



In the Matter Of:

ORANGE COUNTY FAIR AND EVENT CENTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

December 16, 2021

Case No:

CERTIFIED COPY

32ND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION

ORANGE COUNTY FAIR & EVENT CENTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2021

9:33 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

MELAHAT RAFIEI

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---

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS

NICK BERARDINO
Heroes Hall Veterans Foundation

ROY ENGLEBRECHT
Fight Club OC

REGGIE MUNDEKIS

MARC VAN EDEN
Centennial Farm Foundation

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1 Thursday, December 16, 2021, 9:33 a.m.

2 ---o0o---

3 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: The mission of the
4 Orange County Fair & Events Center is a celebration of
5 Orange County's communities, interest, and agriculture,
6 and heritage, with results justifying resources
7 expended.

8 With that, Ms. Bagneris, could you lead us in
9 the pledge, please.

10 MS. RICHARDS: Chair La Belle, you cut out a
11 little bit there. Can you repeat who you would like to
12 lead us in the pledge?

13 I think he's frozen.

14 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Michele, I'm happy to do it.
15 This is Director Aitken.

16 MS. RICHARDS: Okay.

17 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Director Bagneris, could
18 you lead us in the pledge.

19 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes. I would be happy to.

20 (Pledge of Allegiance was recited
21 in unison.)

22 MS. ANGUS: Michele, we need to call the roll
23 call. I think we have advanced slides one too many.

24 MS. RICHARDS: Yes, we are. There we go.

25 MS. ANGUS: And Chair La Belle, I will go

1 ahead.

2 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Am I back online?

3 MS. ANGUS: Yes, you are.

4 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes. Perfect.

5 Go ahead, please, Summer.

6 MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle.

7 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Here.

8 MS. ANGUS: Vice Chair Pham.

9 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: Here.

10 MS. ANGUS: Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

11 (No response.)

12 MS. ANGUS: Director Cervantes.

13 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Here.

14 MS. ANGUS: Director Ruiz.

15 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Here.

16 MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

17 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Here.

18 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

19 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Present.

20 MS. ANGUS: Director Kovacevich.

21 (No response.)

22 MS. ANGUS: And Director Rafiei.

23 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Here.

24 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

25 BOARD CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. The next

1 item is the minutes from our last meeting.

2 Is there a motion and a second to approve the
3 minutes?

4 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Cervantes. Approve the
5 minutes.

6 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Second. This is Director Ruiz.

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

9 MS. ANGUS: Yes. Chair La Belle.

10 (No response.)

11 MS. ANGUS: I will circle back. It looks like
12 he's --

13 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes.

14 MS. ANGUS: Okay. Perfect. Thank you.
15 Vice Chair Pham.

16 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: Yes.

17 MS. ANGUS: Director Cervantes.

18 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.

19 MS. ANGUS: Director Ruiz.

20 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes.

21 MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

22 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

23 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

24 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

25 MS. ANGUS: And Director Rafiei.

1 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

2 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

3 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Am I back?

4 MS. RICHARDS: You are back, yes.

5 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: I don't know what's
6 happening here. I have to keep going in and out of the
7 meeting.

8 Anyway, Michele, could you go ahead and
9 introduce the matters of public comment, please.

10 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. Public comment is allowed
11 on issues not on the current agenda. However, no debate
12 by the Board shall be permitted on such public comments,
13 and no action will be taken on such public comment items
14 at this time, as law requires formal public notice prior
15 to any action on a docket item. Speakers are requested
16 to sign in prior to the start of the meeting and are
17 limited to three minutes. Comments will be accepted on
18 all other agenda items at the time each item is listed
19 on the agenda. Speakers wishing to address the Board on
20 items on the agenda are requested to sign in prior to
21 the start of the meeting and identify the agenda items
22 on which you desire to address the Board. Speakers are
23 limited to three minutes.

24 MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle, I do not have
25 anybody for general public comment, unless there is

1 someone that is dialed in that would like to make public
2 comment for general public comment. Please state your
3 name now.

4 MR. ENGLEBRECHT: This is Roy Englebrecht. I
5 would like to do a public comment.

6 MS. ANGUS: Okay. Roy, please go right ahead.

7 MR. ENGLEBRECHT: Thank you.

8 My name is Roy Englebrecht. I'm a promoter of
9 Fight Club OC shows. And I wanted to bring the Board up
10 to date on our series. We just finished our 12th year
11 of Fight Club OC shows in The Hangar and a few outdoor
12 in the main mall. Our five shows in 2021, we sold out
13 all five; these five were the five shows that we lost in
14 2020 due to COVID.

15 And our sellout streak just doesn't happen in a
16 vacuum. We have just a wonderful relationship with
17 Michele and Ken and their staff: From Howard Sandler to
18 Jenn Olerva to Justin Oh, who are our direct contacts
19 for our shows; to Rey Dominguez and his crew that sets
20 up The Hangar and really creates a unbelievable fight
21 venue each and every show; Angel, Jose, Sal, Tua
22 (phonetic), Nick Buffa, and Ed. And working with them
23 for security at our shows, and we have such a fun show
24 with everyone feeling safe; to Jason Jacobsen and
25 Norbert and Rob, who keep our projection going; to Juan

1 Quintero, and Adela and Ann Marie and Felix and Adrian
2 and Mimo (phonetic).

3 And you notice, I didn't have to read from a
4 list of these names. This is the kind of relationship
5 that Michele and Ken push at the fair, that there is a
6 real family environment here, and we feel that each and
7 every Fight Club OC show.

8 We are excited about our 13th year. We have
9 our six dates and that's why at -- you go to our
10 website. It says Fight Club OC in The Hangar. We are
11 the fight capital in Southern California.

12 And, again, Michele knows how I feel about her
13 staff, and the Board needs to know that also.

14 Secondly, I would just like to bring up and ask
15 the Board to agendize event-specific cannabis
16 advertising in 2022, at least to talk about that,
17 discuss it, because that would be critical to some of us
18 who do just a limited number of shows, and we would love
19 to have that opportunity to bring in additional revenue.

20 Michele, thank you, and Merry Christmas for
21 everyone.

22 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

23 Chair La Belle, that concludes public comment.

24 MS. RICHARDS: I think Doug is frozen again.

25 Newton, perhaps I could ask you to -- oh,

1 there. I think he's back. Doug, we have you back?

2 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Am I back? Am I back?

3 MS. RICHARDS: You are back. And we have just
4 concluded public comment.

5 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Am I back?

6 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. We can hear you.

7 We just concluded public comment.

8 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Maybe I should just go
9 to the phone and -- the next item is -- can you hear me?

10 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. We can. You are breaking
11 up though. Perhaps --

12 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: You might want to call in
13 on the phone.

14 MS. RICHARDS: Yeah.

15 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: That might be the better
16 course of action. Okay.

17 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Although you sound fine
18 now.

19 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: I don't know what it is,
20 whether it's my -- my ear buds or what. Am I okay now?

21 MS. RICHARDS: You are. Yes. And we --

22 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: I will just go ahead and
23 proceed.

24 MS. RICHARDS: Okay.

25 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: I heard Roy. I heard

1 all of his comments.

2 Are there other public comments?

3 MS. RICHARDS: We have no other public
4 comments, Chair La Belle, and we're ready to move on.

5 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: I think I better call
6 in.

7 MS. RICHARDS: Okay.

8 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: The consent calendar.

9 Are there any items that you wish to pull from
10 the consent calendar, Michele, or any of the directors?

11 MS. RICHARDS: No. Staff has no items to pull
12 from the consent calendar.

13 Do the directors have any items to pull?

14 (No response.)

15 MS. RICHARDS: Okay. Is there a motion?

16 DIRECTOR RUIZ: I move to accept the consent
17 calendar as presented.

18 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: I second. This is Sandra
19 Cervantes.

20 MS. ANGUS: I will take the roll call vote.
21 Chair La Belle.

22 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes.

23 MS. ANGUS: Vice Chair Pham.

24 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: Yes.

25 MS. ANGUS: Director Cervantes.

1 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: 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: And Director Rafiei.

9 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

10 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. The next item is

12 8A. Present the staff report, please.

13 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. This item involves a
14 request --

15 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Assuming you can hear
16 me. Can you hear me?

17 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. We can hear you.

18 So this item involves the request by the
19 Centennial Farm Foundation, for an amendment to their
20 MOU.

21 I'm going to turn it over to Chief Business
22 Development Officer Joan Hamill, who will give further
23 information and address a guest speaker from the
24 foundation.

25 MS. HAMILL: Good morning.

1 The Centennial Farm Foundation has made a
2 request to the Board of Directors, which is included in
3 your Board packet. Here to make the formal request is
4 the Centennial Farm Foundation Board President Marc Van
5 Eden.

6 So at this time, I will turn it over to Marc.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. VAN EDEN: Thank you, Joan.

9 Can everybody hear me okay?

10 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.

11 MR. VAN EDEN: Great. First of all, I would
12 like to thank the Board for inviting me and giving me
13 the opportunity to speak on behalf of the Centennial
14 Farm Foundation.

15 I'm currently the foundation president, and
16 they have asked me to request if -- as a result of the
17 pandemic that started a couple years back, it has
18 really -- it has really influenced our ability to have
19 face-to-face meetings. Well, really, just any meetings
20 for that matter, to be frank; and has really impinged on
21 our ability to raise funds for the foundation.

22 So in a MOU that we have between the Fair Board
23 and the Centennial Farm Foundation, there is a
24 stipulation for \$45,000 to be donated per annum, and we
25 would make the request due to the pandemic that this --

1 the Fair Board consider a two-year donation of \$25,000
2 per annum. So that's the request, in essence. I won't
3 really say more about that, but I would like to add a
4 few more comments if I could.

5 So these are some highlights -- and they are
6 still highlights, believe it or not -- for 2021 and what
7 we anticipate in 2022, in light of the ensuing pandemic.
8 During the pandemic, we lost our grant writer, long-term
9 grant writer for the Centennial Farm Foundation Board.
10 She worked very closely with Evy Young.

11 And just last month, we signed a replacement,
12 Bulls Consulting, which has already executed a working
13 plan with Evy Young at the Centennial Farms. So we have
14 filled that gap, so to speak, and we're all very excited
15 with what this new consultancy can bring to the
16 Centennial Farm Foundation.

17 The second point I would like to bring is that
18 Bulls Consulting is not only concerned with writing
19 grants, but they will also contribute to website
20 revisions, social media, and marketing, to assist the
21 Centennial Farm Foundation with driving donations.
22 Okay?

23 The third point I would like to bring up is
24 that, two months ago, the Centennial Farm Foundation
25 Board has finally come together and is galvanizing its

1 first social face-to-face fundraiser, which is due to
2 occur on Friday, April 29th, at Raahauge's Range. And
3 this is the Centennial Farm Foundation's Sporting Clay
4 Fun Shoot, Barbecue, and Fundraiser, that will include
5 sponsored donations for a raffle and silent auction as
6 well.

7 And I would like to make another formal
8 request, if I can. And that would be to have the Fair
9 Board consider donating a fair basket for this event.

10 And, finally, I did write two welcome letters,
11 but I would like to formally welcome those new
12 Centennial Farm Foundation members appointed by the Fair
13 Board -- Nick Kovacevich as well as Melahat Rafiei -- to
14 our Board. We're very excited to welcome you and to
15 visit with you, exchange ideas, in a face-to-face
16 format. So, again, looking forward to our next meeting,
17 hopefully later December.

18 So with that, I would like to just conclude and
19 say thank you for considering our request. And really
20 appreciate this opportunity.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Summer, are there any
23 other public comments? Can you hear me?

24 MS. ANGUS: Yes.

25 No public comments for this item.

1 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Can you hear me?

2 Okay. We'll take it back to the directors.

3 Is there any questions or a motion relative to
4 this matter?

5 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: This is Sandra Cervantes.

6 I know that by serving on that Foundation
7 Board, I do know that it is so important and so
8 meaningful, as all of us struggle with the COVID, and
9 also the struggle with the grant writer, that we approve
10 a one-year, \$25,000 as we did for Heroes Hall.

11 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: This is Director Rafiei.

12 I second Director Cervantes's motion.

13 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: Pardon me. This is --

14 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: We have a motion and a
15 second.

16 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: Yeah.

17 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I didn't hear the motion
18 because it was -- the audio was bad, so I'm not sure
19 what the motion is. But Melahat did hear it.

20 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yeah. I believe the motion
21 is 25,000 for one year.

22 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Okay. And the comment was
23 about -- I heard a comment about Heroes Hall.

24 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: That we did the same thing
25 for Heroes Hall.

1 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Okay. Okay.

2 MS. RICHARDS: I believe we have a second on
3 the floor. I'm not sure if Chair --

4 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: We have a motion and a
5 second.

6 Is there any further discussion by the
7 directors?

8 (No response.)

9 CHAIRPERSON RUBALCAVA-GARCIA: I will call the
10 question.

11 Summer, can you take the roll?

12 MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle.

13 VICE CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes.

14 MS. ANGUS: Vice Chair Pham.

15 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: Yes. For one year.

16 MS. ANGUS: Director Cervantes.

17 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.

18 MS. ANGUS: Director Ruiz.

19 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes.

20 MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

21 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes. For one year.

22 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

23 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

24 MS. ANGUS: And Director Rafiei.

25 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

1 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

2 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Next item, 8B. Let me
3 ask a question. Some of the audio I'm getting very
4 clear, and some is -- some of it is breaking up quite a
5 bit. Am I the only one that's experiencing that? Is
6 there any suggestions as to how we might address that?

7 MS. RICHARDS: Chair La Belle, you are coming
8 in very clear now. We were having trouble before. And
9 having trouble with Director Cervantes. But I think
10 everybody else is good.

11 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: Yeah. You are --

12 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: You are breaking up a
13 little bit there yourself, Michele.

14 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I think it's the weather.

15 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: It could be.

16 Okay. Michele, would you go ahead and
17 introduce 8B.

18 MS. RICHARDS: I will.

19 So the auditing firm of Lance, Soll & Lunghard,
20 for a second year in a row, they have completed our
21 financial audit; this year for 2020.

22 We had a Finance Committee meeting on Friday of
23 last week. Our lead auditor from LSL was on the call
24 with Directors Kovacevich and Bagneris, and reviewed the
25 audit.

1 Director Bagneris, I will turn it over to you,
2 if you have any additional comments. But we're
3 presenting this for approval, and then filing with CDFA.

4 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes. Thank you, Michele.

5 We're excited about this audit firm because
6 they have been -- this is not their first year with us.
7 And they did a very thorough job. I'm sorry. Did
8 someone say something?

9 (No response.)

10 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Okay. And so the report is
11 in the packet, and we would like -- if there are any
12 questions, I guess we will take those at this time.

13 (No response.)

14 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: If there are no comments or
15 questions about the audit report itself, I believe we
16 have to approve the findings -- the audit. There are no
17 findings. But the audit.

18 MS. RICHARDS: We do.

19 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: So moved.

20 MS. RICHARDS: Director Cervantes is trying to
21 say something.

22 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: If we need a vote, I so
23 move that we approve.

24 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Okay. So we just need a
25 motion, and I will go ahead. And I move that we approve

1 the Audit Committee report.

2 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: Two people are making
3 the same motion to approve. Which one is it going to
4 be?

5 MS. RICHARDS: I believe Director Cervantes was
6 the first to make the motion.

7 We just need a second.

8 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I misunderstood. I thought
9 she said that if there was a motion, she was voting yes.
10 So I think she's anticipating audio problems and she was
11 getting ahead of it.

12 So -- but if Director Cervantes, if she can
13 still hear us, is that a motion?

14 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes, I can hear you. Yes.

15 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Is that a motion?

16 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: That is a motion.

17 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Okay. That's a motion to
18 approve --

19 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes, that is correct.

20 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: We just need a second.

21 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: This is Director Rafiei. I
22 will second.

23 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I will turn it over to
24 Director La Belle.

25 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Is there a second to the

1 motion?

2 MS. ANGUS: And, Chair La Belle, there is no
3 public comment on this item.

4 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: -- before we move
5 forward, is there any public comment?

6 MS. ANGUS: Not at this time.

7 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Perfect. Okay. I will
8 call the question then.

9 Can you call the roll, Summer.

10 MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle.

11 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. We have a motion
12 and a second.

13 Yes. Can you hear me?

14 MS. ANGUS: Yes. Thank you.

15 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes.

16 MS. ANGUS: Vice Chair Pham.

17 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: Yes.

18 MS. ANGUS: Director Cervantes.

19 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.

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: And Director Rafiei.

2 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

3 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

4 MS. RICHARDS: Very good. I think we're ready
5 to move on.

6 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Next item is 8C.

7 MS. RICHARDS: I will take this one.

8 Each year, when the Board approves the budget
9 for the following year, I write a summary of kind of a
10 recap of the prior year, and an overview of the new
11 budget. That letter was attached to the staff report.
12 It just summarizes and highlights the key items from the
13 2022 budget. So this is really just information only.
14 It just completes our budget package for 2022. So
15 there's no vote that's necessary on this, but I am happy
16 to take any questions that the Board might have.

17 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Are there any questions
18 from the Board for Michele?

19 (No response.)

20 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Summer, are there any
21 public comments?

22 MS. ANGUS: There is none.

23 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. I would just
24 comment. I think this is very helpful. Michele, it
25 provides kind of a good resource to go back and refresh

1 our memories on specific items. So it was a job well
2 done. And on behalf of the Board, my thanks for all
3 your efforts and all the staff's efforts and putting
4 the -- putting the budget together.

5 MS. RICHARDS: Well, it was a lot more fun than
6 last year's, I can tell you that. We're in much better
7 shape moving forward. So it was a much more enjoyable
8 summary to write for sure.

9 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Very good. I'm sure.
10 All right.

11 Item 8D.

12 MS. RICHARDS: And this item --

13 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: May you introduce the
14 item, Michele? Go ahead and (Zoom malfunction) --

15 MS. RICHARDS: Okay. Doug, I think we're
16 losing you again, but I will give a little background on
17 this, on your behalf.

18 This was an item that Chair La Belle requested.
19 As the Board knows, the capital projects list --

20 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Can you hear me now?

21 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. Go ahead, Doug. We can
22 hear you.

23 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Can you hear me,
24 Michele?

25 MS. RICHARDS: We can hear you.

1 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Am I back?

2 MS. RICHARDS: Yes, you are.

3 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Hello. Yeah. You can
4 hear me?

5 MS. RICHARDS: We can hear you, Doug, yes.

6 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. Everybody can
7 hear me.

8 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: It might be a good idea
9 maybe, you know, for -- while Doug sorts out some of the
10 technical difficulties, I can just kind of take the
11 reins on facilitating the rest, going through.

12 MS. RICHARDS: Thank you.

13 I might suggest Director La Belle, or Chair La
14 Belle, if you can hear us, you are having pretty
15 consistent technical connectivity problems. It might be
16 better if you called in so that we can hear you.

17 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Can you --

18 MS. RICHARDS: And Director Pham, maybe if -- I
19 will tee this item up.

20 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Can you hear me now?

21 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. We can.

22 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Can you hear --

23 MS. RICHARDS: We can hear you, Doug.

24 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I liked Plan B.

25 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. Okay.

1 Doug, if you can hear us, if you will dial in
2 on the phone, rather than on the computer; that doesn't
3 seem to be working today.

4 So I will tee this up for Chair La Belle.

5 As you know, the -- there was an item on the
6 capital list, not for 2022, but for 2024, and that was
7 creating a Serenity Walk at Heroes Hall. And just as
8 background, most of you know, that Heroes Hall Veterans
9 Museum was opened in February of 2017. It includes the
10 Medal of Honor Courtyard, and then, of course, where
11 those from Orange County that have received high honors
12 are recognized.

13 In November of 2019, we installed the A-4M
14 Skyhawk that has become quite a showpiece at Heroes
15 Hall. The Heroes Hall Veterans Foundation has provided
16 funding for the new plaques on the Walk of Honor.

17 And the proposed project, which is on the
18 capital list for 2024, is a Serenity Walk. It is a
19 project that will provide the opportunity to honor other
20 medal recipients, as envisioned in the concept developed
21 by our staff. The project will also provide rest areas,
22 adjacent to the berm, for reflection by family and
23 friends of the sacrifices made by those we honor.

24 The concept plan was -- and some photos was
25 attached to the staff report. But the recommendation

1 being made by Chair La Belle is to schedule the Serenity
2 Walk project for 2022, rather than 2024.

3 The estimated cost by staff for that project is
4 approximately \$300,000. The Heroes Hall Veterans
5 Foundation has come forward with a pledge of a cash
6 contribution of a hundred thousand dollars for the
7 project.

8 And I believe the president of the Heroes Hall
9 Veterans Foundation is with us, Nick Berardino. And,
10 Nick, I don't know if you wanted to make any additional
11 comments while Doug is --

12 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Michele, I -- Michele, I
13 think I'm back. Can you hear me?

14 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. We can hear you.

15 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Can you -- you can hear
16 me.

17 MS. RICHARDS: Yes.

18 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Well, I don't know what
19 it's -- technology is marvelous when it works. But you
20 can hear me?

21 MS. RICHARDS: Yes, we can.

22 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. I think you -- I
23 think you summarized it very well.

24 I just wanted to make the comment that not only
25 will the Serenity Walk project provide opportunities to

1 honor more veterans, but it will provide a place for
2 family and friends, veterans, as well as veterans to
3 pause and reflect on the sacrifices that have been made
4 on behalf of all of us.

5 Let me just -- let me just add one item.

6 Can you still hear me, Michele? Everybody?

7 MS. RICHARDS: Yes, we can.

8 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. On July 20th,
9 1918, an individual enlisted in the United States Marine
10 Corps for the duration of the war. And on October 1st,
11 this young Marine began his basic training at Parris
12 Island, South Carolina. And on October 10th of that
13 year, he left on a troop ship, the U.S.S. Pocahontas, to
14 France, and he arrived on the 5th of November, 1918.

15 The war to end all wars ended on November 11th,
16 1918. And that date has subsequently become the date
17 each year that we honor veterans for their service to
18 the country.

19 This young marine spent the next eight months
20 in Germany on the Army -- or in the Army of Occupation
21 and returned in August of 1919 and was honorably
22 discharged in Quantico, Virginia. Private First Class
23 Harry L. La Belle, my dad, very proudly served this
24 country, and this is one story of many stories that
25 individuals can tell.

1 I believe there are some public comments on
2 this item.

3 Summer, do you have public comments?

4 MS. ANGUS: I do.

5 Reggie Mundekis, when you are ready.

6 MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. Good morning.

7 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Are there any public
8 comments, Summer?

9 MS. ANGUS: Yes. Reggie Mundekis is going to
10 speak. Reggie, when you are ready.

11 MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi. Good morning. Reggie
12 Mundekis. Thank you for this opportunity to address you
13 this morning, and I would just like to remind everybody
14 who is having trouble with Zoom, Zoom is like a seance
15 sometimes. You spend a lot of time saying, "I can hear
16 you but I can't see you. I can see you but I can't hear
17 you." So nobody is quite sure the way Zoom works, much
18 in the way we're not sure how seances work. So just
19 keep chipper on it.

20 Regarding this project, this is a good project,
21 it's a needed project. And I would like to thank staff
22 for the amount of time that they have put into the
23 preplanning for this. And I learned a new term;
24 "gorilla hair" has nothing to do with gorillas.

25 I would just like to put something out there

1 for people to think about on this project. In some
2 ways, this is the restoration of the Memorial Garden
3 that was in front of the building, which was moved to
4 make Heroes Hall. Memorial Garden was established to
5 honor World War II and other veterans. Over time, it
6 was ripped out and dismantled to make away for change.

7 Eventually some future board or staff is going
8 to decide that this project has to go, along with other
9 parts of the Heroes Hall project. And now is the time
10 to think about, when that time comes, what happens to
11 the various memorial plaques and other objects which
12 have gone into that memorial? Are those returned to
13 families? Are those handed over to a custodian? You
14 know, you might want to think about that and have some
15 sort of language enabled with those wishes.

16 So thank you.

17 MS. ANGUS: Thank you, Reggie.

18 Chair La Belle, that's all for public comment
19 on this item.

20 MR. BERARDINO: Hello? Can anybody hear me?
21 No? Wait a second.

22 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: We can hear you.

23 MS. RICHARDS: Yeah. Chair La Belle --

24 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: We can hear you.

25 MS. RICHARDS: Yeah. I -- I believe Chair La

1 Belle was going to introduce the president of the Heroes
2 Hall Veterans Foundation, who wanted to make public
3 comment as well.

4 So Nick, you are on mute now, but if you
5 unmute --

6 DIRECTOR AITKEN: This is Director Aitken. I
7 see him -- the president of the Heroes Hall Foundation
8 on. Can we ask him to make his presentation?

9 MR. BERARDINO: Yes. Can you hear me now?

10 MS. RICHARDS: We can, Nick. Go ahead.

11 MR. BERARDINO: Okay. Thank you.

12 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you,
13 honorable Board members and staff.

14 First, really quickly, I want to thank all of
15 you. What you have done for Heroes Hall and what you
16 have done for the veterans community is -- let me tell
17 you -- is noted everywhere.

18 Had the opportunity to be all over the veterans
19 community last four months. We have built a huge
20 coalition on a cemetery of 157 veterans organizations.
21 And everywhere I go, they comment about Heroes Hall and
22 the beautiful job and the wonderful thing you all do.

23 And the staff, I just want to tell the Board,
24 between Ken Karns and Michele and Joan and Carol, and
25 I'm probably missing somebody, unbelievable what they

1 produced there.

2 Getting quickly to the wall and to the Serenity
3 Garden, this is a project that comes, really, very close
4 to our hearts.

5 Veterans suicide is way out of control. We're
6 losing 22 to 23 veterans a day. The very unfortunate
7 part about this is, the majority of them now are Vietnam
8 vets, and Vietnam vets who have entered into retirement
9 and began to deal with their demons, and are unable to,
10 and are killing themselves at a very, very quick rate.

11 Others of us are just dying because we're
12 getting old, and there's some of us that are just kind
13 of waiting for the call.

14 It has been a long, long journey for Vietnam
15 vets. I mean, we came home. They spit on us. When I
16 came home, after going through the Tet Offensive and
17 being at a place called Khe Sanh. And when I came to
18 the San Francisco Airport, someone yelled at me and
19 threw a cup of ice at me.

20 And we went into hiding for 50 years and we
21 have come out of hiding. And, you know, it's a lot to
22 catch up on.

23 But as we go and march into the evening of our
24 lives, we really need something like this, a serenity
25 opportunity for us to have the opportunity to sit and to

1 think and to try to find peace and try to find some
2 sense of calm to help us and many of us just kind of get
3 through the last stretch in our lives.

4 And for the young veterans. You know, I talked
5 to a young veteran who came to Heroes Hall. He was part
6 of the Afghanistan, you know, fiasco, was caught there,
7 as you know, that Marine division in Camp Pendleton;
8 that was the division that was caught there.

9 He came to Heroes Hall. He was brought there
10 by his girlfriend and he just -- you know, he just --
11 you could tell, the idea that he just wasn't left on
12 television, you know, with people gawking about what a
13 terrible thing it was. He had an opportunity to see
14 that people really care.

15 And this will make a very big difference to our
16 community. It will be a community project that will
17 help us heal and be another part of the veterans
18 community at Heroes Hall that is revered by the
19 community.

20 And so there's other vets who are texting me,
21 trying to get on. They are too old. I only had to be
22 texting for three days to figure out how to get on.
23 Although it's easy, we are just technically, you know,
24 retarded, I suppose.

25 But speaking for all of them, I want to say,

1 God bless all of you for everything you have done. And
2 we urge you, please approve this project and approve
3 this recommendation.

4 Thank you very much for your time.

5 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Nick.

6 Chair La Belle, do we have you on the line?

7 (No response.)

8 MS. RICHARDS: Okay. Vice Chair Pham, can I
9 turn it over to you?

10 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: Yeah. There's no other
11 public comments?

12 MS. RICHARDS: There are no other public
13 comments.

14 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: So I think, at this
15 point, we can either -- you know, any comments from the
16 Board members, or we can kind of just put it up to vote.
17 So if there's any comment to Board members, feel free.

18 I guess, for me, I will start first.
19 Understanding, you know, just confirming that this is
20 already on the budget for 2024. I should probably know
21 this, but I just want to confirm that, first and
22 foremost.

23 And secondarily, trying to understand the need
24 or the urgency to move it up from 2024 to the next year.
25 Is there any sort of synergies or operational

1 efficiencies by accomplishing this?

2 And, if not, understanding, you know, the
3 staff's capacity, that's kind of helped facilitate this
4 as well during the next year, considering this has been
5 a pretty interesting last couple of years.

6 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Director Aitken. I would
7 like to, Vice Chair, make a comment.

8 (No response.)

9 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Hearing no objection, I guess
10 I will -- so one of the things -- I am very excited for
11 the president of the Heroes Hall Foundation, as well as
12 our current chair. This was a pet project and a -- just
13 a labor of love for those of us that have been on the
14 Board for a long time. And I am excited to see this
15 moving forward.

16 I have a suggestion, and I wanted to just talk
17 to my other Board members about it: I was wondering if
18 this is something that we could move to the Facilities
19 Committee for further exploration, because we have had a
20 lot of talks about what we want this project to
21 eventually look like.

22 And I was going through the proposal, and I saw
23 a lot of the potential bids on some of the items. And
24 it really brought me back to what we talked about at our
25 last meeting about our strategic plan, is bringing

1 people more involved into this project, bringing more
2 community, more eyes, on to our facilities.

3 And, you know, we had talked about having
4 people be able to buy bricks for their loved ones that
5 were -- served and may have lost or may have passed due
6 to old age.

7 We talked about potentially reaching out to Boy
8 Scouts to build -- have Eagle Scout projects where we
9 could have the Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts adopt a bench.

10 I know that Director Ruiz has connections with
11 the laborers, and perhaps they would be able to adopt a
12 project.

13 One of the carpenters in Orange County, who
14 helped us so much with the building of -- a redo of the
15 Pacific Amphitheater, I believe that we can reach out to
16 them and their veterans committee to maybe help adopt
17 and build a bench for us.

18 So I would really like to explore how we make
19 this a community project and how we bring so many people
20 that are supporters of the veterans, that are supporters
21 of the Orange County Fair, supporters of Heroes Hall,
22 build that connectivity, as we talked about at our
23 strategic planning session; and explore how we can, you
24 know, bring them on board for this, as we budgeted --
25 budget it for the next two years.

1 So if -- I don't know how other board members
2 feel about that, but I just think this would be such a
3 wonderful fit. And I like the connectivity between our
4 Board, our community, and Heroes Hall. And I would like
5 to explore how we can really build on that, as we talked
6 about last week.

7 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I have a comment.

8 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: On the -- can you hear
9 me, Michele?

10 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. Chair La Belle, I believe
11 Director Bagneris wanted to make a comment.

12 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. I'm calling in,
13 just so you know. I'm off the -- I'm looking at the
14 agenda on my computer.

15 So can you hear me clearly at this point?

16 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. Yes. We can hear you very
17 well.

18 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: All right. Sorry for
19 the confusion from the technology. It can be the work
20 of the devil sometimes.

21 Okay. Yes. Director Bagneris, please go
22 ahead.

23 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes. Thank you.

24 I was thinking about when we had our budget
25 meeting -- and we did discuss this. And the reason we

1 did not bring it forward in the capital budget, into the
2 current year, the ensuing year, is because part of it
3 was that we are in the middle of a strategic plan. And
4 it seems to me that we would want to really discuss this
5 more at length -- kind of speaking to what Director
6 Aitken said -- to maybe send it to the Facilities
7 Committee so we can fully explore what this is going to
8 do.

9 I know every time that we have a new project
10 for Heroes Hall -- and I love Heroes Hall -- it tends to
11 cost us tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of
12 dollars. And I would like to see us really explore this
13 and make sure that this is something that, fiscally, we
14 really do want to bring in. It was comfortable in where
15 it was, but to bring it in earlier, what are those
16 fiscal impacts, and how does this affect the strategic
17 plan? What else are we deciding we want to do with
18 Heroes Hall?

19 So I kind of concur that we do want to explore
20 this a little bit more. And we did have this lengthy
21 discussion about this during the time of the budget.

22 So that would be my only comments.

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

25 Are there any other comments?

1 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yeah. This is Director Ruiz.

2 Also, I could not agree more with Director
3 Aitken and Bagneris as well. I would love for that to
4 be -- you know, again, moved over to the Facilities
5 Committee.

6 I love the idea of Director Aitken of the
7 bricks, kind of like when you walk into Anaheim Stadium,
8 you see all the sponsors there; you see the families who
9 have lost their loved ones sponsor it. You know, things
10 like that. It's a great source of revenue and I could
11 not agree more. So I would also agree to also hand this
12 over to the Facilities Committee, which I happen to sit
13 on with Director Aitken. I would love to take on
14 something like that as well.

15 BOARD CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Any further
16 comments by the directors?

17 (No response.)

18 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Any other public
19 comments? I'm assuming everybody can still hear me now.

20 MS. ANGUS: Yeah. There is no more public
21 comment.

22 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. Is there a motion
23 that anyone would like to make relative to this item?

24 DIRECTOR AITKEN: This is Director Aitken.

25 I would like to make the motion to move the

1 Serenity Walk project, with consent of my fellow
2 committee members, to the Facilities Committee to
3 explore whether we can schedule this for 2022. That
4 would be the end of my motion.

5 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Second.

6 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Thank you. Thank you for the
7 second.

8 As a side note, I would like to say that as we
9 all operate better with deadlines, you know, with my
10 fellow Director Ruiz's consent, if we could have this
11 with a report back to the Board before the fair -- so
12 I'm thinking May or June of 2022 -- with just an update
13 and a commitment that we would like to see this happen,
14 but a more concrete plan with what we can do with our
15 budget.

16 Obviously, not part of the motion, but would
17 like to put that on a further agenda so that we are
18 following up on this, and it doesn't get lost in the
19 weeds.

20 DIRECTOR RUIZ: I second that.

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

23 Just to speak to the motion, we will be
24 hopefully concluding the strategic planning process by
25 no later than February. If there's any way that the

1 Facilities Committee could bring their recommendation
2 back to the full Board as a part of the strategic
3 planning process, including in February, is that an
4 acceptable amendment to the motion, that the maker and
5 the second might be willing to consider?

6 DIRECTOR RUIZ: I would defer to the maker of
7 the motion. Director Aitken.

8 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes. Yeah. Thank you. I
9 would accept a friendly --

10 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: If we vote on the motion --

11 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Is there any -- is there
12 any further discussion?

13 Go ahead.

14 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I'm sorry. The directors
15 were breaking up.

16 Are you saying that you are amending this
17 motion on the -- that's out right now? Or we're going
18 to leave it as it is? I couldn't hear. I'm just
19 asking --

20 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Director Ruiz? Director
21 Aitken?

22 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I'm finding, as a matter of
23 practicality, I believe that the Facilities Committee is
24 going to report back monthly --

25 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

1 DIRECTOR AITKEN: -- on this, as we meet.

2 Why I did not make it a part of my motion --
3 but the scope of the motion is, I would like to give us
4 a deadline of at least having a concept or an answer to
5 my fellow board members before the fair, which is
6 June 22. So I'm fine with the amendment if my cosponsor
7 is.

8 But as a matter of practicality, I believe
9 we'll be speaking to this as an ongoing effort. And
10 obviously, if any board member has any questions, we can
11 bring it up at any time.

12 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Director Bagneris, does
13 that -- were you able to hear that?

14 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes. So the motion stands
15 as original, with just the amendment was that we were
16 going to try to get it done by fair time. So if that's
17 February, March, April, May, it's before fair time.

18 So with that, I would call for the question on
19 the previous motion.

20 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. Summer, could you
21 call the roll, please.

22 MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle.

23 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes.

24 MS. ANGUS: Vice Chair Pham.

25 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: Yes.

1 MS. ANGUS: Director Cervantes.

2 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.

3 MS. ANGUS: Director Ruiz.

4 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes.

5 MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

6 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

7 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

8 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

9 MS. ANGUS: And Director Rafiei.

10 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

11 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

12 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Item 8E -- pardon me --
13 is the next item. Michele, can you introduce this item,
14 please.

15 MS. RICHARDS: Yes, I will.

16 Prior to 2021, the organization retained a
17 lobbyist firm, Gonsalves & Sons, and Gonsalves & Sons
18 represented the 32nd DAA on legislative issues and kept
19 staff and the Board apprised of any pending legislation
20 that would affect us directly or the fair industry.

21 The monthly retainer for that -- that service,
22 at the time, was \$5,000 a month, or 60,000 per year. We
23 eliminated the use of the lobbyist in our 2021 budget.
24 So that service ended in December of 2020, mainly due to
25 the need to cut costs and then, you know, obviously,

1 there's a decreased need for representation at the time.

2 So this issue was discussed briefly with the
3 new Governmental Relations Committee, and the committee
4 made a decision to not really take a position on it, but
5 to bring it to the Board for further discussion and
6 consideration.

7 So I will turn it back to you, Chair La Belle.

8 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.

9 Before we turn it over to the directors, are
10 there any public comments on this item, Summer?

11 MS. ANGUS: No. Not on this item.

12 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. Bringing it back
13 to the directors, any comments relative to the use of a
14 legislative lobbyist on a go-forward basis?

15 (No response.)

16 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Chair La Belle, this is
17 Director Aitken. May I make a few comments?

18 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Please. Thank you.

19 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Thank you so much.

20 So we -- Vice Chair Pham and I had our first
21 meeting as the newly formed Legislative Committee. And
22 this is one of the issues that we were speaking about.

23 And I think looking into next year's budget and
24 kind of seeing where we are and seeing where we would
25 like to be, budget-wise, I was -- I wanted to kind of

1 explore with the other board members about taking a more
2 fiscally conservative approach. You know, we just heard
3 about an amazing project that I know this Board would
4 love to get behind. And when I look at the monthly
5 cost, I have -- I have a little bit of reservations.

6 I know that there are issues that we would like
7 to explore, as a board, in Sacramento. Just coming to
8 mind are, obviously, the ongoing discussions about the
9 JPAs that are going up and down the state.

10 I know that we would like to, as a Board, have
11 a stronger relationship with our local nonprofits and be
12 able to do what we can as public land, as public
13 stewards of this land, to help our local nonprofits.

14 We also would like to explore whether we can do
15 more for our public officials when we have public facing
16 official -- obviously not fundraising, but official
17 events.

18 So there are issues that we would like to
19 explore with Sacramento.

20 I think as an initial step, we felt more
21 comfortable working with the legislators that we now
22 have in office, some of which are veterans, some have
23 been very, very devoted to issues of the fair, and
24 seeing if we run into any headwinds. If we do and it's
25 something that we cannot -- maybe we -- maybe we cannot

1 rely on the Western Fairs Association. We cannot rely
2 on the personal relationships that we as board members
3 have with our elected officials.

4 I think that then would be a good time to have
5 a lobbyist. But as a standing budget item, I think I'm
6 a bit uncomfortable, personally, because I think that
7 that money could go towards other projects that we're
8 all very passionate about. But I would like to explore
9 that item with my fellow board members.

10 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: This is Director Rafiei. If
11 I could chime in.

12 I agree with Director Aitken. Considering the
13 budget that we're dealing with, this is what a
14 municipality would pay for services like this. I think
15 that we should -- (background noises) -- sorry.
16 Construction.

17 I agree with everything Ashleigh said. We can
18 address this if needed, but I feel like a lot of us on
19 this committee have the political juice to get what we
20 need done. And should we need the services of a
21 professional lobbying firm -- and Gonsalves is a great
22 firm -- we should revisit it then.

23 This is \$60,000 that could go towards, like you
24 said, that Heroes Hall project or other projects. I
25 would rather see it there, personally.

1 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: This is Director Bagneris.
2 I agree with the previous director's comments.

3 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: This is Director
4 Cervantes. And I also agree as well.

5 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Any other comments?

6 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yeah. This is Director Ruiz.
7 So are we asking to table this and come back
8 and bring it at a later meeting? Or are we just not
9 going to act on this?

10 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I think we're just not
11 going to act on it. This was at the Board's discretion.
12 It sounds like we don't have anything to act on right
13 now.

14 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: The only thing I would
15 add -- first of all, can everyone still hear me now that
16 I'm on the phone?

17 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes. Thank you.

18 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. And, again, my
19 apologies.

20 The only thing I would add to the comments. We
21 obviously have at least one piece of legislation that we
22 need to be bringing forward -- pardon me. Perhaps
23 another -- the big unknown out there is this whole joint
24 powers authority concept that, from my perspective, I
25 think it's going to take on a very significant life of

1 its own in terms of things that we're going to need to
2 be addressing. I'm comfortable with putting this off
3 and looking at it, at a later date. We can obviously
4 bring it back at any time.

5 We can also look at, you know, setting a cap in
6 terms of the amount that we wish to put in the RFP. It
7 doesn't necessarily need to be 5,000 a month, but maybe
8 2 or 3 thousand a month.

9 But, again, I would just add that I think we
10 need to be very -- we're going to have to be very
11 responsive to this whole joint powers authority concept
12 and then having additional resources to assist us, and
13 articulating our position as a board may be helpful.

14 But with that, the -- no action is being taken
15 unless anyone wishes to add any further comments.

16 And we will move on to -- move on to Item F.
17 Presentation of the '22 OC Fair theme.

18 MS. RICHARDS: All right. Thank you, Chair La
19 Belle.

20 I am very excited and very pleased to turn this
21 presentation over to our chief business development
22 officer, Joan Hamill.

23 MS. HAMILL: Thank you. And I couldn't be
24 happier to be presenting the 2022 Fair artwork, theme,
25 and dates today.

1 But, first, each board member and CEO Michele
2 Richards have received a special box that I hope they
3 were able to arrange to have with them now.

4 Does everyone have those boxes handy?

5 Okay. Now I see Director Rafiei. Don't open
6 them yet. Don't open them yet. I would ask you to wait
7 until your cue to open those. I want to build up to
8 this, right? A little drama here.

9 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: We're like little kids now,
10 so we're listening.

11 MS. HAMILL: Okay. Great.

12 Michele, if you could give the first slide
13 there.

14 Oh, my goodness. Look at these poor folks. My
15 goodness. They can hardly move. They are tired and
16 bored and cooped up. Just -- I mean, one is just
17 starting to write on himself, he's so bored. And, of
18 course, they are completely done with anything virtual.

19 But there's a cure for these doldrums, and it's
20 sunshine and positivity and fresh air and it's being
21 outdoors and it's being with your friends and family and
22 even friends that you just met that very day; and the
23 most wonderful event that California and Orange County
24 Fair has to offer: The 2022 OC Fair.

25 So everyone can open their boxes now. And

1 we're calling these the "sunshine happy boxes."

2 Michele, okay, you have the slide there.

3 So I'm thrilled to present the 2022 OC Fair
4 theme. It's "Feel the Sunshine." Yay. The dates are
5 July 15th through August 14th, 2022. Michele is going
6 to be scrolling through the box. But at any time, if
7 you want to take your items out and toot the horn and
8 shake your pompom, I would encourage you to do that.
9 Even if you are not on the screen, just make yourself
10 happy.

11 The theme "Feel the Sunshine" highlights
12 optimism, opportunity, and carries the jubilant
13 sentiment of welcoming back the OC Fair.

14 And by the way, everyone, never mind the
15 countdown to some upcoming events, but it's only 211
16 days till the fair, so that gives you plenty of time to
17 get ready for the fair.

18 Looking ahead to summer 2022, we're inviting
19 everyone to reengage with each other, rediscover
20 feelings of happiness, and, most of all, rejoice in the
21 sensations of summer and to have some fun in the sun.
22 So let's all come together to celebrate everything under
23 the sun at the 2022 OC Fair.

24 So just sharing some pictures. To reacquaint
25 you what happens at the fair, the sites, the sounds, the

1 smell, the joy that the fair brings, being together,
2 reconnecting.

3 And like I said, just 211 days. So start the
4 countdown. "Feel the Sunshine," July 15th through
5 August 14th, 2022.

6 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: I love that the piñatas are
7 full of candy already.

8 MS. HAMILL: Oh. I also want to mention that
9 tickets are going on sale, today, advance online
10 tickets. So those make wonderful gifts if anyone is
11 still in the market to buy some gifts to give to their
12 family and friends or themselves. So you can go out
13 today and buy tickets for the 2022 OC Fair.

14 DIRECTOR RUIZ: I love it. I love it. Good
15 job. I love the box and everything that's in it.
16 Awesome.

17 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: I didn't even realize
18 it had candy in it. That's pretty cool.

19 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: That's the first thing I
20 checked. I was like, what a great idea.

21 MS. HAMILL: We have the most creative group of
22 elves here that work -- they are fair elves and they
23 work on this -- all of these things year-round. It's
24 specifically -- they specifically just focus on the
25 fair.

1 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Wow.

2 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Awesome.

3 MS. HAMILL: If you have any questions, I would
4 love to answer them.

5 MS. RICHARDS: I would like to thank Joan and
6 her team.

7 And I agree, we have an outrageously creative
8 team, and this was their way of building up to our
9 theme. I think we all can join in and saying how
10 excited we are to feel the sunshine. And we hope you
11 all have fun with those boxes over the holidays.

12 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I'm only missing one thing:
13 Normally when we're onsite, the animals come in. So I'm
14 missing that.

15 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: That's right.

16 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I was not expecting an
17 animal in the box.

18 MS. RICHARDS: Maybe next year, Barbara.

19 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Thank you so much,
20 Michele. This is such a great idea.

21 MS. RICHARDS: Well, Joan is happy to take any
22 questions anybody has. But we're super excited to
23 launch our theme for the year.

24 And as Joan said, tickets go on sale today, so
25 we're encouraging everybody. You know, make your date

1 reservations, get your tickets. They make great
2 stocking stuffers, for sure.

3 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: You have -- the one question
4 I have. This is Director Rafiei. Is there any social
5 media or anything we can sell about the ticket sales on
6 our own social media platforms?

7 MS. RICHARDS: There certainly will be.
8 Joan?

9 MS. HAMILL: Yes. We're going out today with
10 that today as well. We're launching everything today
11 for the fair, and more to come.

12 So today is just the start, and more
13 information will be coming out in the days and months to
14 come. So, yes, we will have that information, and we
15 can share that with you, Director Rafiei.

16 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: That would be great. Thank
17 you.

18 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I apologized if I missed
19 this.

20 Are we doing super passes next year?

21 MS. HAMILL: We are not doing super passes. We
22 are keeping our prices low, our everyday low prices, and
23 carry that over from 2021 to 2022.

24 DIRECTOR AITKEN: CEO Richards can call my
25 mother and tell her why that's not in the stocking.

1 MS. RICHARDS: I will help you out, Director
2 Aitken. I will see if I could arrange a ride pass for
3 her on the most dangerous ride or the most thrilling
4 ride at the carnival, because I know she's always first
5 in line for that. Okay.

6 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele and
7 Joan. It's outstanding. I opened it here, and it
8 already has provided sunshine to my phone call.

9 Any other comments?

10 Again, I'm looking forward to, as I know all
11 the board members are, next year's -- next year's fair.
12 And hopefully shortly after the first of the year, we
13 can be meeting in person again, and we'll hope for that
14 thing to occur.

15 Okay. Moving forward to the committee reports.

16 Summer, are there any public comments relative
17 to this item?

18 MS. ANGUS: No public comment for this item.

19 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Okay. Going down the
20 list, the Leadership Committee.

21 Vice Chair Pham and myself have established a
22 regular meeting date that we will be meeting with --
23 with Michele and staff, and we'll be bringing back
24 reports in terms of the Leadership Committee as we
25 progress through the year.

1 Director Bagneris, do you have any further
2 comments on the Financial Monitoring and Audit
3 Committee?

4 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I would just say that
5 Director Kovacevich and I did meet with the staff on --
6 last week, at our normal monthly standing meeting. And
7 we did go over all of the financials and the annual
8 budget review, the audit process, and we -- we also
9 talked about the audit a little bit earlier today, with
10 Lance, Soll & Lunghard. So our financials look great.
11 It is a success story like none other I have ever heard,
12 that we can go from a deficit to fully recovering, and
13 going beyond.

14 So I'm so proud and thankful to our staff who,
15 through the pandemic, kept their heads down and did what
16 needed to be done to get us to this place. Our
17 financial officers, Esther and company, have just done
18 an excellent job, and we look forward to continuing with
19 our work in the Financial Monitoring and Audit
20 Committee.

21 I will mention that the RFP was due in -- RFPs
22 were due in last Friday.

23 MS. RICHARDS: On Friday. Yes.

24 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: On Friday. And we did
25 receive one submittal. So we are going to be moving

1 forward with that process, and we look forward to having
2 a successful completion of that project.

3 So with that, I will turn it back to you,
4 Director La Belle.

5 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Director
6 Bagneris.

7 The next item is the Facilities Committee.
8 Director Ruiz, Director Aitken, any additional comments?

9 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes. We do have a brief
10 comment. First of all, I just wanted to, again, go back
11 to that box. The office staff here is loving it. They
12 loved the piñata. Tomorrow we're having a holiday party
13 and we're actually going to break out. So we'll see how
14 that works out. Thank you again, Michele. Everyone is
15 loving it.

16 So having said -- yeah. Having said that. We
17 just have a brief report. Instead of a phone call
18 meeting, which we couldn't do, Michele put together a
19 very great brief report and details as to where we're at
20 now, with certain things.

21 I know we had approved the one-year agreement
22 with the -- with the Equestrian Center and Rick Hansen.
23 And I believe, Michele, that was already given to them,
24 right?

25 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. And it -- I have

1 countersigned it. It is now fully executed and goes
2 into effect on January 1st.

3 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Nice. Nice.

4 And, again, we -- yes. (Background noise)
5 Doug?

6 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Hello?

7 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes. Like I was saying, after
8 approval of the 2022 budget and the Cap X list, Jerry
9 and his team are willing putting out to bid some of
10 those projects. So hopefully those will be ready once
11 the new budget goes into effect, starting January 1st of
12 next year.

13 And also, Michele, if you can highlight on
14 this, I know the OC Animal Care, you guys were reaching
15 out to them for an agreement. Did they ever get back to
16 us? I know you were reaching out with e-mails and
17 stuff.

18 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes. We have a call
19 scheduled with them later today.

20 In the prep call yesterday, Andi Bernard, the
21 head of OC Animal Care, did indicate to me that there is
22 a finalized, signed MOU on their end. So I haven't seen
23 it in my hands yet, but as soon as I get it, I will
24 countersign it, and we will be good to go with that as
25 well.

1 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Oh, great. That's great news.
2 And of course the other item was covered under
3 8D, which was the proposed Serenity Garden at Heroes
4 Hall.

5 So we're moving right along. And it's -- we're
6 getting a lot done, and we are looking forward to
7 getting a lot more done coming the new year, 2022.

8 So with that, that's going to be the report.
9 Unless Director Aitken has any additional comments,
10 that's my report.

11 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Well done. Nope.

12 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Director
13 Ruiz.

14 The Governance Committee. Director Cervantes,
15 do you have any comments?

16 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes. Thank you.

17 The committee did meet and discussed initiating
18 a process to review and recommend updates to the current
19 Board policies. Staff will start the review and provide
20 suggestions for the committee on the policy updates to
21 consider at possibly the next meeting.

22 Once the policies are reviewed, then the
23 committee will present its recommendations to the Board
24 for consideration.

25 The committee also discussed the current

1 cannabis policy and concluded that any amendments should
2 include thoughtful development, as there were many
3 factors involved in developing the current policy.
4 County fairgrounds and event centers in close to
5 proximity to schools and parks and the sentiments of the
6 surrounding residents. So we hope to have an update for
7 you guys soon.

8 And that concludes my Governance Committee.

9 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Director
10 Cervantes.

11 Community Affairs Committee. Director
12 Bagneris, Director Rafiei, any comments?

13 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Thank you.

14 We are continuing on every month and every time
15 something in the year occurs, that we need to celebrate
16 or we want to make sure that we do that. And so I would
17 like to turn it over to Michele at this time so that she
18 can present this month's presentation.

19 MS. RICHARDS: I would be happy to do that.

20 International Day of Persons with Disabilities
21 is celebrated on December 3rd, and we're recognizing
22 that today. That day was proclaimed in 1992 by the
23 United Nations General Assembly. And the day aims to
24 promote the rights and wellbeing of persons with
25 disabilities and increase awareness in every aspect of

1 political, social, economic, and cultural life.

2 According to the American Communities Survey,
3 conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately eight
4 and a half percent of Orange County residents have some
5 sort of physical, mental, or emotional disability. So
6 if we use that same percentage, we're estimating that
7 about 85,000 guests at the 2021 OC Fair were people with
8 disabilities.

9 And even though we don't measure that
10 demographic in our fair surveys, we not only welcome all
11 to the OC Fair, but we aim to break down barriers to
12 accessibility for people with disabilities.

13 Our OCFair.com website is fully accessible,
14 including closed captioning for all of our posted
15 videos.

16 If you haven't played around with it, it's
17 really interesting to go online and look at all of
18 the -- all of the adjustments that can be made for our
19 guests with disabilities.

20 The website features an equal access
21 information page for our guests. And RCS, our current
22 carnival provider, also publishes an accessibility guide
23 for our guests who wish to enjoy the carnival.

24 We continually work toward full ADA compliance
25 even with our aging facilities. And, of course,

1 anything new that we build is always in full compliance,
2 from the start, with the Americans with Disabilities
3 Act.

4 And some of you might remember that before the
5 pandemic, we hosted our annual Friends of the Fair Day,
6 where we opened the fair for preregistered guests early,
7 to come and enjoy the fair with their -- with their
8 families.

9 So this is a topic that's near and dear to many
10 of us, is making sure that those in our community with
11 disabilities are able to equally enjoy everything that
12 we offer here at the OC Fair & Events Center.

13 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Thank you so much for that
14 presentation and thanks to staff who helped pull these
15 together.

16 I think it's important that we acknowledge
17 these dates. Some of them are on the calendar, some may
18 not be. But we should acknowledge all of the different
19 ways that we can be more involved in our community and
20 show that we are a community-based organization, that we
21 meet in the family square so that we can support each
22 other.

23 So I really, really appreciate this
24 presentation and the effort that it takes to put the
25 information together.

1 And I would also like to ask if Director Rafiei
2 has anything to say.

3 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Thank you so much, Director
4 Bagneris.

5 This is wonderful. I appreciate what staff has
6 put together.

7 I don't know if you know -- all know, but one
8 of my employees is in a wheelchair, and she has more
9 abilities than most people do who are not in a
10 wheelchair. And it's changed my life and how I approach
11 our community members with a disability, because
12 realizing how integral they are to our success as a
13 community.

14 So thank you for putting this together. I
15 appreciate it. And I look forward to making sure that
16 community has access to the fairgrounds, the fair, and
17 everything that we do.

18 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Absolutely. Absolutely.

19 At my job, we call them "differently abled,"
20 and it puts a new light on thinking about how
21 disabilities affect people.

22 With that, I will turn it back over to Director
23 La Belle.

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

1 Entertainment and Business Development
2 Committee.

3 I know you met. Director Cervantes, do you
4 have any comments?

5 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes. That is correct.

6 And we're actually excited about this. We met
7 on December 9th. And the committee discussed ideas for
8 future involvement, including -- or how the Board will
9 work with staff on entertainment. It will be
10 self-produced cultural events. The offerings at the
11 annual OC Fair to include more variety and diversity on
12 entertainment options, expanding entertainment
13 opportunities year-round, and working with OC City- and
14 Orange County-wide events.

15 And that concludes my update.

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

18 Governmental Relations Committee. I know,
19 Director Aitken, you spoke earlier about the legislative
20 lobbyist.

21 Any further comments you would like to make at
22 this time?

23 DIRECTOR AITKEN: No, Chair.

24 We are -- we are new. We have only had one
25 meeting, so we will look forward to updating the Board

1 in the New Year.

2 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Director
3 Aitken.

4 Centennial Farm Foundation. Director Rafiei,
5 do you have any comments you would like to make at this
6 time?

7 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: You know, I haven't had a
8 chance to attend any of their meetings yet, so I am
9 hopeful that I will get to attend a meeting and give you
10 an update when I have done so.

11 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Perfect. Thanks so
12 much.

13 Heroes Hall Veterans Foundation. We spoke to
14 the most current matter before the foundation, and we're
15 going to continue our fundraising efforts to assist in
16 programming and projects at the Veterans Foundation
17 Museum.

18 Okay. At this time, we are going to recess
19 into closed session. For those of us that are on the
20 phone -- I believe there's several of us -- do we just
21 wait to go in, or is there something else we need to do
22 at this time, Summer?

23 MS. ANGUS: I have the room ready.

24 Chair La Belle, it looks like you are the only
25 one that's dialed in, so it should push you there

1 automatically. So I'm ready to open that room now.

2 (Closed session: 10:53 a.m. to

3 11:19 a.m.)

4 BOARD CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: The Board
5 considered the legal advice of Counsel on the matters
6 listed on the closed session portion of the agenda, and
7 the Board has nothing further to report.

8 So with that, Michele, do you want to go to
9 your CEO's operational announcements?

10 MS. ANGUS: You are on mute.

11 MS. RICHARDS: Sorry.

12 Just a few operational updates. The governor's
13 budget included \$50.3 million in targeted funding for
14 fairs. And originally, this funding was designated only
15 for those fairs that needed emergency funding, so we did
16 not apply for those funds.

17 However, Michael Flores, who is the new Deputy
18 Agriculture Secretary, believes that all fairs in the
19 state should have some level of financial support from
20 the 2021/2022 budget. And, as a result, we received the
21 baseline amount of \$285,000 from the State. Just to
22 give you a fix on that, it represents about 15 percent
23 of our monthly operational expenses. So we are very
24 grateful for that support from the State.

25 The International Association of Fairs and

1 Expositions has announced our 2021 Achievement Awards,
2 and the OC Fair is the recipient of three 1st place
3 awards, one 2nd place awards, and two 3rd place awards,
4 which include top honors for our digital advertising,
5 our garden and floral exhibits, and livestock exhibits,
6 with additional awards for our souvenir fans. You know
7 the fans that everybody loves at the fair. That won
8 second place as a souvenir. We were recognized for our
9 out-of-the-box marketing and our virtual livestock
10 auctions. So congratulations to our staff for those
11 achievements.

12 And of note is that this is the International
13 Association of Fairs and Expositions, so to win top
14 honors at an international level is quite an
15 achievement.

16 On Saturday, November 27th, the original OC
17 Swap Meet kicked off Small Business Saturday with a
18 special ribbon cutting, welcoming 25 new merchants.
19 Joan Hamill and I were there to welcome the new
20 merchants on behalf of the OC Fair & Events Center and
21 congratulate them on completing the Small Business
22 Development Center Program out of Cal State Fullerton.

23 It was a really good turnout, as customers
24 kicked off their holiday shopping, and I'm very happy to
25 report that the original swap meet has now grown to

1 nearly 190 merchants and has two additional swap meets
2 scheduled here in December. So it's really nice to see
3 them continue to grow and thrive.

4 On December 4th, Centennial Farm welcomed about
5 30 people from the California Farm Bureau's Young
6 Farmers and Ranchers Group. Centennial Farms Operations
7 Supervisor Omar Sanchez and Agriculture Education
8 Supervisor Evy Young conducted the tour with this very
9 fun group of young adults, and it was the first time
10 visit for the group. They were very impressed with
11 Centennial Farm.

12 And following that, a culinary group from
13 Coastline ROP also toured Centennial Farm as part of an
14 extra credit project. Staff gave the background
15 information about the farm and our educational programs.
16 And three of these young adults that you see in the
17 photo even remembered touring Centennial Farm with their
18 kindergarten classes when they were back in elementary
19 school. So it was great to see them, you know, continue
20 in that -- that field with their studies.

21 Director Pham gave a really great financial
22 update but we're in -- I'm sorry. Director Bagneris.
23 We're in very good shape. As you can see, our
24 year-to-date revenue is favorable to budget by
25 \$26.6 million. We are -- just slightly overbudget on

1 expenses, but more events generates more revenue, but it
2 also generates more expenses. But the staff is doing a
3 phenomenal job of keeping those -- those expenses low.

4 So our net proceeds, at this point, is
5 favorable to budget by almost \$26.6 million. We expect
6 to have a bottom line coming out of this year, once we
7 close the books on 2021, of about 14 to 15 million
8 dollars in net proceeds. So that represents quite --
9 quite a turnaround for us.

10 We are doing very well on our cash and cash
11 equivalents. Between our cash accounts and our
12 investments, we're at a little over \$60 million. That's
13 a 40.5 percent increase year over year.

14 So -- and I'm going to turn it over to Joan
15 Hamill to tell us what's coming up in terms of events.

16 Joan.

17 MS. HAMILL: Thank you, Michele.

18 We have a few events coming up and taking place
19 through the end of the year:

20 Share Our Selves Adopt A Family takes place
21 tonight. This is a fundraiser and shares with families
22 in need in our community.

23 As Michele mentioned, the original swap meet
24 took place last month, and it's taking place again this
25 weekend, on the 18th.

1 We have the Christmas tree lot through the
2 19th.

3 Night of Lights through January 2nd.

4 And COVID testing will continue through
5 January 31st.

6 Upcoming in January, next month, we have Bride
7 World taking place on January 9th.

8 The So Cal World Guitar Show
9 January 22nd through 23rd.

10 Of course, the Farmers Market takes place
11 weekly on Thursdays from 9:00 to 1:00 p.m. Enjoy that.
12 You get your fresh produce.

13 And then our on-site events: Heroes Hall. Our
14 hours continue every day except Monday and Tuesday,
15 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

16 Again, the recently refreshed Santa Ana Army
17 Air Base exhibit on the second floor. If you haven't
18 seen that, I would invite you to come out and see that.

19 And then "Through Their Eyes" exhibition. This
20 was the juried show that we did after fair. It will be
21 running through January 20th. And then we will be
22 closing to install a new exhibit after that.

23 The holiday workshops at Centennial Farm: We
24 have one more this month that's taking place this
25 Saturday. Make it, Take it-Gifts from the Kitchen.

1 This is about food preservations. I'm hearing some word
2 that it might be filling up, so you might want to check
3 the website for that.

4 Centennial Farm, of course, is -- visitors that
5 we have throughout the day.

6 In January 2022, our weekday hours will change
7 because we're going to be reinstituting our junior
8 farmer tours in the morning, so public hours will be
9 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., with Saturday and Sunday hours
10 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for the public.

11 Also at Centennial Farm, we have our Discovery
12 Days. We have one taking place tomorrow. We're
13 expecting a couple of hundred students that will be
14 coming out with their teachers and classes to enjoy the
15 farm; and then again on January 13th.

16 I would invite you to take a look at the
17 website for more information, dates, and times, for all
18 of our events. Heroes Hall and Centennial Farm will
19 have some holiday closures. So I would double check
20 before visiting. But, otherwise, we're open and
21 running.

22 And that concludes my report.

23 MS. RICHARDS: All right. Thank you very much,
24 Joan.

25 The team is doing a phenomenal job. And I know

1 that, you know, oftentimes, in our public meetings,
2 Joan, Ken, and I get a lot of accolades, but I think
3 they would both join me in saying that we have a
4 tremendous team at the OC Fair & Events Center. They
5 did a phenomenal job of our turnaround this year, and
6 the credit goes to all of them for bringing it and doing
7 their best every single day.

8 So whoever on line with us today, thank you so
9 much, guys.

10 And one more thing is, I know he's not here
11 today, but wanted to extend a very happy birthday to
12 Director Kovacevich, who celebrates his birthday in
13 December.

14 So Chair La Belle, we're ready to take it back
15 to you.

16 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.

17 Board of Directors, matters of information
18 would be the last item.

19 Director Aitken.

20 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Thank you so much.

21 I appreciate all the amazing work that must
22 have gone into making that beautiful box. My kids are
23 going to break the heck out of that piñata within five
24 minutes of it coming home.

25 Thank you, everybody. Merry Christmas and

1 Happy Holidays and Happy New Year. And I look forward
2 to seeing everybody next year.

3 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Ashleigh.
4 Director Bagneris.

5 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: That's my horn. Did you
6 hear it? Okay. I appreciate the box as well. In fact,
7 as soon as this meeting is over, I'm going to go and
8 roast these sunflower and pumpkin seeds and eat them
9 right away.

10 I am really appreciative to the Board for
11 changing the time. I had no problem coming on at 9:30.
12 And normally, it's hit and miss whether or not I'm going
13 to be able to make it. So this time, really, really,
14 it's much better for me and I hope for others, and I
15 appreciate the Board taking immediate response to move
16 the meeting time to 9:30.

17 With that, I would also like to wish everybody
18 a Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy New Year, enjoy
19 the holidays. Stay safe, stay safe, stay safe. So
20 we'll see you in the New Year.

21 And I like -- I have started to say, everything
22 will be new in 2022. So thank you.

23 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Barbara.
24 Thank you so much.

25 Director Rafiei, any comments at this time?

1 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Well, thank you so much,
2 Director La Belle and everyone. It's been an exciting
3 couple of months for me as the newest board member. I
4 really appreciated getting caught up.

5 If I knew I would get toy boxes and stuff like
6 this, I would have signed up earlier to do this work.

7 But I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas
8 and Happy New Year, and looking forward to doing a whole
9 bunch of new in 2022 with Barbara and the rest of the
10 team. Thank you.

11 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Melahat.

12 Director Ruiz.

13 DIRECTOR RUIZ: Yes. I also just wanted to
14 wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, Happy
15 Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa. And I look forward to seeing
16 everyone again next year.

17 And like Director Bagneris, please be safe out
18 there. Keep those masks on. And just stay safe out
19 there. Stay safe and healthy. That's it. Thank you.

20 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Robert.

21 Director Pham.

22 VICE CHAIRPERSON PHAM: Yeah. No. The box --
23 you know, having to come into the office today, opening
24 it up, definitely brightened up the day. It's a really
25 great theme and color scheme and really appreciate staff

1 for putting that together, and just wanted to wish
2 everyone out there a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
3 Yeah. That's it.

4 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thanks, Newton.
5 Director Cervantes. Sandra.

6 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes. Wishing everybody a
7 Merry Christmas. Yes. Can you hear me?

8 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Yes.

9 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Wishing everybody a very
10 Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

11 And I certainly appreciate the entire OC staff.
12 Thank you for all you do.

13 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Sandra.

14 Michele, do you have anything further to add?

15 MS. RICHARDS: No. Just to thank the Board for
16 your constant support, and wish everybody a very Merry
17 Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year from all
18 of us.

19 CHAIRPERSON LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.

20 I would like to ditto all the directors'
21 comments. And encourage everybody to, as Robert said,
22 wear your masks, stay safe. You know, everybody is
23 pretty much out and about now with the holiday season.

24 I want to thank all of my colleagues on the
25 Board for their continuing support and efforts on behalf

1 of the district. And I want to wish everybody a merry
2 Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy Holidays. Stay safe,
3 and we'll see you all in January.

4 And, with that, the next Board meeting is
5 January 27th, and we stand adjourned.

6 (Proceedings concluded at 11:33 a.m.)

7 ---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 29th day of December 2021.

Kathryn Swank

KATHRYN S. SWANK, CSR
Certified Shorthand Reporter
License No. 13061

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