public comments and no action will be taken on such public comments items at this time, as law requires formal public notice prior to any action on the agenda."

Do I have any comments or questions from the Board before I go to the public?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: I don't recall seeing that.

MS. MUNDEKIS: Yeah. We didn't get that in the Agenda packet. This is the first time we're hearing it. Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: That's on here. So --

DIRECTOR AITKEN: I think what Doug was referring to is Director Bagneris' proposed changes.

CHAIR RUIZ: Right. That was not in the packet? Oh, the language, you mean.

MS. MUNDEKIS: No.

DIRECTOR AITKEN: The proposed language you just -- I
just would need to read it. I'm not --

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. All right.

DIRECTOR AITKEN: I think I heard it correctly, but I'm not prepared to vote on any changes to pretty well established public comment law without reading it.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay.

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: And I agree with Ashleigh.

CHAIR RUIZ: I will read what she was proposing. Only, it says, "Speakers may not -- no. Speakers time may be modified based on the number of public speakers. No speaker may cede his or her time to another speaker." That's the language.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: And I think that's at the discretion of the Chair; right? I mean, that was something that we talked last week. And I don't know if it would call for amending current language. Because I do agree that it could result in, you know, other issues, but I think that it's at the Chair's discretion whether or not they want to allow somebody to utilize somebody else's time.

DIRECTOR MEYER: I wouldn't be comfortable adopting the --

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. You know, and it's not something that's happening at every meeting. Something, I believe, it's only happened one time since I've been here. So if the Board is comfortable, we'll just keep current language as is.

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yeah. I mean, my question would be:
Is there any type of liability for the Board if we don't have a policy and we allow one person to do it and then the next meeting somebody comes up with a microphone and they have letters from five people and want 15 minutes.

MR. CAPLAN: There is. So if the Board decides to tell one member of the public to speak for three minutes and then use somebody else's three minutes, then they would have to apply that same allowance across the board.

You certainly -- if you give the opportunity to one person, you have to give it to every member of the public.

DIRECTOR MEYER: Why don't we frame the question a little differently.

As I recall what happened at that last meeting, the person didn't speak longer than the three minutes that they were allowed and they were able to read the letter they had from somebody else within their three minutes.

I don't see a reason to deviate from that practice at this point. And so until there's a reason to think of doing it, maybe -- I don't know that we even need to follow or adopt a policy.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. That's -- if there's no more questions or comments, I'm going to turn it over --

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: I have a comment.

CHAIR RUIZ: Go ahead.

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: I was the acting Chair when you
were not here and this happened. Well, I made a decision that the person was able to read and it was under three minutes total.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Just a comment if I could.

Not to carry things on too long, but I've worked in organizations where it was very specific. Three minutes is three minutes, three minutes.

I've also worked in organizations where an individual was allowed to give their three minutes or whatever their time was to another party to, basically, get all of the facts out on a specific issue.

I mean, we've had, I don't know, Ashleigh will remember the elephant hearings that we were involved in and, you know, after a while, you know, hearing the same thing over and over and over and over again. And sometimes there is a benefit to allowing one spokesperson to have 10 or 15 minutes to articulate the point of 20 people in the audience. So there is some advantage to allowing them to give their three minutes to somebody else.

Again, I've been in organizations where it worked both ways, and I think the important thing is making sure that the public has an adequate opportunity to speak to the Board on any and all matters that are before us.

DIRECTOR MEYER: Can be table it?
CHAIR RUIZ: Yeah. We can definitely do that. But I want to hear from the public speakers that wish to speak on this item.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Move to table.

CHAIR RUIZ: Hear from speakers. Yeah. I will call on Reggie Mundekis, followed by Vincent Pollmeier.

MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. I'm Reggie Mundekis. I'm addressing the restriction on free speech which is proposed in the Agenda.

So the proposal is a restriction on the First Amendment rights and on the rights enshrined in the California Constitution and California Statute on the rights of public to participate in this meeting.

We are not asking for excessive privilege to be granted or that one person be granted excessive time over another. What we're dealing with is the ability of someone to read a written comment from another person within their three minutes allotted them.

So under the proposed policy, I, for instance, could not read part of a speech from Ronald Reagan during my three minutes because Mr. Reagan is deceased and cannot join us today.

I propose that the Board keep the current public comment policy and then deal with things like, for instance, the issues presented during the elephant hearings. Those were the hearings in which the fairgrounds decided to no longer allow
elephant rides during the fair. And quite frankly, this meeting
room was packed more than you've seen in the last several years.

The Board can make special provisions for dealing in
situations like that by encouraging a group to appoint a
spokesperson for their group and then deciding on a fair
allotment of time.

So I propose that you just keep things the way they
are; it works. We all know what the rules are. And thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Vincent Pollmeier, followed
by Anna V.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: We should just vote on it.
I mean, it's an action item -- after.

CHAIR RUIZ: Yeah.

MR. POLLMEIER: I strongly encourage you to table this
for a couple of reasons:

One, is that it's not at all clear what -- and she's
not here, so she can't explain -- it's not at all clear what
Chair Bagneris meant by "cede time."

Director La Belle talked about it in terms of where
one person turns their time over to another person so that
person has additional time. But the example which was given
that apparently triggered this, wasn't someone ceding their
time. It was them reading a comment from someone else which, by
the way, if it's simple not just said that it was a comment from
someone else, there'd be no way to know.
I also find it ironic that in discussing this, the Chair read a comment from Director Bagneris who isn't here which would not be allowed under Director -- under at least one interpretation of what Director Bagneris wants.

So I think we should definitely table it at least until we understand what the heck we're talking about. I also think we should table it because when you read -- the two times you read Director Bagneris' proposed language, in one -- the first time you read it, you said that the time cannot be shortened because of the number of people -- number of speakers.

And the second time you read it, you said the time can be shortened because the number of people. I suspect the latter is what was meant, but it probably should be consistent.

So I recommend we table this. Keep the current policy as it is, and then, you know, I don't see this as being a huge problem, especially if the latter -- the former situation where someone is simply reading someone else's comments who can't be here, especially when this Board won't move meetings to times when people aren't working. Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. I will now call on Anna V, followed by Mary Spadoni.

MS. VRSKA: So I'm frankly tired of this Board trying to do things to limit public comment. Whether it's having meetings at inopportune times or whether it's trying to cut down time or whether it's trying to control the content. I'm not an
attorney, but I've been going to public meetings enough to understand that you cannot control the content.

And -- but what you're trying to do by saying someone can't read a letter by someone else is controlling content and that is a violation and you probably would get sued.

I had this issue with the City of Costa Mesa about clapping. I was asked by the police to leave and I said I'd be very comfortable doing that if you actually arrest me and take me outside. I will not resist.

And I de facto one because actually clapping is a form of speech. And if you allow clapping, then you can't allow clapping for some things and not allow clapping for other things because then you're de facto controlling what a person is trying to say.

So it is a nuance thing but just embrace public comments and embrace the criticism. Do your jobs, fix the things that need fixing, and stop getting offended by people's comments and trying to limit what people are saying. That would be my advice. Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Mary Spadoni.

MS. SPADONI: I agree with all the previous speakers.

And many times as already mentioned, someone who can't come to the meeting will call and say, "Look, would you express my money on this," and they'll give some type of paragraph that and want you to represent them because they can't be at this
meeting.

Our suggestions are not on anything that is to any one individual member on the Board. It's just a genuine thing that we want the fair to be run more fairly and that goes with the public comments.

So if there's something that you can fix that you may agree, you may not agree, but the public comment is just that. It's a comment. We're protected by law, and I think you should just keep the rule as you have it and go with it. And it might stir you having an occasional evening meeting so those people that are submitting something in writing could actually appear in person. Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Okay. I will now turn it back to the Board.

DIRECTOR MEYER: I move we table it.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Second.

CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second. Roll call vote.

MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director Aitken?

DIRECTOR AITKEN: No.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?
DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Thank you. We now move onto the next item, Item 9G. And I will turn that over to Michele Richards.

MS. RICHARDS: From time to time, we received notice from California Department of Food & Agriculture, our State agency, on updates to standard templates or forms that we use in the course of business.

On August 30th, we received a letter from CDFA that the standard F31 Template which is what a lot of the smaller fairs use for fair time or year-round event rentals, that there were some updates to that form.

The form that we use in our rental agreements, most often is greatly expanded from what CDFA, you know, issues as standard templates and contains stronger language. But we wanted to take a look at what these amendments were and incorporate them into our existing rental agreements to make sure that any changes or any pertinent information was included.

Some of what CDFA is recommending is already a part of our booking and rental policies or our rules and regulations. And staff is in the process of incorporating any of those
amendments into our current form.

I'm happy to go through them, you know, line by line if you'd like. I'm happy to not do that if you prefer as well. It's important to understand, though, that the changes CDFA has indicated are legally sufficient.

So, you know, our staff is working to incorporate those amendments into the form that we use for year-round events and then rentals during fair time. So it's up to the Board's discretion. Again, I'm happy to go through it line by line if you'd like.

CHAIR RUIZ: Any questions or comments from the Board?

DIRECTOR MEYER: Just one. And it's not one that needs to be addressed at this time because I think we are going to address it with the Governance Process.

But I continue to have a problem with any use of our property in a discriminatory fashion. And so not including non-discrimination language in any agreements we're entering into for use of our property is something that really offends me.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Any more questions or comments from the Board?

(No response)

If not, I will go into the public speakers and I will call on Reggie Mundekis, followed by Vincent Pollmeier.

MS. MUNDEKIS: Mr. Pollmeier has left.
I'm Reggie Mundekis. I'm speaking on Item 9G regarding the new contracting terms.

Thank you to the Board for bringing this forward. There's a lot of really good updates to the contract terms, including the emergency use laws. So thank you for doing this. I do have a few questions. And if staff can answer them today, we can get them answered or in a future meeting.

My understanding is that this is going to be language used going forward. I am particularly concerned about the emergency use language because that involves a lot of public -- that involves public safety and security.

So I'm wondering if there's any way that we can give notice to renters with contracts which -- for future events which have been signed during the process of being signed -- that the emergency use clause would apply to them.

And the reason I ask this is that sometimes there are contracts which are negotiated a year in advance and they would not -- and even though that event has not happened yet -- that new emergency use clause would not be included in the contract because the contract has already been executed and agreed to.

So just trying to find out if there's a way that we can plug any gap with the emergency use clause to have it cut in at a certain date for all users of the property. That way, it's uniform and easier to administer.

My other question regarding long-term events like
Cirque du Soleil. Cirque du Soleil comes here, like, once every two or three years. They camp out for about six weeks and they have a separate type of agreement because they have a different use of the property than somebody who just comes in here for a few days to have an event.

On those events, how would the emergency use clause be implemented? Again, if somebody wants to get back to me on this or wants it to be discussed meeting at a future Board meeting, that's great. You know, it's -- you know, and I'd like to thank the Board and staff for taking action regarding this because it's really important that we recognize that this property -- one of the reasons is here is for emergency use and sheltering of people and animals and staging of equipment. So thank you.

DIRECTOR MEYER: I'm willing to move the approval of this.

I actually would be interested in the answers to the first question about about on and off -- for contracts -- a binding contract is a binding contract, but if CDFA has any guidance about what to do with contracts regarding already entered into, there's an operational way to address that. I would be interested in that.

MS. RICHARDS: Well, contracts can always be amended. That's kind of the short and simple answer. But John Quiroz from CDFA is here. Maybe he could answer it more specifically. So I think the question is regarding the emergency use language.
Can that be -- can contracts that are currently in place be amended to include that? Even contracts that have already been signed?

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Or do they need to be?

MS. RICHARDS: Yeah.

MR. QUIROZ: So, yes. Those --

CHAIR RUIZ: John, can you step up to the mic, please.

Thank you.

MR. QUIROZ: Yeah.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you.

MR. QUIROZ: Thank you. Yes. Those contracts can be amended. But first, I would like to check with our Legal Department to make sure that, you know, if there's any certain situations that might come about because I know there's different terms. Some -- there's years, some are, you know, actually go a lot longer than that. So I have to check with our Legal, but I will get back and, of course, confirm with Josh as well. Thanks.

CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you.

DIRECTOR MEYER: So I move the approval which is ask that you follow through on that and find out.

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Second.

CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second for approval. Roll call to vote.

MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?
CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director Aitken?

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. Okay. We now move onto the next item, 9H. And I will turn that over to Michele Richards again.

MS. RICHARDS: So this is a bit of an annual housekeeping item.

This is Consideration of and Vote on the Appointment of the Board Chair to Serve on Behalf of the 32nd DAA as an Elector for the California Fair Services Authority Board of Directors Elections.

In the past, up until -- oh, gosh. I don't know. Maybe seven -- seven -- eight years ago, it used to be the CEO of the OC Fair & Event Center would serve on the Board of Directors of CFSA.

But you if you look in the notes and on the staff
report, there was a new policy that this Board of Directors
adopted that be it resolve that the OC Fair & Event Center Board
Chair is hereby appointed to serve on behalf of the OC Fair &
Event Center as an elector for California Fair Services
Authority Board of Directors.

So that's the recommendation in place.

DIRECTOR AITKEN: So moved.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Second.

CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second.

DIRECTOR MEYER: Is this our new Chair or our current
Chair?

MADAM SECRETARY: The new.

CHAIR RUIZ: The new Chair, right, Josh?

MR. CAPLAN: It's whoever the existing Chair is.

Whenever these meetings are.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Right now it's you. In a few
minutes it may not be.

(Public laughs)

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Roll call to vote.

MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director Aitken?
DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Great. Thank you. Okay. We now move onto the next item, 9I. And then we'll turn that again to Michele Richards.

MS. RICHARDS: Actually, another housekeeping item -- oh, wait. Are we out of order here? Sorry. Oh, "I"? Okay. This is another annual housekeeping issue.

The 32nd DAA Board of Directors Delegates Authority to Execute All Forms of Agreements, Contracts, and Purchase Orders Without Further Authorization From the BOARD. All Such Agreements, Contracts, and Purchase Orders Are to be Submitted to the Board of Directors for Review at Subsequent Meetings. And This Delegation is Subject to Board Review at Each Annual Meeting.

And you can see there are authority limits that include contractual authority to CEO Kathy Kramer up to 50,000 for general contracts and 300,000 for talent guarantees. To myself as VP of Business Development, and Ken Karns, VP of Operations, that we may sign contractual
instruments as delegated by the CEO within the limits of that authority.

And then, additionally, the Board authorizes an exemption for staff to issue payments for billings in excess of 50,000 via the over 50,000 expenditure budget schedule which is submitted with each annual budget, or an approved contract, LOU, or rental agreement, or is payment for utilities, Cal Card expenditures, insurance payroll, or State-mandated employee services.

So, essentially, what this does is it reestablishes signing authority on contracts and other instruments.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Chair Ruiz, if I might. I know the Governance Committee is working on a number of policies that will tie into contracting provisions and that.

I would like to recommend that this be carried over for consideration at the time we adopt the annual budget in December. I think that would be the more appropriate time to be reviewing contract limits and authority and that sort of thing.

So I know it's on for an action item tonight -- or today -- but that would be my -- my preference.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Well, when does the current authorization expire? So we don't -- I don't want to tie anybody's hands to getting work done and making sure the operations continue.

MS. RICHARDS: Yeah. That's a very good question and
I'm going to rely on my memory on this because it's not typically something that I'm involved with from an approval standpoint.

But this is considered the annual meeting. So last year at this time, the Board voted this approval. I don't know if it's right to assume that it's until the next annual meeting. I'll look to Josh.

MR. CAPLAN: No. In the description, I'm clear on whether -- it's not clear whether this authority is granted for a specific period of time.

In other words, whether this is looking forward to January 1, 2020 for the 2020 calendar year, or whether it's from, you know, October 24th, 2019, to October 2020. Language here is not clear. And I'm pretty certain that last year when this item was discussed, also, there was no discussion on what dates that authority would apply to.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Some from a governance perspective, maybe that's something we definitely include. What dates it covers.

Do you anticipate that -- and I can't recall if we talked about this. I know we have but I can't recall if we made any decisions to to change it, but have we talked about changing any of the contract limitations or --

DIRECTOR MEYER: We haven't gotten there yet. I mean, the way I read it, there seems to be a standing delegation in
Policy 2.3, for signature authority. And I think this is agendized because it's automatically agendized every year at the annual meeting. I think that means that authority delegation lapses.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: We can always -- even if we approved it today, we can revisit it at another time if it's agendized and make modifications to it. So we're not tied to it for an entire 12-month period.

A couple of amendments I would recommend moving forward is I would eliminate the names next to the titles. I would just put the title. So whoever is in that position is the person who would we making those -- who has that authority. That's one recommendation. But other than that, I think --

DIRECTOR MEYER: And that's how the policy currently reads, so I'm not sure. I would say we just defer to what the policy authorizes.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yeah. But I would move to approve.

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Second.

CHAIR RUIZ: No.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Oh, public comment.

Sorry.

CHAIR RUIZ: Yes. Comments before we get there. No. That's okay. I have a couple of speakers and I will call on Reggie Mundekis, followed by Anna V.
MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. I'm Reggie Mundekis. I'm speaking to Item 9I which is the delegation of authority.

I think there's been a number of great questions from Mr. Caplan and Board members regarding the specifics of this delegation of authority. I have a number of questions.

Okay. It says that you're delegating authority to CEO Kathy Kramer. CEO Kathy Kramer was not at the Monday Board meeting and is not at this Board meeting and has accepted a job at another out-of-state fairground. So the Board needs to tell the public whether Kathy Kramer still works here or not and if -- and in what capacity.

Until the issues with Ms. Kramer are resolved for the financial safety and security of this facility, I'm requesting that her delegation of authority be withdrawn because it's not prudent to have Ms. Kramer who is in some state other than being in full employment here, perhaps, having authority to conduct financial transactions on behalf of this institution. If you want to give the authority to Ms. Richards, I would not have issue with that.

There's also an issue with the amount of authority you're giving away. What you're doing here -- and you probably don't realize it -- is that you've given away all of your authority to staff which is why when you ask staff to do something differently or to not engage in a transaction, they look at you and they say -- they look at you and they say, "But
you told me I can do that."

So you need to save some authority for yourself or put in some clauses that say this may be edited or changed at any time and that any matter may be called out for review by the Board.

State law in the Food & Ag Code -- I don't have the site in front of me -- says that any delegation of authority can be revoked or changed at any time. And that language really should be incorporated in here. That way if you -- for instance, if things are working well and you have a CEO and staff that you're in sync with and there aren't many issues, you could have a broad delegation of authority.

But if things start to have issues or when matters come up that you have a question about, you have the clause in there that let's you claw things back and be in charge when you need to be in charge. So thank you very much. And I greatly appreciate knowing whether or not Ms. Kramer still works here.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Next speaker, Anna V.

MS. VRSKA: So I support efficiency and I think sometimes it does make sense to delegate and sometimes it doesn't make sense.

Over the last few years because of this broad delegation of authority, there have been a lot of problems at this institution. So for me, what that says is that it has to be pulled back -- this delegation. We have to redo the rules or
put new checks and balances -- whatever has to be done.

And then once we're in that better place, maybe the authority can be rereleased to some of these levels. But as things stand now, I think this is not prudent at all. I hope we can learn from the mistakes that have happened in the past. And there have been numerous ones and very many different issues that I'm not going to repeat myself and bring them up again.

But I will repeat that, you know, while you can delegate authority, you cannot delegate responsibility. And ultimately, even though Kathy Kramer was CEO and, you know, made all these decisions in the past few years that have come back to bite the community and you all in the rear end, you still are the responsible entities. It's not on Kathy Kramer. It's on you for letting her do the stuff that has been done all these years for which you've been warned during the years.

You know, there's been grumbling about public and looking into this and looking into that and looking at this contract, and why is this contract being done this way, and why are things being signed after the whole thing has happened and, you know, all this liability stuff.

So my opinion would be to be -- to put in as many safeguards as you can without, you know, having to micromanage. But definitely put in the language about that it can be revoked at any time. Maybe lower some of the limits and remove the names.
And, yes, please elucidate what is going on with CEO Kramer. Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. Okay. I will now turn it back to the Board.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: I move and carry this over until the budget process adoption at the December meeting and we consider at that time.

CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion on the floor. Is there a second?

DIRECTOR MEYER: Second.

CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion and a second. Question?

MS. RICHARDS: Just a quick question.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: What does carry it over mean?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: That we consider making any changes at the -- as a part of the budget process.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: So does the other continue to -- okay. So we're not going to halt operations?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: No, no.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Any changes would be dealt with as a part of the --

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yeah. Because nothing's changed, though; right? So this is exactly the same as what was
approved last year?

CHAIR RUIZ: Correct.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: But we may make changes.

DIRECTOR MEYER: We have that authority at any time.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: I just think we need to do it --

this is a part of the overall budgeting process that we're going
to go through in November and December and I think what we do
ought to be as -- we consider as a part of that. That's all I'm
saying.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. There's a motion and a second.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: So I'm concerned with that
motion only because it appears as though we're saying we're
going to table this item until next time and that, kind of, puts
staff in limbo.

So if you would entertain a recommendation, Doug, I
would recommend we move to approve this and then agendize it as
part of the budget discussion next time just to keep it seem
less.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yeah. That's fine.

CHAIR RUIZ: So what is your motion?

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I'd like to make a motion
to approve.

CHAIR RUIZ: There's a motion on the floor already

by --

DIRECTOR AITKEN: So will you accept that?
CHAIR RUIZ: Director La Belle, would you accept that amendment. Director La Belle?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: As long as that amendment includes bringing this back for consideration as part of the 2020 budget process.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: And I second that.

CHAIR RUIZ: All right. There's a motion.

DIRECTOR MEYER: One more. I thought Natalie's point was a good one. We should strike the names and it should just be the offices that are delegating.

CHAIR RUIZ: You're okay with that amendment, Director La Belle?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes. I'm fine with that.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. There's a motion and a second on the floor. Roll call to vote.

MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director Aitken?

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.
MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. Okay. Last item. I will now turn it over to Director La Belle and Director Aitken.

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Thank you. So it's that fun time of year again. Director La Belle and I made up the Nominating Committee.

And after a very lengthy and thorough vetting process of all Board of Directors, we have a recommendation from our committee and we would like to recommend and have the Board consider our recommendation to appoint as the new Chair, Director Cervantes, and as the Vice Chair, Director Meyer.

CHAIR RUIZ: Is there a motion on the floor for that?

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I'd like to make a motion to approve.

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Second.

CHAIR RUIZ: Motion and a second. Roll call vote.

MADAM SECRETARY: Chair Ruiz?

CHAIR RUIZ: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Vice Chair Cervantes?

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director Aitken?

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: Director La Belle?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Yes.
MADAM SECRETARY: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

MADAM SECRETARY: And Director Meyer?

DIRECTOR MEYER: Yes.

CHAIR RUIZ: Great. Thank you. Congratulations.

(Applause)

DIRECTOR AITKEN: So on behalf of the Nominating Committee and obviously the entire Board, we wanted to present Director Ruiz with this gavel and plaque of appreciation for serving as a Board Chair for the year 2019 -- 18' to 2019.

It has been a pleasure to work with you. You are an amazing steward of this organization, and you did an amazing job. Two years is a -- it's a lot of time out of your day job. And those of us that have served in that capacity recognize that. And I just want to say from the Committee, thank you very much for leading us through this year. Group photo.

DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Just don't get my shoes.

MS. RICHARDS: Andreas, can you pull the chair away.

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Who are we looking at?

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Thank you for that, Ashleigh.

Director Aitken and Director La Belle.

And the new Chair and the new Vice Chair, I want to congratulate both of you. I have no doubt this Board would be in good hands with the two of you being the stewards for this Board.
So having said that, we already had Closed Session. I will now move onto the next item which is the Board of Directors Matters of Public Information. And I will start to my right. Director Rubalcava-Garcia, do you have anything?

DIRECTOR RUBALCAYA-GARCIA: Nothing to report.

CHAIR RUIZ: Director Meyer?

DIRECTOR MEYER: Nothing to report.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Director La Belle?

DIRECTOR LA BELLE: Just to congratulate you, Robert. I think you did an outstanding job in terms of all of your efforts the past year. You were very responsive to all of our requests, and I really want to thank you for your hard work. And congratulations or condolences to Sandra and Andreas. I really want to thank you for all your help and all your efforts.

So -- and my only other comment is when we have our budget meeting on the 14th, let's make a special effort to get the word out to do a press release or what have you that there would be -- I think it's going to be set up as a committee meeting -- but the intent is that the full Board would be here and we'll go through a very detailed review the of what's been proposed for 2020. With that no further comments.

CHAIR RUIZ: Thank you. Director Aitken?

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Ditto that. No further comments.

CHAIR RUIZ: Director Cervantes?
VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: I also want to congratulate you for a job well done and most important for being present and your guidance.

And then I want to congratulate Director Meyer. This is amazing. Thank you.

CHAIR RUIZ: Okay. Great. And I'll just close out and want to say thank you to the current Board for your support that you gave me throughout this year -- last 12 months that I was the Chair and to the staff as well. Great job as always. Keep up the great work.

And to the new Chair and Vice Chair, you can count on my support for anything you need. I will be here for you guys and thank you all once again.

I will entertain a meeting -- I mean, our next Board meeting will be November 21st, 2019. And is there a motion to adjourn?

VICE CHAIR CERVANTES: So moved.

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Second.

CHAIR RUIZ: Meeting adjourned. Thank you.

(Meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.)
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, a Hearing Reporter of the State of California, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place herein set forth; that any witnesses in the foregoing proceedings, prior to testifying, were duly sworn; that a record of the proceedings was made by me using machine shorthand, which was thereafter transcribed under my direction; that the foregoing transcript is a true record of the testimony given.

Further, that if the foregoing pertains to the original transcript of a public meeting, before completion of the proceedings, review of the transcript [] was [] was not requested.

I further certify I am neither financially interested in the action nor a relative or employee of any attorney or party to this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have this date subscribed my name.

Dated: November 7, 2019

[Signature]

LUIS R. HERNANDEZ

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