



In the Matter Of:

O.C. FAIR & EVENT CENTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

November 18, 2021

Case No:

CERTIFIED COPY

32ND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
ORANGE COUNTY FAIR & EVENT CENTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2021

9:00 A.M.

MEETING HELD

VIA ZOOM

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Stenographically Reported by:
Kathryn S. Swank
California Certified Shorthand Reporter #13061
Registered Professional Reporter

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A P P E A R A N C E S

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DOUG LA BELLE
Chairperson

NEWTON PHAM
Vice Chairperson

SANDRA CERVANTES

ASHLEIGH AITKEN

BARBARA BAGNERIS

NICK KOVACEVICH

MELAHAT RAFIEI

NATALIE RUBALCAVA-GARCIA

ROBERT RUIZ

---o0o---

STAFF

MICHELE RICHARDS
Chief Executive Officer

KEN KARNS
Chief Operating Officer

SUMMER AGNES
Meeting Secretary Executive Assistant

JOAN HAMILL
Chief Business Development Officer

---o0o---

BOARD COUNSEL

JOSH CAPLAN
Deputy Attorney General

---o0o---

1 A P P E A R A N C E S C O N T I N U E D

2 PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS

3 LEIGH-ANN KAZOLAS

4 REGGIE MUNDEKIS

5 JEANINE ROBBINS

6 GIBRAN STOUT

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Thursday, November 18, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

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CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Why don't I call the meeting to order. Items listed on the agenda, duly noticed in any category, may be considered for action as listed. Any items not so noticed may not be considered. The mission of the Orange County Fair & Events Center is a celebration of Orange County's communities, interest, and agriculture, and heritage, with results justifying resources expended.

With that, Director Aitken, could you lead us in the Pledge, please.

DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes, thank you. Please rise. Place your hand over your heart.

(Pledge of Allegiance was recited
in unison.)

CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Summer, could you please take the roll call.

MS. ANGUS: No problem. Good morning.

Chair La Belle.

CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Present.

MS. ANGUS: Vice Chair Pham.

(No response.)

MS. ANGUS: Director Rubalcava-Garcia.

(No response.)

1 MS. ANGUS: Director Cervantes.

2 (No response.)

3 MS. ANGUS: Director Ruiz.

4 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Here.

5 MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

6 (No response.)

7 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

8 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Present.

9 MS. ANGUS: Director Kovacevich.

10 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Present.

11 MS. ANGUS: And Director Rafiei.

12 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Present.

13 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

14 MS. RICHARDS: Just a quick announcement for
15 the public, before we get started. If you wish to make
16 public comment, you can communicate with Summer through
17 the chat. If you are joining us by telephone, when we
18 get to the item that you would like to speak about,
19 Summer will put a call out so that we can organize
20 public comment today.

21 So with that, Chair La Belle, I will turn it
22 back to you.

23 Doug, we may have lost you. I think you are
24 back, but muted. If you can unmute, Doug, and I'm glad
25 to have you back.

1 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Just faded out for a
2 second.

3 MS. RICHARDS: Yeah.

4 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: At this time, I would
5 like to indicate that Item 8B regarding the audit is
6 going to be continued until the December board meeting.

7 With that, we have two sets of minutes for
8 Board consideration: October 22nd -- I'm sorry.
9 October 12th and October 28th.

10 Is there a motion to approve the minutes?

11 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Chair La Belle, I make a
12 motion to approve the meeting minutes from
13 October 12th and October 28th.

14 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Is there a second?

15 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Director La Belle, this is
16 Director Rafiei. I second.

17 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Summer, please call the
18 roll if you would.

19 MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle.

20 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes.

21 MS. ANGUS: Director Ruiz.

22 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes.

23 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

24 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

25 MS. ANGUS: Director Kovacevich.

1 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.

2 MS. ANGUS: And Director Rafiei.

3 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

4 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

5 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Michele, would you
6 introduce the matters of public comment, please.

7 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. I would be happy to.

8 Public comment is allowed on issues not on the
9 current agenda. However, no debate by the Board shall
10 be permitted on such public comments, and no action will
11 be taken on such public comment items at this time, as
12 law requires formal public notice prior to any action on
13 a docket item.

14 Speakers are requested to notify us in -- prior
15 to the start of the meeting and are limited to three
16 minutes. Comments will be accepted on all other agenda
17 items at the time each time is listed on the agenda.
18 Speakers wishing to address the Board on items on the
19 agenda are requested to, again, notify us through the
20 chat or when called upon, prior to the start of the
21 meeting, and identify the agenda items on which you
22 desire to address the Board. Speakers are limited to
23 three minutes.

24 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.

25 Summer, do we have any public comments?

1 MS. ANGUS: We do.

2 Gibran Stout, when you are ready.

3 MS. STOUT: Can you hear me?

4 MS. ANGUS: Yes. Go ahead.

5 MS. STOUT: Oh, my gosh. So fast. You guys
6 are moving it along. Awesome.

7 Good morning, Board. Thank you so much for
8 letting me speak.

9 Very excited to be here today. I just wanted
10 to -- a couple things. One, I know for the Equestrian
11 Center, there's been lots of discussion about public
12 programming. I know that the public is there every day
13 and doing lots of things, and it would be extremely
14 helpful if there was some more specific language on what
15 specifically you are referring to with public
16 programming, because I think that there's a lot that's
17 already happening there, that maybe you are just not
18 aware of. And so that would be very helpful for us.

19 Additionally, I'm not sure if you are aware,
20 but there is a county-wide boarding crisis. And with
21 everything going on at the Equestrian Center, this is
22 the perfect opportunity for you to look at the
23 restoration of the Equestrian Center to the original
24 footprint or something thereabouts. This would not only
25 maximize public access, but it would also increase

1 income for OCFEC, and it would be an example -- an
2 example of some of the programming that's possible is an
3 event that is happening in Huntington Beach on
4 December 11th. It is a celebration of the Day of the
5 Horse, which is a nationwide event. It will be
6 Huntington Beach Equestrian Center, and it will be
7 combined with a holiday boutique.

8 It is December 11th, and I invite you all to
9 come, because this is a great example of some extremely
10 fun, very family-friendly, free event. And this is an
11 example of something that could be possible for the
12 Equestrian Center here. So I encourage everybody to
13 check that out to get some ideas.

14 And, again, public programming; we have a lot
15 going on every day. We also have public tours going on
16 daily -- not daily, but several times a week. They are
17 scheduled. And I would really like to invite any board
18 members who haven't been on the property; we would love
19 to set up a private tour for you so that you can come
20 and check out this Equestrian Center that everybody is
21 always talking about so much. That is on the property,
22 operating daily, 24/7 with public accessing and using,
23 24/7.

24 So thank you so much.

25 MS. ANGUS: Thank you, Gibran.

1 If there is any member of the public that has
2 dialed in on the telephone, and would like to make
3 public comment, you need to press *6 to unmute yourself.

4 Do we have any callers dialed in that would
5 like to make general public comment at this time?

6 State your name.

7 (No response.)

8 MS. ANGUS: Hearing none, Chair La Belle, I
9 turn it back to you.

10 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Summer.

11 I believe the next item is the consent
12 calendar.

13 Could you introduce that, Michele? Are there
14 any items that you wish to pull from consent calendar?

15 MS. RICHARDS: Staff does not have any items to
16 pull.

17 And I'm happy to introduce this. All matters
18 listed under consent calendar are operational matters
19 about which the Board has governing policies,
20 implementation of which is delegated to the CEO. They
21 will be enacted in one motion. There will be no
22 discussion of these items prior to the time the Board of
23 Directors votes on the motion, unless members of the
24 Board, staff, or public request that specific items be
25 discussed separately and/or removed from this section.

1 Any member of the public who wishes to discuss
2 consent calendar items should notify the Chair of the
3 Board at the time requested and be recognized by
4 invitation of the Chair to address the Board.

5 MS. ANGUS: CEO Richards, I would just like
6 to --

7 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you.

8 MS. ANGUS: For the record, Director Bagneris
9 has joined us.

10 MS. RICHARDS: Oh, thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Do any of the directors
12 wish to pull any items that are on the consent calendar?

13 (No response.)

14 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Are there any public
15 comments relative to any items on the consent calendar?

16 (No response.)

17 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Do I have a motion to
18 approve the consent calendar as presented?

19 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: So moved.

20 DIRECTOR RUIZ: This is Director Ruiz. I
21 second.

22 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. We have a motion
23 and a second.

24 Summer, can you call the roll, please.

25 MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle.

1 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes.

2 MS. ANGUS: Director Ruiz.

3 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes.

4 MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

5 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

6 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

7 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

8 MS. ANGUS: Director Kovacevich.

9 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.

10 MS. ANGUS: And Director Rafiei.

11 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

12 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. We will now move
14 to governance matters.

15 Item 8A. Michele, are you going to make the
16 presentation or should I turn it over to Director Ruiz
17 and Aitken? Go ahead.

18 MS. RICHARDS: I can tee it up, and then I will
19 turn it over to our Facilities Committee.

20 So at the last meeting on October, on the 28th,
21 the Board of Directors approved the Facilities Committee
22 recommendation to move forward with a one-year agreement
23 with Equestrian Services II for the operation of the
24 Equestrian Center, and that agreement would commence on
25 January 1st of 2022 and run through December 31st of

1 next year.

2 By putting this agreement in place, it will
3 give time for the staff to develop a plan for
4 transitioning in the strategic direction that the Board
5 set for self-operation of the Equestrian Center and the
6 expansion of public programming, and that has come out
7 of the strategic planning that the Board has done.

8 So the Facilities Committee met on
9 October 15th to review the draft agreement that staff
10 created. And the Board will review the agreement, which
11 was attached to the meeting materials.

12 So Director Aitken, Director Ruiz, I will turn
13 it over to you for any additional comments.

14 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yeah. I think we made a
15 presentation on this last month, so unless a specific
16 board member has a question, we would love to have
17 somebody make a motion to approve.

18 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Are there any Board
19 comments relative to the recommended agreement?

20 (No response.)

21 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Are there any public
22 comments relative to this item?

23 MS. ANGUS: I do. And I also wanted to state,
24 for the record, Director Cervantes has joined us as
25 well.

1 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Summer, I am also
2 on. Sorry for my tardiness.

3 MS. ANGUS: Oh, good morning, Director
4 Rubalcava-Garcia.

5 Okay. We have three commenters: Leigh-Ann
6 Kazolas, followed by Gibran Stout and Reggie Mundekis.
7 Leigh-Ann, when you are ready.

8 MS. KAZOLAS: My name is Leigh-Ann Kazolas, and
9 I'm a member of the public who boards my horse at the
10 Equestrian Center, and I'm a daily user. Thank you so
11 much for posting the proposed Equestrian Center
12 contract. I just have one item that we wanted to
13 clarify.

14 It says on page 3, under "Scope of Work,"
15 that -- "Uses," section 2, that "The premises shall be
16 used for the boarding of horses and approved related
17 equestrian activities and for no other purpose unless
18 agreed to in writing by the parties."

19 It then defines "approved related equestrian
20 activities" as follows: "Lessons, training, tack
21 storage, storage of horse trailers, equestrian clinics,
22 horse shows, and the sale of equestrian products and
23 services."

24 We're wondering if that means that many of the
25 other public programs will need to cease operation

1 during the term of the contract, such as the therapy
2 programs being conducted by the Pegasus Group and the
3 equine encounter groups, the school field trips,
4 community group field trips, the docent-led tours, the
5 community events, like our Halloween Parade, or any open
6 houses, such as the one we're hoping to run in the
7 spring, community center classes, and our holidays,
8 summer, and afterschool camps.

9 So we just wanted to some clarification if
10 those activities were left out on purpose or if it was
11 simply an oversight, because we obviously would like to
12 continue all of those amazing public programs throughout
13 the year.

14 Just building on what Gibran said, we invite my
15 board members, their friends, family, to come out and
16 visit the facility and have a tour, especially on busy
17 Saturdays, the weekends, after school, after work.

18 Michele and -- has my e-mail address and
19 Gibran's e-mail address. Or I will also give my
20 information to Summer.

21 So, please, we encourage any of you to come out
22 and one of our Equestrian Center enthusiasts would love
23 to show you around.

24 And that's it. Thank you.

25 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

1 Gibran Stout, when you are ready.

2 Gibran, are you there?

3 (No response.)

4 MS. ANGUS: I will go ahead and move to Reggie
5 Mundekis and circle back. Reggie, when you are ready.

6 MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. Good morning. Reggie
7 Mundekis. Thank you for this opportunity to address you
8 this morning.

9 Thank you for bringing this draft contract
10 forward. And I just want to echo that what I heard from
11 CEO Richards is that this is a one-year transitional
12 contract where there would be self-management of the
13 Equestrian Center going forward after this contract
14 ends. And if I'm -- if I got any of that wrong, please
15 correct me.

16 And there's an issue here that I'm still really
17 confused about and I just don't understand. It's the
18 issue regarding the really poor structural condition of
19 the Equestrian Center and why action has not been taken.

20 In February 2020, we received the
21 infrastructure analysis. It's been 21 months, and
22 nothing really has been reported back regarding the
23 structural damage identified in that infrastructure
24 analysis.

25 And I want -- I'm trying to understand why --

1 my reading of the contract says that the operator is
2 only responsible for the condition from the date of the
3 contract forward. It wipes out their obligation that
4 they signed on to in 2009, when they began operating the
5 Equestrian Center. So we're just like wiping out 12
6 years that they are not responsible for.

7 During that time, the contractor received at
8 least \$12 million, if not more, in revenue. They get
9 90 percent of the revenue; we get 10 percent. So they
10 have made -- they have received millions in revenue, so
11 the cash was there to make the repairs.

12 I'm concerned that we're going to be making a
13 gift of public funds by making repairs to the Equestrian
14 Center, in lieu of the contractor -- who has received
15 millions -- in making those repairs.

16 So thank you.

17 MS. ANGUS: Thank you, Reggie.

18 Gibran Stout, when you are ready.

19 MS. STOUT: Can you hear me now?

20 MS. ANGUS: Yes. Go right ahead.

21 MS. STOUT: Oh, my gosh. So sorry about that.

22 Okay. Yes. Very excited about the forward
23 progress regarding the EQC contract.

24 A couple of questions/concerns I want to point
25 out: Despite their large size, horses are a very

1 perishable resource, and the daily care and management
2 of this resource requires a very specific expertise.

3 I know it's taken me 50 years, and I'm
4 certainly no expert. But I'm curious that as the staff
5 prepares to take over management of the EQC, what is
6 your plan to ensure the care, continuity of care, of
7 this perishable resource? What is your plan to ensure
8 that the staff you hire possess this knowledge? So
9 that's one.

10 Alternately, as a 30-year real estate
11 professional, I have some concerns about the ambiguous
12 language regarding repairs and the condition as is, as
13 well as the definition of "day-to-day maintenance."

14 I think, especially building on Ms. Mundekis's
15 comments, there needs to be a detailed list specifically
16 identifying expectations and deadlines, much like a
17 tenant moving out of an apartment where the landlord
18 gives them a list of what they expect to be repaired. I
19 think you need to do that here.

20 The infrastructure report was indeed done, as
21 she pointed out. However, it was done by a company with
22 zero livestock housing experience.

23 I strongly recommend that the Facilities
24 Committee do their own inspection; again, like a
25 landlord would do. The committee has an equestrian as

1 well as someone with extensive construction experience.

2 I'm not clear what the damage is that
3 Ms. Mundekis refers to, because I know there's things
4 that are misidentified in the report, which they -- it's
5 just due to their lack of experience with livestock
6 housing. But they did recommend further inspections
7 obviously, because this is not their area of expertise.

8 So I would recommend you do your own or that
9 you follow the recommendations of the infrastructure
10 report, and do those additional inspections.

11 Also, lastly, as the Board embarks on a journey
12 to take over management, this would be a perfect time to
13 reinstate the Equestrian Center Committee; same as you
14 have with Heroes Hall and Centennial Farms. I think
15 this would be an excellent way to facilitate integration
16 of public programming and daily horse care and safety
17 for all.

18 Again, I think that that would also facilitate
19 you in your journey of education and moving forward with
20 the Equestrian Center and really utilizing this
21 underused resource for the amazing gem and jewel that it
22 is.

23 And that walk-through, we're still happy to do
24 that for you. A private walk-through.

25 Thank you so much. Bye-bye.

1 MS. ANGUS: All right. Thank you, Gibran.

2 Is there anybody -- member of the public that's
3 dialed in, that would like to make public comment?

4 You need to press *6 to unmute yourself, and
5 just state your name if you would like to make public
6 comment on this item.

7 (No response.)

8 MS. ANGUS: Okay. Hearing none, Chair La
9 Belle, I turn it back to you.

10 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Summer.

11 Michele, could you speak to the -- the
12 structural issue as raised by the public comments?

13 And also the question of -- on my reading of
14 the document is this -- this is a one-year, help us get
15 to the end of the process, in terms of our ultimate plan
16 for the Equestrian Center, the Board's ultimate plan for
17 the Equestrian Center.

18 And there's nothing in there that really
19 relieves the operator of any obligation for various
20 maintenance issues relative to the facility. Am I
21 correct in that statement?

22 MS. RICHARDS: You are correct, Doug.

23 It is a one-year agreement, from the beginning
24 to the end of 2022, that will allow us to develop the
25 transition plan for self-operation. It will also allow

1 the Board, in continuing its strategic planning, to move
2 into the property discussions to revisit the
3 infrastructure, assessment, and the master site plan,
4 and determine, from a property standpoint, what -- you
5 know, what needs to be done to bring -- bring the
6 Equestrian Center to -- you know, to an acceptable
7 condition.

8 So, yes, rest assured, it is a one-year
9 agreement, and it is definitely needed in order to give
10 us time to transition toward that self-management,
11 self-operated mode.

12 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.

13 Just to expand on that slightly, the Board has
14 had two strategic planning sessions under Natalie's
15 leadership. We are going to have our third session on
16 December 7th. I'm hopeful that by January or February,
17 at the latest, that we will have the draft three-year
18 plan, and that we will bring closure to it the early
19 part of next year.

20 The whole intent of the one-year extension is
21 to enable the Board to finalize the Board's plan and
22 policy for the Equestrian Center.

23 The Board has been on record, for a number of
24 years, that the Equestrian Center is going to remain.
25 What the Equestrian Center is ultimately going to evolve

1 to will be determined by the Board through the strategic
2 planning process. At a minimum, it could be just a pure
3 boarding facility, and, at the ultimate other end of the
4 spectrum, it could be a year-round activity center,
5 fully integrated into the Fair & Event Center
6 operations, similar to Centennial Farms and Heroes Hall.

7 And I'm hopeful that, you know, by mid year,
8 we'll be able to begin the actual process of determining
9 what the needs are going to be to implement the Board's
10 plan for the Equestrian Center and be fully operational
11 by, hopefully, this time next year.

12 So, again, that's the intent of the one-year
13 agreement, and I would defer to any comments Ashleigh or
14 Robert would have as committee members, or any other
15 board member comments at this time.

16 Are there any other comments?

17 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I just wanted to just briefly
18 respond.

19 And I think when we talk to -- when we were
20 kind of mentioning what are "related equestrian
21 services," you know, we are aware that different
22 trainers do different activities for their clients. And
23 if they have any questions, I think it's important to
24 just -- as we have done, I think, a really good job in
25 the last couple of years, is keep the communication

1 lines open. If boarders/trainers have a question about
2 a new activity or an activity that they are doing,
3 please reach out to Rick, and he can answer your
4 questions. And if he has a question, or if somebody has
5 a new activity and he's not quite sure, we can address
6 it with our staff.

7 But I don't think it's meant to exclude
8 positive activities that are going on at the facility,
9 but anything that there is a question about, please, you
10 know, feel free to keep the lines of communication.

11 Our staff has done a great job communicating
12 with Mr. Hanson and with the boarders, and so we just
13 ask that people keep those lines of communication open.
14 And any questions you have about activities, just reach
15 out to Mr. Hanson, and then he can talk to staff.

16 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes. I totally agree with what
17 Ashleigh said. You know, this contract was not made to
18 exclude anyone. This contract was intended so that it
19 works for all parties involved. That's our intention.
20 And Ashleigh nailed it right -- you know, she nailed it
21 about asking -- letting you guys know if anybody, you
22 know, has any questions, just do as she said. We want
23 to make sure that everyone is heard in the process here,
24 as we move forward with this contract.

25 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Ashleigh.

1 Thank you, Robert.

2 Is there a motion?

3 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I would like to
4 make a motion to approve the agreement. This is
5 Director Rubalcava-Garcia.

6 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Director Bagneris. I
7 second.

8 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. We have a motion
9 and a second.

10 Any further discussion on the motion?

11 (No response.)

12 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Summer, can you call
13 roll.

14 MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle.

15 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes.

16 MS. ANGUS: Director Rubalcava-Garcia.

17 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

18 MS. ANGUS: Director Cervantes.

19 (No response.)

20 MS. ANGUS: Director Ruiz.

21 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes.

22 MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

23 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

24 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

25 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

1 MS. ANGUS: Director Kovacevich.

2 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.

3 MS. ANGUS: And Director Rafiei.

4 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

5 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

6 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: This is going to be, as
7 I mentioned earlier, carried over to the December board
8 meeting for action. I don't believe we need to have a
9 motion to carry it over. I think we can just place it
10 on the Board.

11 Is everybody comfortable with that?

12 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I'm good with that.

13 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. Why don't we move
14 on to 8C?

15 I ask that this -- go ahead.

16 MS. RICHARDS: I was going to --

17 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Should we move on to --

18 MS. RICHARDS: Yeah. I will kind of introduce
19 it and then turn it over to the Board for discussion.

20 At the October board meeting, there was an
21 agenda item to set the board meetings in 2022. And you
22 can see, these are the dates that the Board agreed to.
23 What was tabled for discussion this month is the start
24 time for those meetings.

25 Chair La Belle asked staff to do a little

1 analysis about attendance at board meetings. We have
2 had them at various times to see what impact that might
3 have. So the information is here for the Board to
4 consider.

5 In 2020, at the request of some members of the
6 Board, we did schedule a couple of meetings in the
7 evening. One that specifically took place was in
8 January. It had little to no effect on either Board
9 attendance or public participation. There were several
10 Board-hosted committee meetings that were held in the
11 late afternoon or the evening that year. And, again, no
12 significant impact on either board attendance at those
13 meetings or public participation.

14 So far this year, all of our regular board
15 meetings have been held in the morning, starting at
16 9:00 a.m.; with public participation being fairly light,
17 averaging, you know, anywhere between, you know,
18 three -- three to six speakers, public speakers, per
19 meeting.

20 There were some exceptions to that average, and
21 they tended to be content-related. And you can see on
22 the chart, the Community Affairs Committee meeting,
23 where there was discussion about display of flags.
24 There were 28 speakers. Again, the regular board
25 meeting in January and February regarding display of

1 flags. You know, many more public speakers.

2 And then, in September, a discussion regarding
3 the gun shows had 17 public speakers.

4 So at this time, the -- Chair La Belle would
5 like to have a discussion and vote on what time those
6 board meetings will start in 2022.

7 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.

8 Just another comment to introduce the -- our
9 meetings for the last 11 years, that I've been on the
10 Board -- I think before that -- have always been on the
11 fourth Thursday of the month. We may have adjusted the
12 time from 8:00 to 9:00 or 9:00 to 10:00, from time to
13 time. But it's been a regular scheduled board event.

14 When I went on to this myself, I knew that that
15 commitment was there for that -- that day each month.
16 Obviously, during the holiday season, we move it up to
17 address the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

18 From my perspective, you know -- and, again, I
19 have probably more time than some. But I think that
20 keeping the board meeting at this regular time. And
21 then give the committee assignments. Let them decide
22 whether they want an afternoon meeting or an early
23 evening meeting or whatever, and leave it up to the
24 committees, and you can work most of the stuff around
25 that. But those are just my thoughts to get the

1 discussion going.

2 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Chair La Belle. I agree
3 mostly with what you just said --

4 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes, Barbara.

5 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: -- except I would love it
6 if we can move it at least 30 minutes. It only affects
7 me, probably, but I have a standing meeting at Thursdays
8 at my job, that I have to present, and I have never
9 gotten done before 9:30 -- I mean, by 9:00, I should
10 say. So if we could move it 30 minutes, maybe, that
11 might help me. I don't know if it helps anybody else.
12 I'm not the only hold-up. Because I jump on when I can.
13 And I'm here to -- for most of the voting. But my
14 preference would be to move it at least 30 minutes, to
15 9:30.

16 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Director
17 Bagneris.

18 Any other comments?

19 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: This is Director Rafiei.

20 I think that's a great idea, especially once
21 they start to become in-person, there will be drive
22 time, where there is no drive time now. And I think
23 that could be helpful to a lot of us so that, if nothing
24 else, we will have a little cushion, rather than rushing
25 in traffic.

1 I know 9:00 o'clock, I will be a little bit
2 late every time in person, because of the traffic on the
3 55. So 9:30 would give me a nice cushion as well.

4 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Melahat. Is
5 there any other comments relative to this? You know, we
6 always have the ability to -- on a special-meeting
7 basis, if we decide we want to do something in the late
8 afternoon or evening to accommodate certain things. We
9 always have the ability to do that.

10 Again, I'm in the very enviable position that
11 it takes me three minutes to get to the fairgrounds, and
12 that's if I hit more than one traffic light getting over
13 there. But I do appreciate that board members live all
14 over the county, and I would certainly have no objection
15 to moving the meetings to 9:30 if that will -- you know
16 obviously make it easier for you getting there or other
17 accommodating other -- other business matters that board
18 members have. So I'm certainly good with 9:30.

19 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yeah, Doug. This
20 is Director Rubalcava-Garcia.

21 And 9:30 or even 10:00 works.

22 The one thing I would just caution is if we can
23 also be mindful of what we're putting on to the agenda
24 so that -- you know, just for those of us who work and
25 might have to take time off, it doesn't go beyond, you

1 know, a certain amount of time. You know, anything past
2 1:00 o'clock is a very long board meeting. So just
3 something to think about.

4 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: I would agree with that,
5 Natalie.

6 I think that if we have one major item on the
7 agenda, we probably don't need to book two or three
8 lengthy items, if we can spread those out over a period
9 of time, and I think that's an excellent thought.

10 DIRECTOR RUIZ: This is Director Ruiz.

11 I know we had discussed maybe having one
12 meeting every quarter in the afternoon. I know that
13 would work out for me because, you know, as soon as I
14 get into the office here, you know, it's -- it's -- it's
15 a hundred miles an hour from, you know, when I walk in
16 until I'm done at the end of the day.

17 And so I do have to make time for these
18 meetings, and I don't have a problem with that. But I
19 know some other directors brought it up last time, that
20 it would be great if we could have one -- have one
21 afternoon meeting at least maybe once every quarter.
22 That will make it easier not only, you know, for me, but
23 as far as attendance goes. So -- you know, so we can
24 have hopefully a full quorum at one of these meetings.

25 So I -- I thought I would throw that out there.

1 I don't know what other directors think of that. It
2 will only be four meeting out of the year that we have
3 in the afternoon. I just thought I would throw that out
4 there, and I would like to hear what other directors
5 think about that.

6 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: This is Director Rafiei.

7 I'm fine with that. I like the flexibility
8 there. And if we know about it ahead of time, I can
9 definitely make childcare needs met if we schedule them
10 out ahead of time.

11 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Robert, when you are
12 saying an afternoon meeting each quarter, do you have
13 any thoughts relative to time of that meeting?

14 DIRECTOR RUIZ: No. I mean, 3:00,
15 4:00 o'clock, you know, somewhere around that time. You
16 know, we don't want to be all afternoon, you know, into
17 the meeting. But, you know, 3:00 o'clock would be
18 great. Get done by 5:00, 6:00 o'clock. I think that's
19 a good time. I mean, that would definitely work for me.
20 But like I say, if -- if we do go that route, it would
21 only be four meetings out of the year.

22 And I think starting time, any time, three --
23 3:00 o'clock, 4:00 o'clock would be great.

24 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: This is Director
25 Kovacevich.

1 I'm a fan of that myself as well. You know, I
2 know we have talked about this in previous meetings, but
3 I think it would be nice to mix it up and have some in
4 the afternoon, because the mornings are very busy with
5 work and, you know, obviously, we accommodate, but it
6 would be nice to have the out -- the, you know, change
7 here and there. And, you know, like Director Ruiz said,
8 four meetings a year is, you know, not a huge amount;
9 maybe we do two. But I would be a fan of that.

10 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: And this is Director Rafiei.

11 If Director Ruiz doesn't have any specific
12 time, I would recommend 4:00 o'clock, because I will be
13 very clear, that will allow me to at least pick up my
14 son and bring him home to a babysitter, and then drive
15 to the meeting. So that would make it a little bit
16 easier if we could do it at 4:00 and start in the
17 afternoon. But if not, I don't want to be the hold-up.
18 I will make accommodations to do what I have to do to be
19 at these meetings.

20 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: Yeah. This is Newton.
21 I echo that. It's very hard for me in the morning.
22 It's typically pretty busy, you know, at work with a lot
23 of meetings and calls and whatnot. So anything after
24 3:00 would be really helpful.

25 DIRECTOR RUIZ: 4:00 o'clock sounds good to me.

1 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: The problem with
2 4:00 o'clock is that then the tendency becomes to run
3 into 6:00, 7:00 in the evening; and that, you know, then
4 has, I think, some other issues with it. I would prefer
5 trying it maybe twice a year and starting at 3:00. And
6 then, in most cases, you know, unless we have a
7 significant item, we're not going to be -- be out of
8 here, you know, much after three hours. If you start at
9 3:00, then you are going to be done by 6:00. And maybe
10 we give that a try maybe at our February meeting and see
11 how that works. So I would just throw that out.

12 Again, at some point in time, we need a motion
13 from someone. I don't know -- Ashleigh, Sandra, any
14 comments or thoughts relative to the meeting times?

15 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I mean, I think I'm -- as
16 long as I have notice, I can move things around. So
17 I'm -- I will be flexible for those that don't work for
18 themselves. So I'm lucky. I can kind of -- give me a
19 little bit of notice, I can work and move things around,
20 but I would like to defer to those that don't -- that
21 maybe have a little less flexibility and help them out.

22 MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle, we do have one
23 member of the public that would like to make comment.

24 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Summer.
25 Go ahead.

1 MS. ANGUS: Jeanine Robbins, when you are
2 ready.

3 MS. ROBBINS: Thank you. Excuse me if I break
4 up at all. I am driving.

5 I just have a question. I'm wondering when the
6 in-person meetings will resume. I think there are at
7 least two Fair Board members who have been appointed
8 during COVID, and there's quite a few of us who would
9 like to meet them face to face.

10 And I mean, every other event is going on out
11 there at the fairgrounds, yet these meetings are still
12 on Zoom. So I have heard a couple of members mention
13 in-person meetings, but I was wondering when they are
14 going to start.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. ANGUS: Thank you, Jeanine.

17 Any members of the public who are not --

18 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: This is -- go ahead.
19 I'm sorry, Summer.

20 MS. ANGUS: Excuse me.

21 For the members of the public who are dialed in
22 and would like to make public comment on this item,
23 please state your name now.

24 (No response.)

25 MS. ANGUS: Hearing none, I turn it back to

1 you, Chair La Belle.

2 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Jeanine, this is Doug.

3 I'm hopeful that we can begin the in-person
4 board meetings in January or perhaps February. I think
5 we're going to -- my thought is that we kind of wait and
6 see how things progress over the next several months
7 during the holiday season.

8 But I'm hopeful that by early next year --
9 January/February -- we can set something up in the -- in
10 our facility over there, that's going to adequately
11 address the COVID issue, and, you know, get the
12 in-person meetings going again.

13 Obviously, I think there's -- you know, we
14 communicate with each other via Zoom, but nothing like
15 being together in the same -- the same room and then
16 having the ability to interact on that basis. So
17 hopefully January or February.

18 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Okay. Director La Belle, now
19 the motion is just to approve the dates. I think we can
20 work on the time later on as we start the new year.
21 Would that be okay, so we can just move on from this
22 item?

23 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: I'm fine with that,
24 Director Ruiz. If you want to make a motion for two or
25 three meetings, whatever the case may be.

1 DIRECTOR RUIZ: I will go ahead and move to
2 approve the item as presented, and we can work on the
3 times as we start the new year, in January.

4 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: I second that.

5 MS. RICHARDS: Chair La Belle, excuse me. I
6 don't mean to interrupt. But the Board has already
7 approved the dates of the meetings. This item was to
8 decide on time.

9 The Board doesn't have to vote on this if they
10 are not ready to agree on a -- you know, a change of
11 time, but the dates are -- were already voted on last
12 month.

13 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: And with that, Chair La
14 Belle, I heard several people say that it would be
15 better if we at least move the start time a half hour to
16 an hour. And so, I'm a little hesitant to say
17 9:30 versus 10:00. But I heard you say that you would
18 be willing to make sure that the agenda could
19 accommodate our time so we're not here longer than, you
20 know, two and a half, three hours. I know that also
21 breaks into the staff lunchtime, but we typically go
22 into at least noon to 1:00 anyway.

23 So with that being said, I would like to move
24 that we move the start time of our meetings -- until we
25 come back on site; I think we can talk about it again.

1 But until we start our in-person meetings, to start at
2 10:00 o'clock instead of 9:00.

3 Okay. I heard no second.

4 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I will second that
5 motion. I'm sorry. This is Director Rubalcava-Garcia.
6 And I second Director Bagneris's motion.

7 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: You are on mute.

8 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: The only comment I
9 would have -- and considering today, that I couldn't
10 join at 9:00. But the only comment I would have is, if
11 it's at 10:00, if the meetings go long, it could go well
12 past lunch for folks.

13 I don't know -- for me, I don't necessarily
14 mind, but you know, I just kind of want to point that
15 out.

16 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Director La Belle, you are
17 on mute.

18 But I guess I would ask, is 9:30 better? I
19 don't mind changing my motion if that's a better time.

20 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: I will make a friendly
21 amendment to that, to make it a 9:30 start.

22 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I would agree with 9:30.

23 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. We have a motion.

24 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Just need to make sure that
25 the seconder agrees with it as well.

1 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I second.

2 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: All righty. We have a
3 motion and a second to move our board meetings from
4 9:00 to 9:30.

5 And is there any discussion relative to that?

6 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I just want to comment that
7 if we need to change it later, we can. Maybe when we
8 come back in person, we might want to make a whole
9 nother decision. But I just want people to know, we can
10 change this at any time. But just want to make that
11 comment.

12 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: I would suggest that we
13 go ahead and vote on the motion. And I will make every
14 effort within my control to make sure that the items on
15 the agenda are ones that we can complete within a
16 reasonable period of time.

17 Obviously everybody knows that there's certain
18 things you can't control, and, you know, it just may go
19 longer on any given item, and we have had that
20 experience in the past. And if everybody is ready, we
21 can -- we can vote on that motion.

22 Is there any additional discussion?

23 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I call the previous
24 question.

25 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. The question has

1 been called.

2 Summer, can you call the roll, please.

3 MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle.

4 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes.

5 MS. ANGUS: Vice Chair Pham. Director Pham?

6 Vice Chair Pham?

7 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: Yes.

8 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

9 Director Rubalcava-Garcia.

10 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

11 MS. ANGUS: Director Ruiz.

12 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes.

13 MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

14 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

15 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

16 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

17 MS. ANGUS: Director Kovacevich.

18 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.

19 MS. ANGUS: And Director Rafiei.

20 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

21 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: I would also suggest, at
23 least upon Director Bagneris's comments, that we then
24 revisit the issue of whether we want to have one or two
25 afternoon meetings once we get together in person again,

1 be it January or February; we can revisit that issue.

2 Is everybody good with that?

3 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

4 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. Next item.

5 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. This is a --

6 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Michele, would you -- go
7 ahead. I'm sorry.

8 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. I would be happy --

9 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: I keep stepping on your
10 lines.

11 MS. RICHARDS: That's okay. That's okay. The
12 magic of Zoom.

13 This is an information item only. I attended
14 the Annual Fall Managers Conference held by the
15 California Fairs Alliance in Sacramento a couple of
16 weeks ago. It was an excellent conference, and there
17 was a panel discussion that was hosted by the California
18 Department of Food and Agriculture, regarding the
19 proposed JPA, now being called the California Authority
20 for Fairs and Expositions.

21 The session also included an introduction by
22 California Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross, and it was
23 excellent. Excellent.

24 I know that we have reported on this proposed
25 JPA on a regular basis. We want to be very, very

1 transparent about it: What it is and what it isn't.
2 There was not a ton of new information shared, but in
3 the interest of transparency, I wanted to provide the
4 Board and the public with a quick update.

5 First, I think it's important to understand
6 what a joint powers authority is. I know many of you on
7 the Board are very familiar with JPAs, but perhaps some
8 are not, and maybe some members of the public are not.
9 A JPA is a legally-created entity that allows two or
10 more public agencies to jointly exercise common powers.

11 And I really emphasize that word "public
12 agencies," because there -- there has been some
13 discussion. There have been some articles written
14 recently in the local area about an attempt at
15 privatization. And this clearly is not privatization.
16 It's public agencies coming together.

17 And that is allowed under California Government
18 Code section 6500, that governs under the Joint Exercise
19 of Powers Act. JPAs are restricted to use by public
20 agencies only.

21 So a JPA agreement is a formal and flexible
22 legal agreement between two or more public agencies that
23 share a common power, and they want to jointly implement
24 programs, build facilities, or deliver services. So
25 when those public entities come together to form a JPA,

1 they combine the services and resources that each have
2 for the mutual support of each of the member agencies.
3 The idea is to eliminate duplicate services, save time
4 and money, by sharing those resources among the member
5 agencies.

6 There are two JPAs, that I know this Board is
7 very familiar with, that service the fair industry: One
8 being CFSA, the California Fair Services Authority,
9 which is our pooled insurance provider; and then the
10 California Construction Authority, CCA, is also an
11 example of a joint powers authority.

12 The creation of the California Authority of
13 Fairgrounds and Expositions, or CAFE, would allow the
14 California Department of Food and Agriculture to
15 transfer some of their authority and oversight that will
16 help promote administrative efficiency and provide some
17 cost savings to -- to the State.

18 So how did this all start?

19 Well, I want to remind everyone of some text
20 that was included in Governor Newsom's budget last year:
21 Quote, "The Administration plans to engage the
22 legislature and stakeholders over the course of the next
23 year to develop a thoughtful approach to transition the
24 State's relationship with fairs while acknowledging the
25 need to continue supporting properties that may be

1 necessary for emergency operations."

2 So those words really piqued our interest. If
3 you will remember, last year, "develop a thoughtful
4 approach to transition the State's relationship with
5 fairs." And we have been trying to understand what that
6 all means.

7 Again, this year, there was an item in the
8 governor's budget, that the administration is in the
9 process of evaluating alternative business and
10 governance structures to enable fairs to operate more
11 efficiently, meet local community needs, and serve the
12 public, health and safety roles in the State's emergency
13 system.

14 So the budget includes a \$50,000,000 one-time
15 general fund to continue supporting our operations,
16 while the State evaluates alternative business models.
17 So this is actively happening right now.

18 Let me give you a little bit of history,
19 because I know it makes us all nervous when we -- you
20 know, when we think about any governance changes. But
21 these discussions actually started at the state level,
22 back during Governor Deukmejian administration, about
23 transitioning fairs from the current model. That was
24 way back in the 19 -- you know, early 1980s through
25 early 1990s. There were a lot of talks, but nothing

1 really -- really happened.

2 And then, of course, we all remember, in 2009,
3 that Governor Schwarzenegger put the OC Fair & Events
4 Center up for sale. Thankfully for all of us, Governor
5 Brown came in, in 2011, and canceled the sale of the
6 fairgrounds when he was elected governor.

7 Again, talks continued, plans were discussed,
8 but nothing really happened until January of 2020. And
9 that's when Governor Newsom included that item in the
10 budget about developing a thoughtful approach to
11 transition the State's relationship with fairs. Then
12 again in this budget: Evaluating alternative business
13 models for fairs.

14 In early 2021, right after Governor Newsom
15 issued that budget statement, Ag Secretary Karen Ross
16 directed that a committee be formed to develop a
17 proposed JPA for the governance of fairs.

18 This summer, the committee proposed the
19 California Authority of Fairgrounds and Expositions and
20 drafted an agreement.

21 And then on November 4th, at one of our
22 meetings in Sacramento, Secretary Ross addressed the
23 California Fairs Alliance, which is made up of the CEOs
24 of all of the fairs in California, and called CAFE,
25 quote, "A viable pathway to more autonomy and more local

1 control."

2 So what would the structure of CAFE be? A
3 little more detail on this. So the government agencies,
4 the public agencies, that would come together to form
5 CAFE would be the California Department of Food and Ag,
6 the County of Siskiyou, the District Ag Associations,
7 and potentially other counties. Those are the public
8 agencies that would come together to form the JPA.

9 The JPA Board would include 15 individuals:
10 One individual from each of the seven areas in
11 California for fairs; one from a small fair; one
12 representative from a medium fair; and one
13 representative from a large fair. Obviously, we fall
14 into that large fair category.

15 Secretary Ross would serve on this -- this
16 Board along with two of her appointees. There would
17 also be an appointee from the California Department of
18 Finance, and then an appointee from the Rural County
19 Representatives from California. They would oversee a
20 network of nonprofit fair associations, and the JPA
21 agreement would be between the Board and those nonprofit
22 fair associations for the operation of fairgrounds
23 throughout California.

24 So what are some of the services that CAFE
25 could offer fairs that are currently being discussed

1 would be -- would include human resources issues that
2 would allow for flexibility and hiring in establishing
3 salary schedules and increases that reflect the local
4 market.

5 There would be resources for part-time
6 employees and volunteers, which, at this point, receive
7 no additional benefits from the State.

8 There would be some flexibility in procurement
9 and contracting that would allow more efficient
10 processes at the local level.

11 It would also increase the local economic
12 impact because we would have to flexibility to use local
13 businesses and services within our community.

14 The State continues to generate funds from
15 AB 1499. Those are the funds that are created from
16 taxes that are collected from transactions that happen
17 on fairgrounds.

18 Right now, CDFA allocates those state funds.
19 It's proposed that the JPA would -- would distribute
20 those funds.

21 And then other services that might be
22 determined by the JPA Board: For example, we are
23 required to use the State Fire Marshal for inspections
24 right now, which is not convenient, and extremely
25 expensive.

1 This would allow us to use local services, like
2 inspection from our local Orange County authorities or
3 even the Costa Mesa Fire Department.

4 So during Karen Ross's presentation, she made
5 some statements that I thought were really important,
6 and I jotted them down.

7 She said, "This is a viable pathway to more
8 autonomy and more local control." She said that, "The
9 JPA is a way to maintain the local personality and
10 priorities of your communities." She said, "We're
11 serious about this and we want to find the best path
12 forward. Let's get this done."

13 And I specifically asked Secretary Ross what
14 the -- what the position of the governor was and the
15 Governor's Office. And she said that the governor says
16 that this is part of future-proofing California. She
17 said he is interested in this process and his office is
18 anxious to see CDFA's proposal for the Joint Powers
19 Authority.

20 So a few more tidbits of information:

21 The 32nd DAA would not go away. Most likely,
22 it was discussed that the Board would be reduced to
23 three individuals, but that the current boards of the
24 DAAs would transition to oversee the nonprofit fair
25 association. The JPA is not expected to be fully

1 established for at least another year, which, in State
2 speak, that could be anywhere from three to five years.

3 While -- membership in the JPA is not
4 mandatory. So as the 32nd DAA, we would not be required
5 to join this JPA, although Secretary Ross did indicate
6 that there may come a time when the administration will
7 require membership from the DAAs as that transitions to
8 a different governance model.

9 Employees will not need to leave state service.
10 They will actually have an option to either remain state
11 employees, with all of their civil service benefits
12 included, or that they could leave state service and
13 become employees of the nonprofit. So much more
14 information is needed with regard to that.

15 Most likely, the DAA Board will form a
16 nonprofit organization that would be responsible for
17 overseeing the day-to-day operations of the fairs under
18 that operating agreement with CAFE. And then they would
19 serve as board members of that nonprofit fair
20 association.

21 There is nothing in the JPA agreement, as it's
22 been drafted, or the operational agreement, that would
23 allow the JPA to take over the fairgrounds. The panel
24 was very, very clear on that.

25 We have not seen a copy of the draft agreement.

1 It was expected to come out in time for this conference
2 that I attended, but it is still going through legal
3 review. And, of course, as soon as I get my hands on
4 anything, I will be happy to share it with the Board and
5 the public.

6 But that is a quick update of where -- where
7 the discussions are regarding the formation of this JPA.
8 I'm happy to take any questions. I realize that this
9 solicits more questions than answers at this time, but I
10 will try to do my best to provide any additional
11 information I can.

12 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.

13 Are there any questions from the Board at this
14 time?

15 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Director La Belle, I would
16 just say that I would be curious to see what the
17 proposal looks like. And I really want to follow the
18 money on this and figure out what that new nonprofit is
19 going to look like and how the money will flow and who
20 would it flow to.

21 But other than that, I'm anxious to see what
22 this is going to be about. It's good to know that the
23 32nd DAA wouldn't go away.

24 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Director
25 Bagneris.

1 Any other comments?

2 (No response.)

3 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Are there any public
4 speakers regarding this item, Summer?

5 MS. ANGUS: Yes.

6 Reggie Mundekis. Excuse me. Reggie Mundekis,
7 when you are ready.

8 MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. Reggie Mundekis. Thank you
9 for this opportunity to address you today. And thank
10 you, Michele, for bringing forward this information.

11 I agree with you that the JPA is not
12 privatization. It's just another JPA. However, that
13 orange box on one of the slides that says "Nonprofit
14 Fair Association"; that's the privatization, and we have
15 to call it what it is: It's taking functions which are
16 performed by the State and putting them into the hands
17 of a private nonprofit, which has no public input and no
18 public visibility.

19 The private nonprofit would control the
20 contracting processes, which means that the board
21 members of the nonprofit can contract with themselves to
22 decide who gets contracts, they wouldn't have to pay
23 prevailing wage, and many other issues.

24 I would appreciate if people would just start
25 being honest about what they are doing and say that we

1 are forming a JPA to provide some services and we're
2 moving fairgrounds to private corporations, which happen
3 to be nonprofits.

4 I won't support this proposal as far as moving
5 things to a nonprofit. We only need to look at L.A.
6 County Fair Association and all the problems that they
7 have had over the years, and a number of the other fairs
8 which are run by nonprofits.

9 This is a long-term push towards allowing board
10 members to enrich themselves by running a county fair.
11 County fairs bring in a lot of money and everybody wants
12 a piece of that pie, and the best way to do that is to
13 run the property and decide who gets to be on the
14 property and who doesn't.

15 So I have a number of very specific questions
16 that I will be e-mailing to the Board and Michele
17 regarding this proposal.

18 But I would just like people to just start
19 calling it what it is: It's forming a JPA for services
20 and privatizing California fairgrounds by giving it away
21 to a nonprofit.

22 Thank you.

23 MS. ANGUS: For those members of the public who
24 are dialed in, if you would like to make public comment
25 on this item, please state your name now.

1 (No response.)

2 MS. ANGUS: Hearing none, Chair La Belle, I
3 turn it back to you.

4 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Summer.

5 This is an informational item, and I'm sure
6 it's going to continue for some time.

7 Are there any other Board comments at this
8 time?

9 (No response.)

10 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Seeing none, thank you,
11 Michele. And let's move to the next item.

12 MS. RICHARDS: Okay. This next item is a
13 presentation on the 2022 Draft Operating Budget.

14 I'm going to introduce this item to, first of
15 all, thank all of the board members that were able to
16 come to the public budget study session on November 9th;
17 we had six of our nine board members there. So I'm
18 certainly not going to go back through the presentation
19 in the level of detail that we did before.

20 The board members have all received a copy of
21 the draft budget, but I will walk you through some
22 highlights, and then we can open it up for discussion.

23 So I started the meeting off by reviewing our
24 budget process. This year, 53 departmental budgets,
25 overseen by 13 members of our management team. And we

1 managed that budget throughout the year through monthly
2 variance reports; certainly from oversight with our
3 Financial Monitoring and Audit Committee, Director
4 Bagneris and Director Pham, who have been terrific to
5 work with; and then through monthly reforecasting. We
6 started that in 2020, and we will continue to do that
7 throughout the year.

8 During the study session, we also did a look
9 back at 2021 and how we built the budget. And I will
10 remind everyone that we were still in the thick of the
11 pandemic at that point. We had no idea if and when our
12 events would come back or whether we would be able to
13 have a fair. We did our best to forecast, and we
14 projected, as you might remember, a bottom line in that
15 budget of an \$11.8 million net deficit. We're now
16 projecting that to be \$12.8 million favorable to budget
17 by -- by year end, and that number keeps going up.

18 So I took the Board through kind of a review of
19 all of our assumptions that we made going into this
20 year's budget and how we actually have performed this
21 year. So you can see, by the slide, all of the metrics
22 that we -- we reviewed.

23 I also reminded the Board, too, that every year
24 we study the economic factors that are affecting our
25 particular market when we develop our assumptions for a

1 new budget year.

2 And each year, we attend a terrific economic
3 analysis and forecasting conference that is hosted by
4 the Orange County Business Council. Two of the
5 economists from Cal State Fullerton do an excellent job
6 of providing that analysis.

7 And when -- when asked the question about where
8 are we headed, they labeled what is likely to be the
9 "Forrest Gump" economy, where we will have inflation but
10 there is some recovery. We will have job growth, but
11 there's a lot of uncertainty. There's some optimism,
12 but there's a lack of consumer confidence. So they
13 called it the "Forest Gump" economy: "Life is like a
14 box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna
15 get."

16 We talked about the most pressing concern that
17 we have going into 2022, is going to be inflation. At
18 the time this presentation was developed, the Feds
19 were -- were measuring inflation at about 4.2 percent.
20 It is up to 6.2 percent now. So that's definitely going
21 to be a factor going into 2022, although we do know that
22 in down economies, people still come to the fair, and
23 they still will take their vacation money and decide to
24 spend it at the fair.

25 But all of that is that, you know, we -- we are

1 going to be facing headwinds again, but we have done
2 that in the past, and we have budgeted conservatively,
3 with some controls in place, to try to budget for the
4 most positive outcome. And we're optimistic about that.

5 Our budget assumptions going into 2022 included
6 using the same model for the fair that we did in 2021.
7 We learned that bigger is not always better. In fact,
8 controlled attendance results in far better
9 profitability. So, once again, we're going to cap our
10 ticket sales at 45,000 per day with advanced online
11 ticket sales.

12 We know we'll need to increase our utility
13 expenses because of increased use of the property.

14 We are not budgeting for an increase in fair
15 admission pricing. We heard loud and clear from the
16 Board about strategic planning, that this property still
17 needs to be accessible to all in the community. So we
18 want that admissions price to stay low, and we think
19 that we can really capitalize on that through our
20 marketing efforts as well.

21 And no increase in parking fees.

22 We are increasing the budget for credit card
23 fees, and, obviously, that is to reflect the vast
24 majority of tickets that are purchased online.

25 We want to eliminate the earlier fair opening

1 hour. The Board might remember that we opened at
2 10:00 o'clock this year to sort of spread the crowd.
3 That didn't spread the crowd, and it increased our labor
4 expenses quite a bit, so we're going to open at our
5 normal hours.

6 We are going to continue to use our new evolved
7 gate screening equipment because that helped get people
8 through the gate quickly and safely.

9 We are going to budget to reintroduce
10 programming in the Action Sports Arena.

11 We are going to set our Q1 and Q2 events
12 activity to be about 75 percent of 2019. We still think
13 there will be a little bit of softness in the market in
14 Q1 and Q2, but by post-fair, in Q3 and Q4, we will be at
15 a hundred percent of 2019.

16 And we do plan to have a two-day in-person
17 Imaginology event. Typically, Imaginology is three
18 days, but the schools are not yet ready to send their
19 students on field trips, which was typically the Friday
20 of Imaginology. So we will do a Saturday and Sunday
21 event.

22 And then, of course, we'll maintain our
23 conservative approach to our capital projects budget.

24 Of course, labor is going to be higher this
25 year. There was a dollar increase -- or there will be a

1 dollar increase again, come January 1st, in minimum
2 wage.

3 And we -- we didn't employ very many people
4 last year. So there's about a \$4.1 million increase in
5 the 2021 -- from the 2021 budget.

6 Of course, we have an increase in budget costs.
7 We are proposing adding two new civil service positions:
8 One in response to the need to conserve water and to
9 green the fairgrounds, so we are looking to hire an
10 irrigation and landscape specialist; and then also
11 because many of our marketing and communications efforts
12 are now digital -- through social media, our website,
13 and other platforms -- we want to hire a digital
14 communications coordinator.

15 And then, of course, our year-round part-time
16 event support staff are back.

17 We did include a contingency of \$50,000 in the
18 budget in case we do have challenges hiring people. We
19 have all heard what a challenge it is for some of the
20 fast food restaurants, for example. We experienced a
21 little bit of challenge this past summer. And we did
22 use some contingency funds, but we're budgeting again
23 for that.

24 We -- as we have done for several years
25 recently, we want to take very modest increases to keep

1 up with the competitive market for both our year-round
2 buildings and grounds, rental fees, and the space that
3 we rent out for merchants during the fair. So we're
4 proposing a \$50 to \$75 per day increase in our rental
5 fees, depending on the size and location.

6 If we applied that increase to our 2019 event
7 schedule, it would have resulted in an additional
8 \$37,500 in revenue. That's only about a 2.2 percent
9 increase. It's not about the revenue, but it's about
10 keeping up with the competitive market. And then we're
11 budgeting for a \$50 to \$75 increase per space for the
12 entire run of fair for those merchant spaces.

13 You can see some of the bigger items that are
14 affecting increased revenue in this budget, compared to
15 2021:

16 Obviously, fair admissions, from 30,000 to
17 45,000 per day. We're budgeting for full capacity in
18 the amphitheater and The Hangar. Return of programming
19 in the Action Sports Arena.

20 And we saw a fantastic amount of spending at
21 the fair this year. We don't believe that people are
22 going to have the pent-up pandemic dollars or stimulus
23 dollars that they had this past summer. We are
24 increasing from our budget from 2021, but definitely not
25 as much as the actual spending that was done in -- in

1 this year's fair.

2 We are not proposing an increase in parking; we
3 want to keep it at \$10. However, we are suggesting that
4 motorcycles begin paying for parking. So motorcycles
5 have been allowed to park on the fairgrounds, taking up
6 a full parking space, for free. So we believe if you
7 are taking up a parking space, you ought to pay the same
8 as a vehicle, especially one that is carpooling and
9 bringing an entire family in a minivan or an SUV.

10 So those are the big items that are affecting
11 the revenue.

12 There are some items that are affecting the
13 expenses as well. I do plan to fill the vacant chief
14 administrative officer position. We did not move to
15 replace that or fill that opening in '21, but we will
16 look to fill it in '22.

17 And then you can see the items on the list that
18 are increasing our expenses this year, but there are
19 some things that will reduce expenses. We're carrying
20 over many of the efficiency measures that we took in
21 '21. Obviously we'll see a reduction in our
22 unemployment fees. As we transition to more digital
23 marketing, rather than print, that will reduce costs.
24 And then, of course, we'll eliminate the labor by
25 opening during our regular hours.

1 Again, parking. No -- no requests for an
2 increase in parking fees or fair admission.

3 We took the actual mix of admission tickets
4 sold -- the mix of adults versus youth versus seniors --
5 and applied that to the 45,000 per day model for 2022.
6 We come out with an average ticket price of \$10.87 to
7 the customer, with the fair, once again, paying those --
8 those Ticketmaster fees for the -- for our guests.

9 Okay. We are going to send staff to some
10 training and learning conferences and conventions. We
11 were not able to do this last year, both from a budget
12 standpoint and because almost everything was held
13 virtually. This is a list of the conferences and
14 conventions that we'll be sending staff to. And then
15 there is always mandatory state compliance training for
16 our compliance areas in Sacramento.

17 All of the travel that is proposed in our
18 budget is in compliance with California state law. This
19 is the list of states that are currently banned for
20 travel by California state employees for business. So
21 as you can see, none of the destinations are on the
22 list.

23 Okay. I will turn it over to Ken, very
24 briefly, to walk through the capital list. I don't know
25 if there's anything specific you want to add to that,

1 Ken.

2 MR. KARNS: Maybe just a quick summary, that
3 it's not quite as thumbs-down as 2021. But as stated, a
4 conservative budget. Five capital expenditures for
5 \$700,000. 17 major expenditures for \$409,000. Nine
6 equipment-related projects for 631; a hundred thousand
7 dollar contingency.

8 We are carrying forward monies not spent on the
9 Lot G project, to amalgamate in for a grand total of
10 \$2,065,000.

11 During the budget study session, we have
12 highlighted some of our environmental and security and
13 safety projects.

14 MS. RICHARDS: Thank you.

15 You can see the roll up for our Cap X and major
16 projects this year. \$1.74 million with a hundred
17 thousand in contingency, plus the \$225,000 carryover
18 from 2021, gives us a grand total of \$2,065,000.

19 Okay. Board Policy 4.05.02 authorizes the CEO
20 to sign for purchase commitments of \$50,000 or less and
21 to execute talent guarantees of \$400,000 or less.
22 Exempt from the policy are payments for utilities,
23 CAL-Card expenditures, insurance, payroll, or
24 State-mandated services, or anything else the Board
25 authorizes as part of the annual budget.

1 Included in that authorization are any other
2 expenses that are listed on this chart, which are over
3 \$50,000 expenditure budget schedule, which this year
4 includes any sales and use tax that we pay from the
5 Board of Equalization; State Fire Marshal fees; the
6 attorney services from the Department of Justice; the
7 California nonresident withholding remittance that we
8 pay to the Franchise Tax Board; and then unemployment
9 fees to the California EDD. So those are reported here
10 as mandatory expenses that may exceed \$50,000, that are
11 included in the -- in the budget.

12 We also went over a list of invitations for
13 bids -- IFBs and RFPs -- to be released in 2022. And
14 you can see, they are all very operational. Three in
15 January, for decorative lighting, shower trailer rental,
16 restroom trailer rental, and then audio equipment,
17 lighting, staging, and production in The Hangar and ASA,
18 and then lighting for the Pacific Amphitheater.

19 At the request of Chair La Belle, we added this
20 slide for the Board just to give you an overview of
21 bidding requirements:

22 Contracts that are \$10,000 and under require
23 one quote or may be formally bid.

24 Contracts that are over \$10,000 but under
25 \$50,000 require an informal bid process with two quotes.

1 Contracts that are over \$50,000 require either
2 an IFB or an RFP.

3 Now, we use an IFB, an invitation for bid, when
4 we tell the contractor exactly what we want -- what we
5 need. For example, restroom trailer rentals. We use an
6 RFP or a request for proposal, when there's a technical
7 service that is needed to solve a problem, where the
8 contractor proposes to us what the possible solution
9 might be. An example of that is advertising services.

10 Okay?

11 Contracts that are exempt from bidding are
12 entertainment contracts for our performers, rental
13 agreements, because those are revenue-generating, and
14 then any contracts with other governmental agencies or
15 any interagency agreements.

16 So to wrap it all up, this is what our 2022
17 budget looks like; we are budgeting \$45.9 million for
18 our self-produced event. That's all the fair. Our
19 year-round event revenue of \$7.69 million. Total
20 nonoperating revenue of \$225,600, for a total of
21 \$53.8 million in revenue. Against expenses are total
22 operating expense of \$43.5, almost \$43.6 million. And
23 then our nonoperating expenses, which includes
24 depreciation, major projects, and our pension
25 liabilities of \$4.2 million. We get a total net

1 proceeds of just under \$6 million.

2 Now, if we adjust for just -- to include just
3 cash-based net proceeds -- so, in other words, take out
4 depreciation and the pension liability, that bottom line
5 comes to \$9.8 million.

6 Regarding the fair P&L, applying the same
7 numbers that we did for the 2021 fair, in terms of
8 attendance and whatnot, we're looking at revenue of
9 \$46 million against expenses of \$23.5 million, so we
10 expect to earn \$22.5 million from the 2022 budget.

11 So I will stop now and see if there are any
12 questions or if the Board needs clarification on any
13 items.

14 And I should also turn it back to the Finance
15 and Audit Committee, Director Pham and Director
16 Bagneris, to see if they have any comments to add.

17 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: I think the meeting
18 went really well, and, you know, it was awesome to see
19 how much attendance there was from the Board.

20 You know, I think this next year is going to be
21 kind of throwing -- throwing an educated dart, I guess
22 you could say. And so, you know, I -- looking at the
23 budget and how it's rolled up, and bottoms-up, I
24 appreciate all the staff's time and everything like
25 that. And I'm supportive of the budget.

1 I am concerned about, you know, labor, and I am
2 concerned about continuing inflation more so than the
3 projections, on my end. But overall supportive of the
4 P&L and -- you know.

5 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: This is Director Bagneris.

6 I appreciate all the work that the staff did on
7 this presentation. It was very thorough and easy to
8 present. But more so, all of the board members who came
9 to our study session. We had the most turnout that we
10 have ever had. And so that made it easy for today
11 because we didn't have to go through any minute details
12 in order to understand this presentation. But again,
13 thank you to the staff for their great work, and I would
14 move that we approve this budget.

15 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I second that
16 motion.

17 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Director Bagneris,
18 first -- first of all, are there any public comments,
19 Summer, relative to the budget presentation?

20 MS. ANGUS: Yes. We have one.

21 Gibran Stout, when you are ready.

22 MS. STOUT: Yes. Sorry about that. Are you
23 there?

24 MS. ANGUS: Go right ahead.

25 MS. STOUT: Okay. Yes. This is great.

1 I just wanted to add one item and just want to
2 Board to remember, with future budgets, I know it's not
3 necessarily specific to this one. But the Equestrian
4 Center line item shows as income. And as you move
5 forward, just remember that that's at a boarding
6 facility. If it's no longer a boarding facility, you
7 will need to think about adding a line item for public
8 programming, same as, say, for example, Centennial
9 Farms, which I know is, like, hundreds of thousands a
10 year.

11 So while that doesn't apply for this year, it
12 would be something that you will need to consider for
13 future years.

14 So that's it. Thank you.

15 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

16 Chair La Belle, that concludes public comment.

17 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Summer.

18 Before we take a motion, I have a couple of
19 items that I wanted to share with the Board.

20 In past years, we have -- in November we have
21 looked at the budget kind of as a workshop sort of
22 thing, both with the committee and with the full Board.
23 And then have actually adopted the budget at the
24 December meeting.

25 I have two items. One I raised at the -- at

1 the workshop, and that relates to the -- I call it the
2 Walk of Honor project. I think it's under a little
3 different designation, but it's shown out in year 2024.
4 And I would like to have the Board consider moving that
5 up until next year.

6 The foundation is going to be meeting between
7 now and the December board meeting, relative to the
8 contribution that they will be -- will be making. The
9 president of the foundation has indicated \$100,000 of
10 the \$300,000 would be the foundation's contribution to
11 the project. Obviously, that's a significant reduction
12 in the cost to the district. The foundation does have
13 the resources to do that.

14 And in addition to that, as I mentioned at the
15 workshop, the last inductee into the Walk of Honor was
16 Captain Clark, who is now on the Foundation Board and
17 that was on Veterans Day in 2019. So it's been a couple
18 of years.

19 We have a growing list of individuals who meet
20 the criteria for being included in the -- in the Walk of
21 Honor. I believe, according to President Berardino,
22 that number is around 20. Obviously, the sooner we can
23 get them incorporated into the Walk of Honor, I think,
24 for one, it would be -- it would be better.

25 So that's the current plan. We'll know the

1 specifics by -- certainly, by the board meeting in
2 December. But \$100,000 is the recommendation from the
3 foundation.

4 The second item that I would like to have a
5 little bit of time on, to allow the Governmental
6 Relations Committee -- Director Aitken and Vice Chair
7 Pham -- and the CEO to evaluate.

8 During the 2020 pandemic issue, we ceased the
9 utilization of a legislative monitoring consultant,
10 Gonsalves & Associates. They performed a very good
11 service to us, but, at that point in time, the decision
12 was not to proceed with that, given the -- everything
13 being up in the air.

14 There are several legislative items that I
15 think are going to be coming forward in -- next year.
16 One is the legislation that we are going to be seeking
17 to deal with the nonprofit issue. I think the joint
18 powers authority concept is going to be a significant
19 issue, and there are one or two other things that the
20 Board may wish to pursue from a legislative standpoint.

21 And I would like the committee, Ashleigh and
22 Newton, to have some time between now and the next
23 meeting to evaluate whether there's any benefit in going
24 through another RFP process for legislative services.

25 So those are my comments. I certainly am very

1 supportive of the committee work that Newton and Barbara
2 did. I think the workshop was excellent.

3 But for the several reasons I have articulated,
4 I would like to suggest that this be considered an
5 information item at this point and carry it over for
6 Board final action in December. And that's consistently
7 what we have done in at least the past three or four
8 years.

9 So those are my thoughts. I defer to any other
10 director who would like to ask questions or have
11 comments.

12 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: So --

13 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Sorry, Barbara.

14 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I just want to say, because
15 I put a motion on the floor and it was seconded. I did
16 not realize you were going -- Director La Belle, that
17 you had things that you wanted to add to the budget, but
18 I think this budget is pretty firm, that I know of.

19 What would be -- would we really be adding
20 things to it in December?

21 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: And, Doug, I agree
22 with Director Bagneris.

23 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: It would be to add --

24 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: There were -- I
25 mean, there was significant time spent on the budget.

1 We also did a public meeting related to the budget
2 review.

3 And the two items that you mentioned -- I'm not
4 sure it would be worth delaying approving the budget
5 because we have already spent so much time on it. And
6 it would be good if we can move forward so we can focus
7 on strategic planning in December, since that is a major
8 priority for the Board and our next three-year plan.

9 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: I mean, is there any,
10 you know, I guess rule that prohibits amending the
11 budget if need be?

12 MS. RICHARDS: No. There's not.

13 I mean, the budget is the budget. If there are
14 additional expenses that exceed the CEO's signing
15 authority, we would just bring those back as individual
16 items for the Board to review and approve.

17 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: So with that, Chair La
18 Belle, I would call the previous question.

19 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: I second.

20 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: The question has been
21 called.

22 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: I second.

23 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: I think Natalie
24 seconded, Melahat, already. So I think Barbara moved.
25 Natalie seconded. The question has been called.

1 Summer, do you want to call the roll.

2 MS. ANGUS: Yes.

3 Chair La Belle.

4 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes.

5 MS. ANGUS: Vice Chair Pham.

6 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: Yes.

7 MS. ANGUS: Director Rubalcava-Garcia.

8 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Yes.

9 MS. ANGUS: Director Ruiz.

10 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes.

11 MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

12 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

13 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

14 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

15 MS. ANGUS: Director Kovacevich.

16 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.

17 MS. ANGUS: And Director Rafiei.

18 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

19 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Just a concluding
21 comment on that. I will then go ahead and add to the
22 December agenda two proposed -- well, potentially two
23 proposed amendments to the budget dealing with the
24 comments that I previously made. So those will be
25 agendized, at the Chair's discretion, for the next

1 meeting.

2 And, obviously, the Board can amend the budget
3 every month or as many times as you want to during the
4 course of the process.

5 So with that, the next item is 8F.

6 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. Director -- or, sorry,
7 Chair La Belle.

8 This is an information item that is being
9 presented by Chair La Belle regarding the committee
10 structure and committee assignments.

11 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.

12 First, I would like to thank all of my
13 colleagues for agreeing to serve on the committees as
14 identified in the information item. The -- each of the
15 committees, as we all know, are advisory in nature, and
16 they are intended to assist the Board in conjunction
17 with staff in completing the work of the Board.

18 And I want to, first of all, thank Natalie for
19 the format that she established. I'm very -- I think
20 it's an excellent way of moving the committees forward;
21 it gives them some structure.

22 I am proposing two new committees, which I will
23 speak to in general terms.

24 I want to thank the Finance Committee. And I
25 have included in there an objective for them to be

1 action participants in the rating of the carnival RFP
2 and, specifically, any other RFPs that they determine
3 they would like to be involved in from a -- from a
4 interview standpoint during the course of the -- course
5 of the year.

6 The two new committees I'm proposing: One is
7 the Entertainment and Business Development Committee. I
8 have asked Natalie to serve as chair and Sandra as a
9 committee member.

10 I believe there are opportunities. You know,
11 obviously, the COVID situation impacted significantly
12 the scheduling of program activities at Pac Amp. I'm
13 hopeful the committee can look at opportunities to not
14 only expand Pacific Amphitheater activities, but to look
15 another ways to expand the overall entertainment
16 activities at The Hangar and the Action Sports Arena
17 during the course of -- during the course of the year
18 and bring back to the Board any specific action items
19 that the Board would need to consider as agenda items.

20 I think business development opportunities are
21 out there for the Board. And then I think Natalie and
22 Sandra can work to develop what additional opportunities
23 might exist, in conjunction with Michele and the staff,
24 and I would like to ask them to do that.

25 In terms of -- you know, we have a lot of

1 year-round events, the gem show, etc., etc., and there
2 may be some opportunities there to expand entertainment.
3 In conjunction with those, you have got -- you have got
4 a captured audience, so to speak, when those events are
5 taking place and there may be some opportunities for
6 additional entertainment that could be incorporated. So
7 that's the general overview in terms of the focus of
8 that specific committee.

9 The Governmental Relations Committee obviously
10 will be involved -- pardon me?

11 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Do you mind going back to
12 that last slide? Or do you want me to hold my comments
13 until you have completed?

14 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Whatever you would like
15 to do, Barbara.

16 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: This one feels so
17 operational to me. I'm not sure why we need a new
18 committee to do this work.

19 Since I have been on the Board, we have never
20 really been involved in the minute details of
21 entertainment and business development. So I'm just
22 wondering why you feel we need a new committee. I know
23 we were trying to cut back on committees because every
24 time we would come to a meeting, we would add a new
25 committee.

1 Then we came up with a structure that was
2 supposed to be able to fit whatever new needed to
3 happen, into one of those existing committees.

4 So I would like to hear a little bit more why
5 you feel this -- we need this new committee right now.
6 And it feels so operational, that we wouldn't need to be
7 involved in this.

8 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Most of the committees,
9 Director Bagneris, are operational in nature. I just
10 feel that there are some opportunities out there that
11 can be explored for expanding what we're doing.

12 And, again, it's the prerogative of the Chair
13 to form those committees, and I think this is something
14 that I would like to see moved forward.

15 If Natalie or Sandra or Michele would like to
16 speak to that, I would be happy to have them do that.

17 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: This is Director
18 Rubalcava-Garcia.

19 This is the first time I have seen the detail
20 of what the committee will be doing. And, you know, I
21 do agree that it does appear to be very operational and
22 we are a governing body. So I mean, from a perspective
23 of, you know, Director Cervantes and I are able to
24 create policies that help staff establish direction for,
25 you know -- so I think that will be the area that we

1 might be able to help with.

2 I'm not an expert, and I really don't want to,
3 you know, step on staff's toes when it comes to doing
4 their job. You know, so I do agree, it does appear to
5 be very operational.

6 And it is your -- it's at your pleasure to
7 create whatever committees that you would like to
8 create, Director La Belle, or Chair La Belle. But I
9 would also, you know, urge you to maybe take a look at
10 what the focus of the committee will be and see if
11 there's a way that we can create the policy aspect of
12 this, so that we can really stay true to the governance
13 responsibilities that we have as board members, and not
14 operational.

15 I really like to stay out of the operations on
16 issues, because that's not our role; that's not what we
17 were appointed to do.

18 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Natalie, I appreciate
19 that, and, certainly, that's not my intent. My intent
20 is, I think there are some programming opportunities out
21 there that can be explored. And we can, you know,
22 obviously develop areas that can really add to the -- to
23 the programming that we provide.

24 I would be more than happy to have the
25 committee, as one of their tasks, go back and take a

1 look at the different -- the different items that you
2 would be focusing on and, accordingly, bring that back.

3 But, again, it's clearly not my intent to be
4 operational in nature. It is my intent to have the
5 committee do things that will, you know, enhance the
6 aspects of our entertainment and business development.

7 The same with the Finance Committee. You know,
8 one can argue that -- that them being involved in the
9 actual rating process of the carnival operator is an
10 operational issue. I don't see it that way.

11 I see that Nick and Barbara can add a
12 significant component. The RFP for the carnival
13 operation is one of the big three, as I call: It. One
14 is the entertainment RFP, which Ashleigh and I were
15 involved in; one of them is the Ovations Agreement,
16 which is yet to come up. It will be here in a few
17 years; and the third is the RFP for the carnival
18 operator. I think those are -- while operational
19 nature, I think they are significant cost and revenue
20 opportunities for the district. And I think the --
21 having direct Board involvement in the interview process
22 is good there. But, you know --

23 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Doug, does practice
24 prevent from -- does that prevent a board member from
25 voting on the budget item when it comes up, if they are

1 part of the scoring process? I thought that was
2 something that has come up in the past. Josh?

3 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: I think you are correct,
4 Natalie.

5 My recollection -- and I defer to Josh.

6 But I think when Ashleigh and I participated in
7 the entertainment RFP, it obviously gave us the ability
8 to be a part of that process, but I think the net result
9 is that we did not have the ability to vote on that when
10 it came forward.

11 But I defer to Josh on that.

12 MR. CAPLAN: That's correct, Chair La Belle.

13 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I think it's such
14 an important -- I know you have already developed the
15 committee responsibilities.

16 And the carnival contract is one of the most
17 important things that we probably have at the fair. And
18 to have -- to lose the vote of two key members of the
19 Board would be something I think we should be concerned
20 about.

21 So I would -- that's just something to keep in
22 mind. You know, the Board does set the parameters of
23 the RFP. We can review the RFP before it goes out. We
24 can determine, you know, what the scoring process looks
25 like. And I think that's probably where we might want

1 to consider staying. I'm not really sure that we are
2 able to put enough time and expertise in the scoring
3 part of it.

4 And we can also question and get feedback from
5 staff, you know, on the scoring process that they went
6 through.

7 And I believe DGS -- is it DGS, Michele, also
8 is part of that scoring process normally?

9 MS. RICHARDS: No. Not -- not normally.
10 That's done, you know, locally.

11 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay. Okay.

12 But that's just my 2 cents.

13 MS. RICHARDS: I'm sorry. You know what? I'm
14 going to walk that back a little bit.

15 Actually, there is -- there is, with carnival
16 RFPs, in particular, there's a higher level of oversight
17 and review.

18 DIRECTOR RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: Okay. So that's
19 just something to think about, Doug. I know -- but, you
20 know, like you said, it's your decision, but just
21 something to consider; the importance of the Board's
22 involvement on voting for the contract.

23 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Appreciate your
24 comments, Natalie.

25 The bottom line is that once the process has

1 been completed, the Board has basically two choices:
2 Either to approve it or not approve it. And I just
3 think that having -- I would like to see Nick and
4 Barbara be involved in, along with, obviously, Michele
5 and Ken and what have you.

6 You then have two board members that have been
7 very much involved in the details. And I just think
8 that you are right, it is probably one of the biggest
9 things we are going to be doing this year and having the
10 ability to get their comments. But I'm willing to defer
11 to Nick and Barbara if they choose not to want to do
12 that, based on the comments; that is certainly the
13 prerogative of them as committee members.

14 Let me move on to the last one, if I can. The
15 Governmental Relations Committee.

16 I've asked Director Aitken and Vice Chair Pham
17 to basically look at -- and, again, it's not intended to
18 be an operational committee. It's intended to have
19 board members look at opportunities to expand our
20 relations with our communities in Orange County and to
21 interact with the cities and see if there are some
22 program areas that we can consider. And, obviously, any
23 action would come back to the full Board.

24 I have also moved the legislative monitoring to
25 this committee. I guess there's one specific item

1 there.

2 I think, as the Board knows, most, if not all,
3 cities have some sort of a state of the city program
4 that they put together each year to meet with their
5 constituents and tell them a little bit about the good
6 things they have done and the problems they may have.
7 And I would like the committee to look at evaluating the
8 state of the district presentation and bring
9 recommendations back to the full Board, for Board
10 consideration.

11 So with that, that would conclude my comments.

12 Are there any public comments relative to this
13 item? Summer, do we have any public comments?

14 MS. ANGUS: We do not.

15 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay.

16 Are there any other Board -- Board comments at
17 this point in time?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. That concludes my
20 presentation.

21 I believe we have three committee reports. Am
22 I correct in that, Michele?

23 MS. RICHARDS: We do. We do.

24 The Financial Monitoring and Audit Committee
25 has a report. Facilities Committee has a report. And

1 Community Affairs has a committee report.

2 So we can turn it over to the Finance
3 Committee.

4 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: Sure.

5 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Newton.

6 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: Clearly, we just went
7 over the budget and whatnot. However, there's some nice
8 little highlights for October. You know, revenue is
9 obviously favorable to the original budget by
10 \$25 million. And, at this point in time, you know,
11 there's been significant cash generation, and we have,
12 you know, over \$60 million in cash reserves right now,
13 or cash and equivalents, I should say, to kind of --
14 which is, you know, actually an increase, I think, even
15 over 2019 at this point. So we got a good amount of
16 liquidity.

17 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Any additional comments,
18 Barbara?

19 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Newton did a fine job.

20 Just reiterate that we did table the audit
21 because we didn't receive it in time, in November, so we
22 will do that in December.

23 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Newton and
24 Barbara.

25 Facilities Committee. Robert and Ashleigh.

1 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Thank you.

2 So obviously one of the larger things that we
3 have been working on is the Equestrian Center agreement,
4 so I'm excited that that is moving forward.

5 We -- because of the last -- the pandemic, we
6 had to delay a lot of projects, and the staff was
7 wonderful at being conservative as we move forward. But
8 as we go into the next budget session, as was gone over
9 at the budget study session as well as today, we are
10 going to be trying to move some of the Cap X projects,
11 that we have been sitting on, forward, so look forward
12 to working on those projects.

13 I don't know if Ken or Robert has anything to
14 add.

15 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Ashleigh.

16 Robert, any comments?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. Barbara, the
19 Community Affairs Committee.

20 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes. Just a brief report.

21 We did not meet this prior month, but this is
22 Native American Heritage Month, and we know that staff
23 has prepared a presentation for us today, and so I'm
24 going to turn it over to CEO Richards.

25 MS. RICHARDS: Thank you so much.

1 It is indeed Native American Heritage Month,
2 and I want to thank our guest services supervisor, Thane
3 Hollman. He did a great job of putting this
4 presentation together for us.

5 After a hundred years of attempts to recognize
6 the contributions of Native Americans, on August 3rd,
7 1990, President George Bush declared November as Native
8 American History Month. And during this month, we pay
9 tribute to the many cultures and traditions of the
10 indigenous people of North America.

11 Now, several Native American tribes thrived in
12 Southern California, including the Tongva and
13 Achjacheman tribes before the Spanish colonization began
14 in the late 1700s. The two major groups of American
15 Indians in Orange County were thought to originate from
16 the Shoshonean family. They became known as the
17 Gabrielenos, or Tongva, and the Juanenos, or
18 Achjacheman, due to their proximity to the areas now
19 known as the San Gabriel and San Juan Capistrano
20 Missions.

21 Many contributions to agriculture and culinary
22 as well. So due to the Native Americans' deep respect
23 for the land that they lived on, they were very
24 resourceful and cultivated only what they could use to
25 preserve their land. From their land, they are credited

1 for developing corn, popcorn, beans, jerky, chocolate,
2 vanilla, avocados, tomatoes, maple syrup, tobacco, and
3 cotton.

4 And a popular dish from the Native American
5 culture is something that maybe a lot of you have
6 enjoyed. It's Indian fry bread, which is a fried,
7 light, fluffy dough, topped with a combination of
8 various meats and vegetables, or, for a sweet treat, it
9 can be topped with powdered sugar or honey.

10 On November 4th, a record breaking six Native
11 Americans were elected to Congress: Sharice Davids,
12 Yvette Herrell, Deb Haaland, Tom Cole, and Markwayne
13 Mullin.

14 And on the right, if you will meet Teresa M.
15 Romero. She is the chairwoman of the local tribal
16 council for the Juaneno Band of Mission Indians. That's
17 the Achjacheman.

18 And then Charles Alvarez is the tribal chairman
19 for the Gabrieleno-Tongva tribe.

20 And just a reminder that you can celebrate
21 local Native American exhibits to honor Native American
22 Heritage Month. The Bowers Museum has an ongoing
23 exhibit of the first Californians and California
24 legacies, the Missions and the Ranchos.

25 And then Heritage Museum, on November 19th, it

1 has an Exhibit of significant figures in Native American
2 history.

3 And just to close, a few fun facts. Ken Karns
4 will love this one: Shinny is a game played with a
5 small buckskin ball hit with a curved stick, played on
6 ice during the winter months. And it's what we now call
7 hockey.

8 In World War I and World War II, the United
9 States was provided a huge advantage by working with
10 Native American servicemen who would speak their native
11 languages, passing important information behind enemy
12 lines. They were known as the Navajo Code Talkers, and
13 they were featured and exhibited at Heroes Hall.

14 And during World War II, over 8,000 Native
15 Americans served, even though they were not considered
16 citizens at the time.

17 Many words that we regularly use today
18 originated from Native American languages. Some of them
19 are barbecue, hurricane, pajamas, bayou, Arizona,
20 Kentucky, and Missouri.

21 Many Native American women were sharpshooters
22 and able horsewomen. Our friends at the Equestrian
23 Center will appreciate that.

24 And Rebecca Rolfe, who was originally named
25 Pocahontas, married John Rolfe, and they were credited

1 for the first interracial marriage in American history.

2 So we want to again lift up the members of our
3 community who are Native American. Just as a matter of
4 data, currently the most recent census indicates that
5 .46 percent of Orange County identify as Native
6 American. And attendance at the 2021 OC Fair, we had
7 1 percent that identified as Native American. So that
8 concludes our celebration of Native American Heritage
9 Month.

10 So I will turn it back to the committee if they
11 have any additional comments.

12 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: As always, we thank you.
13 The staff does an awesome job.

14 And we want to always bring these special
15 heritage months to the attention of the Board and the
16 community as we continue to celebrate all of us.

17 So if Director -- Melahat has a comment, she
18 can make it at this time, and we will move forward.

19 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Thank you so much, Director
20 Bagneris. And thank you, Michele and staff, for putting
21 this together.

22 I did want to also note that we have the very
23 first Native American cabinet secretary as Deb Haaland,
24 as the Secretary of the Interior. She's the 54th
25 Secretary of the Interior for this nation, and she's the

1 first Native person to hold that position.

2 And I'm sorry. There's construction going on
3 in my house.

4 And I didn't -- I missed it when you sent it
5 over to us. The last line about the fun facts, with the
6 person known as Pocahontas getting married. I do want
7 to note that, I think, historically, that was a marriage
8 of not desired by her, from what we know in history, and
9 she was a child bride. So I missed that in reading it
10 earlier, or else I would have noted that to you
11 directly. But I just wanted to put that, also,
12 clarification out there.

13 But thank you for the work that you did.

14 MS. RICHARDS: Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele,
16 Barbara, and Melahat. It was an excellent presentation.
17 And we really appreciate all your hard work on an
18 ongoing basis.

19 With that, we are going to recess into closed
20 session. Any specific instructions from Summer? Do we
21 just stay online here or what?

22 MS. ANGUS: Yes. I'm creating the room right
23 now. Just give me a moment.

24 (Closed session: 11:03 a.m. to
25 11:14 a.m.)

1 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Got everybody here.

2 Has Natalie left the meeting and Newton left
3 the meeting at this point in time, Summer?

4 MS. ANGUS: I'm sorry. Chair La Belle. What
5 was that?

6 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: I clicked "leave." Is
7 there somewhere else I'm supposed to click?

8 MS. ANGUS: You are back in the full session,
9 Director Pham.

10 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay.

11 The Board considered the legal advice of
12 counsel on matters that are on the closed session
13 portion of the agenda and has nothing to report.

14 Okay. Are we now down to matters from the
15 Board of Directors?

16 MS. RICHARDS: The CEO --

17 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: We got the CEO's report.

18 MS. RICHARDS: A few operational announcements.
19 We will make it very quick.

20 OCFEC earned over \$1.6 million in revenue from
21 events held in October. That's an all-time monthly
22 record for us and the highest grossing month outside of
23 Fair in the last five years. We're very, very proud of
24 that. And that represents a lot of work on behalf of
25 staff.

1 OCFEC's self-produced event, Boo Ha Ha, was a
2 haunting success, attracting over 4,800 craft beer
3 enthusiasts who enjoyed beer tasting, food, live music,
4 and costume contests. The event was first held in 2019,
5 then canceled due to the pandemic in 2020. We saw a
6 55 percent increase in attendance this year and more
7 than double the revenue. So a really excellent event.

8 Our second self-produced event was held at
9 Heroes Hall on Veterans Day, as over 300 people gathered
10 to honor veterans and celebrate the opening of Heroes
11 Hall's two new exhibits, "Through Their Eyes" veteran
12 art exhibition and the refresh Santa Ana Army Air Base
13 exhibit.

14 Thank you to Directors Rubalcava-Garcia,
15 Cervantes, and Aitken, who represented the Board at the
16 event, which included a history talk about the Santa Ana
17 Army Air Base, a presentation honoring three World War
18 II pilots who trained at the base, one of them pictured
19 here; the dedication of the new digital carillon that
20 was donated to us by AMVETS; a presentation of quilts by
21 Quilts of Valor; and an amazing presentation and
22 performance by the All American Boys Chorus.

23 Of course, a cake cutting ceremony to celebrate
24 the Marine Corps birthday; and lots of family
25 activities, including Fort Blisters boot camp.

1 And of course, staff has been busy with the
2 other initiatives already covered on the agenda,
3 including the budget, preparation, drafting of the
4 Equestrian Center agreement, and gathering information
5 about the proposed JPA.

6 I did want to introduce something to the Board
7 and the public: At the 2019 OC Fair, Producer Scott
8 Gawlik filmed our annual table setting competition. He
9 featured the crazy, competitive contenders who enter
10 every year for a chance to win the coveted Best of Show
11 Award.

12 The film debuted at the Newport Beach Film
13 Festival last month and was featured earlier this week
14 on the "Today Show" as their pick for Documentary of the
15 Month. And we have a short clip to show you. And if
16 you will bear with me just one second as I set this up.

17 I think we're ready.

18 MS. ANGUS: Michele, you have got to switch to
19 that screen. We are not seeing it.

20 MS. RICHARDS: Sorry. I'm sorry. Switch to
21 that screen? Yes. Hold one second. Oh, Summer.

22 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: You could just choose "new
23 share" and it will take you there.

24 MS. RICHARDS: There we go. Thank you.

25 (Video played.)

1 MS. RICHARDS: Anyhow, we wanted to bring that
2 to everyone's attention.

3 "Set" is playing now on Discovery+. So for any
4 of you that get Discovery+, you can see the full
5 documentary. We were very proud of it, very proud that
6 it was featured here, as our competition, and then it
7 got such national attention on the "Today Show."

8 So wrapping things up, our year-to-date
9 revenue, as Director Pham indicated, we are
10 \$25.4 million favorable to budget on revenue and
11 favorable to budget on expenses. So a total of
12 25.77 percent -- or \$25.77 million favorable to budget.
13 Cash and cash equivalents are at \$60.6 million, and
14 that's a year-over-year increase of 37.7 percent.

15 And I will turn things over to Joan to just let
16 us know what's coming up with our events over the next
17 month. Joan.

18 MS. HAMILL: Thanks, Michele. I will go over
19 this very briefly, and I will also say that all of this
20 information is on our website. We have a new show
21 coming in that's setting up this weekend, opening
22 tomorrow. The Progressive International Motorcycle
23 Show. That's motorcycle demos, four-wheel, off-road,
24 electric bike. There's a kid's zone. And you can see
25 bikes, bikes, and more bikes this weekend at the OC

1 Fair.

2 Our Christmas tree lot opens November 2nd and
3 runs through December 19th.

4 Our Night of Lights drive-through makes a
5 return, and that opens November 26 and runs through
6 January 2nd.

7 Crossroads of the West Gun Show takes place
8 Thanksgiving weekend, November 27th through 28th.

9 Another new show to our property, the Creative
10 Babe Market. This is a family-friendly holiday
11 shopping -- holiday shopping market with 100 -- over 100
12 local businesses, mostly women-owned, with a lot of
13 wonderful crafts, home decor, seasonal items, clothing,
14 and more.

15 We have COVID testing running weekdays at
16 the -- on our lot, on the corner here of Arlington and
17 Fairview. That runs, like I said, through
18 December 31st on weekdays.

19 And the next slide. Our Fight Club returns
20 December 2nd. That's a Thursday night.

21 Gem Fair, December 3rd through 5th.

22 The Shoreline Dog Fancier Association of Orange
23 County will have the dog show December 10th through
24 12th.

25 The Original O.C. Swap Meet taking place

1 November 27th and December 11th. And then there's
2 another one that will happen in December as well.

3 Share Our Selves takes place December 16th.

4 Of course, Farmers Market every Thursday from
5 9:00 to 1:00 on the property.

6 And then our last slide is Heroes Hall and
7 Centennial Farm. Michele referenced Veterans Day. We
8 had a wonderful turnout on Veterans Day last Thursday.
9 It was a nice, warm, sunny day. The new exhibit -- the
10 newish exhibit "Through Their Eyes," that opened in
11 October, runs through January.

12 And then our refresh Heroes Hall exhibit is
13 upstairs -- excuse me, Santa Ana Army Air Base exhibit
14 is open. I would invite everyone to come out and see
15 it. It is wonderful. Staff really outdid themselves.

16 Holiday workshops at Centennial Farm. You can
17 come and learn a few things for the holidays. You can
18 learn how to make a holiday brunch charcuterie platter.
19 On December 4th, truffle making. And then, on
20 December 11th, we have a winter wreath workshop. So
21 those are items that you will be able to take home with
22 you.

23 Centennial Farm is open 9:00 to 3:00 daily.
24 And our Discovery Days are in full swing. There's one
25 taking place today and then a few more in December. Our

1 wonderful docents are back. Students and teachers are
2 back as well. And so we're delighted to have Centennial
3 Farm and Heroes Hall open on a regular basis.

4 And that concludes my report unless there's any
5 questions.

6 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Joan.

7 I know there's not enough time for this
8 particular Gem Fair event, but maybe in the future, when
9 the Gem Fair is back, we could have a rock band play in
10 The Hangar.

11 MS. RICHARDS: "Ba-dum-bum."

12 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: "Bum-bum."

13 Any other comments, Michele, Ken, Joan, board
14 members?

15 MS. RICHARDS: Just one more comment, to wish
16 everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and very Happy Birthday to
17 Directors Rubalcava-Garcia, Director Barbara Bagneris,
18 and Director Melahat Rafiei. Happy Birthday in
19 November, from all of us to you.

20 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Thank you.

21 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Thank you. I love my
22 birthday tomorrow.

23 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Happy Birthday, guys.

24 Okay. Are we ready to go around the table?

25 MS. RICHARDS: Yes, we are.

1 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Any matters from
2 directors?

3 Okay. Let's start with Barbara. Any -- any
4 comments?

5 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Very good meeting for your
6 first return to the Chair, Director La Belle.
7 Appreciate all that you do. And I'm just extremely
8 excited and looking forward to the year ahead,
9 especially when we can get back together. I don't think
10 we need to rush it. I was getting my shingles shot
11 yesterday, my first dose.

12 And all over the doctor's office -- (phone
13 ringing in background) -- I will wait for that mute to
14 happen.

15 And all over that office and facility, it said
16 to be cautious, that COVID was on the rise again. So I
17 think we have to continue to be cautious. I will be 64
18 tomorrow. And even though I have had my booster and my
19 flu shot and my shingles shot, I still would like to be
20 as safe as possible as long as possible.

21 So I thank the staff for continuing to do their
22 due diligence to make sure that the people that work at
23 the OC Fair & Events Center are safe as well.

24 So I wish everyone a Happy, Happy Thanksgiving,
25 and we will see you next month.

1 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Barbara.
2 Ashleigh.

3 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Chair La Belle, it's nice to
4 see you at the helm again.

5 I just want to wish everybody a Happy
6 Thanksgiving and Happy Birthday to my co-directors. I,
7 like Director Bagneris, believe in birthday months. So
8 celebrate all month long.

9 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Amen.

10 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Ashleigh.
11 Melahat.

12 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: My house is under
13 construction so it's too loud, other than I want to say
14 thank you to staff. Doug, thank you for an incredible
15 meeting. Every time it gets better for me, so I'm happy
16 to be on board. Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Birthday
17 to my November sisters.

18 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Melahat.
19 Nick.

20 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Thank you, Chair
21 La Belle. Great job today. And, of course, the staff,
22 as usual.

23 The presentation today was great from the
24 Community Affairs Committee. So love seeing it all.

25 I agree with Director Bagneris. You know, as

1 much as I would love to be back in person, you know,
2 fortunately we are -- we have gotten very efficient at
3 these Zoom meetings and we've been faring pretty well.
4 And I think, you know, we need to continue to do
5 whatever we believe is in the best interest of the
6 health and safety of the Board and the staff and also
7 the public that attends.

8 So, you know, when the time is right, we'll get
9 back in person, and I hope everyone has a great holiday
10 season starting with Thanksgiving and also everyone
11 stays safe, as Director Bagneris did mention. COVID is
12 still around although, you know, people are returning to
13 normal, as am I. Still doesn't hurt to be a little bit
14 more cautious.

15 So I hope everyone stays safe. Thank you and
16 see you next month.

17 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thanks, Nick.
18 Sandra.

19 MS. ANGUS: Director Cervantes is no longer on
20 the Zoom.

21 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. I believe
22 Director Ruiz is no longer on either; is that correct?

23 MS. ANGUS: That's correct.

24 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: And Newton is here?

25 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: I am here.

1 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Perfect. Go ahead.

2 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: Yeah. Just echo
3 everyone's sentiment that was said earlier, and just
4 really wanted to wish everyone, the staff, Board,
5 members of the public, a Happy Thanksgiving.

6 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Newton.

7 I think -- I don't think I missed anyone.

8 First I want to thank staff for an excellent
9 job at putting the agenda together and the budget. And,
10 again, thanks to the work of Newton and Barbara. Again,
11 I attended or participated in the workshop, and I
12 thought it was an excellent presentation.

13 I want to thank my fellow board members for
14 their continuing support, and I'm looking forward to a
15 very exciting year, and I'm hoping we can conclude the
16 strategic planning process in early 2022; moving on to
17 implementation of a number of programs during the course
18 of the year.

19 Congratulations to our birthday directors. And
20 my -- I guess my condolences to my wife, or maybe it's
21 congratulations. We're celebrating our 58th wedding
22 anniversary on Sunday. So it will probably be a COVID
23 celebration in the garage or the driveway, but we'll do
24 something.

25 Anyway, congratulations to everybody. Thanks

1 again for all your help. And we will see you at the
2 December 7th board meeting on the strategic plan.

3 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Happy 58th anniversary.

4 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you.

5 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Some marriages don't last
6 58 minutes.

7 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: We got married
8 November 21st, 1963, which was the day before President
9 Kennedy was assassinated, so it was a very bittersweet
10 time. But we've been together a long time and done a
11 lot of good things together.

12 So anyway, thanks so much. And we will see
13 everybody in December. And Happy Thanksgiving to all.

14 (Proceedings concluded at 11:32 a.m.)

15 ---o0o---

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, KATHRYN S. SWANK, a Certified Shorthand Reporter
of the State of California, do hereby certify:

That I am a disinterested person herein; that the
foregoing proceedings were reported, to the best of my
ability, in shorthand by me, Kathryn S. Swank, a
Certified Shorthand Reporter of the State of California,
and thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

I further certify that I am not of counsel or
attorney for any of the parties to said proceedings nor
in any way interested in the outcome of said
proceedings.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
this 1st day of December 2021.

Kathryn Swank

KATHRYN S. SWANK, CSR
Certified Shorthand Reporter
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