



In the Matter Of:

OC FAIR & EVENT CENTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 28, 2022

Case No:

CERTIFIED COPY

32nd District Agricultural Association
OC Fair & Event Center
88 Fair Drive
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Thursday, April 28, 2022

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Reported By:

Katherine Thomas, CSR No. 14378

APPEARANCES

Board of Directors

Doug La Belle, Board Chair

Sandra Cervantes, Member

Barbara Bagneris, Member

Ashleigh Aitken, Member

Nick Kovacevich, Member

Melahat Rafiei, Member

Secretary-Treasurer

Michele Richards, Chief Executive Officer

32nd DAA Counsel

Josh Caplan, Office of the California Attorney General

Ken Karns, Chief Operating Officer/COO

Joan Hamill, Chief Business Development Officer

Summer Angus, Meeting Secretary/Executive Assistant

1 32nd District Agricultural Association

2 OC Fair & Event Center

3 88 Fair Drive

4 Costa Mesa, CA 92626

5
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7 Thursday, April 28, 2022

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9 CHAIR LA BELLE: I'm going to call the meeting to
10 order. First of all, I would like to welcome all of my
11 fellow directors, some of whom I haven't seen in a long time,
12 all of the staff and all of our residents and citizens who
13 attend the meeting, I want to welcome you all.

14 This is our first in-person meeting in 25 months.
15 So it will take us a little while to get back into the swing
16 of things.

17 Items on the agenda may be considered for action as
18 noted, as long as they are on the agenda. Items not on the
19 agenda may not be considered.

20 The Chair has the prerogative of scheduling the
21 order of the items on the agenda and at this point in time,
22 I'm not going to be moving any items. So we'll proceed
23 accordingly.

24 The current mission, scheduled to change very soon,
25 of the Orange County Fair and Event Center is consideration

1 of Orange County's community interest, agriculture and
2 heritage with results justifying the expenditures made.

3 With that, Sandra is here, would you lead us in the
4 pledge of allegiance, please?

5 (Pledge of allegiance conducted.)

6 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Thank you.

7 CHAIR LA BELLE: Summer, could you call the roll,
8 please?

9 MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle.

10 CHAIR LA BELLE: Here.

11 MS. ANGUS: Vice Chair Pham.

12 Director Rubalcava-Garcia.

13 Director Cervantes.

14 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Here.

15 MS. ANGUS: Director Ruiz.

16 Director Bagneris.

17 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Here.

18 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

19 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Present.

20 MS. ANGUS: Director Kovacevich.

21 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Here.

22 MS. ANGUS: And Director Rafiei.

23 CHAIR LA BELLE: Before we proceed with the minutes,
24 Michele, could you kind of do some housekeeping stuff --

25 MS. RICHARDS: I will.

1 CHAIR LA BELLE: -- remind us of what we do and
2 don't do.

3 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. After 25 months, welcome back
4 everyone. It's just so good to see everyone in 3-D here back
5 in the -- it's been a little lonely without you all here.

6 We are unlikely to hear in this live meeting, "Can
7 you hear me? You're on mute. You're cutting in and out,"
8 right? So that's a positive thing.

9 Most of you have not met Director Nick Kovacevich in
10 person, and just in a few minutes, Director Melahat Rafiei
11 will be joining us as well. So welcome to the board room.

12 Just a couple of housekeeping items, Summer is not
13 going to be calling for any public comment, like we had to do
14 over Zoom.

15 If you would like to make public comment, there's
16 cards in the back, remember that old process, right? And
17 we'll organize them over here, so please feel free to fill
18 one out and Summer will bring it up.

19 Restrooms are out the door and down the hall, for
20 anyone that is not familiar with the building. I want to
21 mention that, just like we did before the pandemic, this
22 meeting is being live-streamed.

23 It will be posted on the website with closed
24 captioning, so for anyone watching at home, welcome as well,
25 and then also Deputy Attorney General Josh Caplan is joining

1 us by phone. He's sitting in the middle of the room on a
2 stack of eight-and-a-half-by-eleven packs of paper.

3 So, Josh, can you hear us?

4 MR. CAPLAN: I can hear you just great. Thank you
5 for accommodating me and allowing me to participate by
6 telephone this morning.

7 I'm sad that I can't be there in person to see
8 people in person for the first time in over two years, but I
9 can see you on my computer screen. So I'm very happy that
10 things are moving in a normal direction. So it's great to be
11 part of this today.

12 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: You look great.

13 CHAIR LA BELLE: Glad to have you with us, Josh.

14 MS. RICHARDS: Okay. Chair La Belle, I'll turn it
15 back over to you.

16 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes. Next item on the agenda is
17 the minutes from the previous meeting. Is there any
18 additions or changes that any Board members have?

19 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: I so move that we approve.

20 CHAIR LA BELLE: We have a motion to approve.

21 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I second.

22 CHAIR LA BELLE: Motion into second.

23 Can you call the roll please, Summer?

24 MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle.

25 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.

1 MS. ANGUS: Director Cervantes

2 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.

3 MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

4 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

5 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

6 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

7 MS. ANGUS: Director Kovacevich.

8 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.

9 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

10 CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you. Proceeding now to
11 matters of public comment. Can you introduce that, please,
12 Michele.

13 MS. RICHARDS: Happy to. Public comment is allowed
14 on issues not on the current agenda; however, no debate by
15 the Board shall be permitted on such public comments and no
16 action will be taken on such public comment items at this
17 time, as law requires formal public notice prior to any
18 action on a docket item.

19 Speakers are requested to fill out and submit a
20 comment card to the meeting secretary prior to the start of
21 the meeting and are limited to three minutes.

22 Comments will be accepted on all other agenda items
23 at the time each item is listed on the agenda. Speakers
24 wishing to address the Board on items on the agenda are also
25 requested to fill out and submit a comment card to the

1 meeting secretary prior to the start of the meeting and
2 identify the agenda items on which you desire to address the
3 Board. Speakers are limited to three minutes.

4 And we have three cards for general public comment.

5 CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.

6 MS. RICHARDS: Mike Robbins.

7 MR. ROBBINS: Good morning. Happy to be here, and I
8 want to talk about the marketplace, new marketplace, but I
9 want to tell you that I've been here for 42 years, selling
10 tobacco pipes, and as a regular tobacco shop, I always had
11 tobacco pipes, lighters, flasks, walking sticks,
12 men's-related items.

13 Even, I think, in the 80s, I even had shaving gear
14 because that was what you sold in a tinder box in the smoke
15 shops in the malls.

16 And in 1985, I had the largest selection of tobacco
17 pipes, one of the -- I don't know if it was the largest in
18 the world, but I had 5,000 tobacco pipes on display up to
19 \$5,000 in price.

20 So people would come from all over the country to
21 buy these products from me, a lot of the pipes were
22 collectables. So the guys would buy the pipes -- I mean,
23 they buy -- some of the guys had hundreds of pipes.

24 One of my customers built a \$100,000 display in his
25 house, a big glass-wall display, to display all the pipes

1 that he bought from me, up to \$5,000, and I had to go
2 estimate all the pipes for insurance purposes.

3 Well, so I mean, I've been here for a long time.
4 We've sold a lot of different items over the period, most of
5 it, you know, the tobacco pipes and then cigars became big
6 and I built the cigar truck.

7 The swap meet was always the biggest thing for us,
8 and I think it's kind of coming back now, but, I think, we
9 need to see a more secure marketplace where it happens every
10 other week or every Saturday, if possible.

11 And I think that my customers who do come out --
12 even that ones that I sell a mail order to, when they come
13 into town, they're, like, "Is the swap meet on?" They just
14 want to come out to the swap meet.

15 Even though I ship stuff to them, they still want to
16 come out there. They love the swap meet. They love being
17 there, they love being out with all the people, they come out
18 and they smoke a cigar or they walk around, they want to
19 visit, but I have people who come from, even across the
20 country.

21 I think some of my customers, you know, they flew in
22 from the other side of the country for whatever purpose and
23 called me up and are going, "Is the swap meet open? We're
24 going to come to the swap meet. We're going to bring the
25 whole family. I love the swap meet. We want to come out

1 there too."

2 So I think this is something we should look forward
3 to. It's about small businesses and supporting the small
4 business.

5 I'm kind of retired at this point. I kind of like
6 that it's -- you know, it would just be every Saturday or
7 every other Saturday, but I love supplying this stuff to
8 people. I love being there with the people, and the people
9 love being there.

10 So I hope that we can look forward to, in the
11 future, having a more secure event, and I thank you very
12 much. Thanks you guys. Good morning.

13 MS. RICHARDS: Thank you, Mike.

14 DL.

15 MR. DAVID: Thank you. My name is David, and I go
16 DL. I'm the new owner and operator of the swap meet here at
17 the fairgrounds. First of all, I thank all the fair staff
18 for all the help you've given us and kind of getting this
19 event going together.

20 We'll be about one year in May, May 29th is when we
21 launched it, and it's been a good time, like Mike mentioned,
22 I mean, we have people coming back and stuff like that, so
23 they enjoy it.

24 A couple things I want to talk about, like Mike also
25 mentioned is consistency of having the dates, so we can have

1 the consistency of the dates, like the second Saturday and
2 fourth Saturday. That would be great for people to kind of
3 understand that we're here every other week and so on, so
4 forth.

5 And also, on, like, the pricing of the event itself,
6 consistency in that also helps, that way I know in the
7 future, like, the vendors I need to get, because the only
8 money that I make is off the vendor spaces.

9 One thing that I have noticed or that we noticed in
10 the beginning is that if we could discuss in the future about
11 charging the vendors to park in the actual lot that I rent
12 out, they still have to pay \$10 to park.

13 I understand that when events come to this property,
14 they do rent out the building, stuff like that, our event and
15 then (inaudible) are the only ones that really rent out the
16 parking lot and have vendors in it.

17 And when we rent out the parking lot, we assume that
18 we rent out the whole space, but when the vendors drive in,
19 they still get charged \$10, so if that's something we can
20 work on towards the future.

21 And the last thing I want to say is that I want to
22 keep being here at this property and kind of still being a
23 small business incubator. On May 14th, we will have our
24 small business class graduate, over 50 new entrepreneurs at
25 our event.

1 I've donated all those spaces to the small business
2 classes from Cal State Fullerton, and it should be a great
3 turnout. We'll probably have over 100 vendors.

4 And, like I said, thanks to all the fair staff
5 that's helped us to be here for the first year. Thank you.

6 MS. RICHARDS: Thank you, DL. Roy Englebrecht.

7 MR. ENGLEBRECHT: Thank you, Michele. Roy
8 Englebrecht, promoter of Fight Club OC. These comments might
9 sound self-serving, but it's more of informational comment,
10 especially for the Board.

11 Twelve years ago we opened up The Hangar and Doug
12 called me and said, you know, "You can come look at this
13 venue, you want to move your fights out of the Irvine
14 Marriott Ballroom," and we did. And we did six shows in
15 2011, sold out every show.

16 So my son Drew and I said, you know, "Let's come up
17 with a logo, but let's put at the top 'Fight Capital of
18 Southern California.'" .

19 We took liabilities to say we were the fight capital
20 of Southern California. Well, fast forward to this year,
21 April 9th The Hangar Top Rank came to us and said, "We would
22 like to do a show on ESPN, A World's Title Fight." We did a
23 show on April 9th, just less than, what, three weeks ago, had
24 a big crowd, ESPN Plus and ESPN Network.

25 Five days later we did a sold-out Fight Club OC show

1 on April 14th. On June 2nd, coming up, if you go to our
2 website, Socalfights.com, we only have about 100 tickets
3 left, we're going to sell out that show, and we got a call
4 from Triller, which is a new streaming platform, and they are
5 coming and doing a Triller Trident combat on June 11th at The
6 Hangar.

7 So when getting ready for this meeting, I said, "You
8 know what, we're the fight capital of Southern California,
9 but let me do some research." In the last ten years, we have
10 done 102 fight shows in The Hangar.

11 I've done shows at Madison Square Garden, Forum,
12 Home Depot Center, and so forth, I did a research; no other
13 venue, no other facility in the country has done 102 shows in
14 the last ten years, except for The Hangar at the Orange
15 County Fair and Event Center in Costa Mesa, California.

16 So what we're going to do, we're going to change our
17 heading, and we're not going to say Fight Capital of Southern
18 California, we're going to say Fight Capital of the U.S.A.

19 And it doesn't happen without great leadership and
20 Michele and Ken, and the great staff that I've stood up here
21 before over the years and the great staff at this property,
22 because that's what makes it worthwhile.

23 So be proud, Board members, of a great staff here
24 and a great venue, The Hangar. Thank you.

25 MS. RICHARDS: Thank you, Roy. That concludes

1 public comment.

2 CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele. Thank you,
3 speakers. Next item is the consent calendar.

4 Can you introduce that, please?

5 MS. RICHARDS: I can. All matters listed under
6 consent calendar are optional matters about which the board
7 has governing policies; implementation of which is delegated
8 to the CEO.

9 They will be enacted in one motion by category in
10 the order listed below. There will be no discussion of these
11 items prior to the time the Board of Directors votes on the
12 motion, unless members of the Board, staff, or public request
13 specific items to be discussed separately and/or removed from
14 this section.

15 Any member of the public who wishes to discuss
16 consent calendar items, should notify the Chair of the Board
17 at the time request and be recognized by invitation of the
18 Chair to address the Board.

19 And Chair La Belle, at this time, the staff does not
20 have any items to pull from the consent calendar.

21 CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele.

22 Are there any public speakers that wish to comment
23 on any items that are on the consent calendar?

24 MS. RICHARDS: No, not at this time.

25 CHAIR LA BELLE: None heard.

1 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Chair La Belle?

2 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.

3 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Chair La Belle, Director
4 Bagneris. I move that we approve the consent calendar.

5 CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Director Bagneris.
6 Is there a second?

7 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: I second.

8 CHAIR LA BELLE: We have a motion and a second.
9 Summer, please call the roll, if you would, please.

10 MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle.

11 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.

12 MS. ANGUS: Director Cervantes.

13 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.

14 MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

15 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

16 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

17 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

18 MS. ANGUS: Director Kovacevich.

19 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.

20 MS. ANGUS: Thank you.

21 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. Moving ahead to the
22 governance process, Item 8A, would you like to introduce
23 that, Michele, please.

24 MS. RICHARDS: I would. This is a very special
25 presentation, I'll turn it over to Chair La Belle in a

1 minute. Jeff La Belle, who is the son of Bonnie and Doug La
2 Belle, has created a beautiful painting of our A4M Sky Hawk
3 at Hero's Hall, and is donating that painting to the Hero's
4 Hall Veterans Foundation so that the foundation can use it
5 for fundraising purposes.

6 The original painting is being donated by the
7 foundation to the 32nd DAA for display at Hero's Hall. So
8 foundation president, Nick Berardino, is here and will help
9 unveil the painting and make the presentation to the District
10 Board of Directors.

11 CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele. I'll just go
12 ahead at this time and introduce the president of the
13 foundation, Nick Berardino.

14 MR. BERARDINO: Do you want me to --

15 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yeah, do you want to come up here,
16 and we probably should get the artist here as well.

17 MR. BERARDINO: Doug, I'm going to let you unveil
18 it. So this young man has been working for at least a couple
19 of years on this painting.

20 When he undertook this project, Doug said, "Look,
21 this is going to take some time because this kid," which is
22 his kid, "is just a perfectionist," and he has stayed with
23 this and when you see this painting and the detail and the
24 beauty of this painting, you'll see why it took this long,
25 and just an incredibly talented talented young man, and, you

1 know, a great farther.

2 And I just feel it's really so heartwarming. Doug's
3 dad was a veteran and, you know, Doug has been so
4 instrumental and, you know, as many of the fair Board members
5 who are here who were part of and were the, you know,
6 architects, because we all had a say about where to move the
7 sprinklers or do that, but the architects of Hero's Hall.

8 And they worked very very very hard and Doug, you
9 know, when we got the jet, that took a lot of finesse, you
10 know, it was kind of a project where I did the least finessed
11 thing to get somebody to agree to give it to us; whatever arm
12 twisting we had to do, and then turned it over to Doug, who
13 was a former city manager who could work with the County and
14 talk their language and, you know, be nice to them and manage
15 to help it get and stay with it.

16 And now a third generation, you know, his son who
17 has honored us with this painting. So I really would like
18 Doug and you to please unveil it.

19 CHAIR LA BELLE: One additional comment. Thank you,
20 Nick. You've been very kind as always.

21 The intent too is, subject to the approval of the
22 artist, is for the foundation to create a number of prints of
23 this particular painting that will be used for fundraising
24 purposes for foundation; and as all of the directors know and
25 staff know, all of the dollars that the foundation generates

1 comes back into the Hero's Hall Veterans Museum, either in
2 the form of programming efforts or in the form of capital
3 projects, such as assisting with bringing the jet in and also
4 the Serenity Walk Project, which is currently in the process.

5 So with that, I'm probably the -- Jeff, you want to
6 help me, and Nick?

7 MR. BERARDINO: Yeah, I don't want to mess it up,
8 Nick.

9 CHAIR LA BELLE: On behalf of my family and my son,
10 you know, I stayed out of the way, I didn't bug him too
11 much --

12 MR. BERARDINO: That's unusual for a City manager.
13 Go ahead.

14 CHAIR LA BELLE: Every now and then I'd asked, "How
15 you doing," you know, and I get a little update, but this
16 will be presented -- on behalf of the foundation, it's being
17 presented to the District for display at the Hero's Hall
18 Veteran's Museum.

19 Thank you.

20 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Wait, wait, a picture of the three
21 of you.

22 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Do you paint also, Doug?

23 CHAIR LA BELLE: No, no.

24 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: He didn't get that from you?

25 CHAIR LA BELLE: No, this would not even come close

1 to something --

2 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: He got it from his mama.

3 MR. BERARDINO: If at this point, Madam CEO, it
4 would be possible for any Board members that want to come
5 quickly and take --

6 MS. RICHARDS: Let's get all of them.

7 CHAIR LA BELLE: I will say that my granddaughter,
8 who many of you know from the years at the fair, she does
9 share her dad's talent, so. Thanks, everyone.

10 MS. RICHARDS: Thank you so much, Nick, for the
11 donation of that painting to Hero's Hall from the foundation.
12 We will find a special place for it.

13 I also want to introduce another special guest,
14 retired Marine pilot Steve Mugs, piloted an A4M Sky Hawk,
15 just like the one that's at Hero's Hall, and he is also today
16 presenting to Hero's Hall, his pilot's log.

17 MR. MUGS: I would like to clear up one thing, this
18 is not a pilot's log, okay, rather large for one single
19 pilot, but this is an aircraft log for the aircraft, which
20 you have on display.

21 Before you clap too much, you got to realize it's
22 springtime and sometimes you look in the corners that you
23 haven't seen for a while; I found this.

24 So anyway, but more importantly, it adds important
25 subtext to your monument there at the Hero's Hall. It is the

1 aircraft's log book, it goes from the day it was manufactured
2 to the day it was retired.

3 It is the aircraft that past representative Sanchez
4 managed to secure for us, as we reconditioned it, refurbished
5 it, and initially installed it at Orange -- at the Santa Ana
6 -- at the Orange County Administrative Hall.

7 And it is also an aircraft that was stationed with
8 two different squadrons at El Toro. So in here, in these
9 little pages are a little bit of history, actually a lot, and
10 it hopefully will add to the cultural and educational
11 experiences that you all provide here for Orange County.

12 MS. RICHARDS: That's wonderful, thank you so much.
13 Can we have you stand by the painting as well?

14 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: You've flown a plane, you can
15 take a picture.

16 MR. BERARDINO: He's also, just so you know, he is
17 the former commanding officer of the El Toro Marine Base, and
18 he is the commanding officer that closed down the El Toro
19 Marine Base, which is a very high rank compared to mine.

20 CHAIR LA BELLE: On behalf of the Board, Steve,
21 thank you very much, that clearly adds to the significance of
22 the A4 Sky Hawk that is now here in his permanent home at the
23 Hero's Hall Museum, and that will certainly be a good part of
24 the educational process that we're engaged in in terms of the
25 programs that we have at the Veterans Museum.

1 So thanks again.

2 MR. MUGS: Great, sir. Thank you. I like to use
3 the word permanent, that's --

4 CHAIR LA BELLE: We did go through a little bit of
5 effort, so I don't think any of us have a desire to see it
6 move.

7 Okay. Michele, could you introduce Item 8B.

8 MS. RICHARDS: I will. Item 8B is being presented
9 by staff and also on behalf of the Governance Committee
10 Director Cervantes and Rubalcava-Garcia.

11 The Governance Committee goes through an annual
12 process of reviewing all Board governance policies and
13 recommending any updates, and this policy is coming before
14 the Board for some recommended updates.

15 If I could give everyone just a brief history lesson
16 on where our cannabis policy came from and the work that was
17 done leading up to it.

18 Starting in November of 2016, Prop 64 was passed in
19 California, which legalized recreational use of marijuana.

20 In October of 2017, the California Department of
21 Food and Agriculture released its Cannabis Event Guidelines
22 and the Board, at the time, directed staff to review those
23 guidelines and report back, and those of you that were on the
24 Board at the time remember that process that we went through.

25 In January of 2018, just a couple of months later,

1 staff reviewed the guidelines with the Board, including the
2 criteria that the California Department of Food and
3 Agriculture provided for fair Board members to consider.

4 Ultimately, after discussion, the Board voted to
5 prohibit cannabis events at the Orange County Fair and Event
6 Center based on the guidelines that CDFA put out.

7 In February, the following month, we brought back
8 policy language for the Board to review, and it was approved
9 by the Board.

10 Now in between that time, CBD products, there were
11 lots of questions from swap meet vendors, from our event
12 promoters, members of the public to allow CBD products to be
13 sold at their events.

14 So in November of 2018, the staff requested an
15 amendment to the policy to clarify the Board's position on
16 CBD products. The Board ultimately voted at that time to
17 only allow products that were made from hemp seeds or hemp
18 seed oil, that did not contain even trace amounts of THC, and
19 the following month we brought that policy language back for
20 the Board to approve.

21 If you look on the screen, I'll share a copy of the
22 current policy, and I know everyone is familiar with this,
23 this was the original policy outlined in red, and then this
24 was the policy language that was added in November of 2018.

25 So that's how the policy has stood since

1 November 15th of 2018. I thought it might be helpful for the
2 Board to go through the criteria that it used at the time, to
3 make -- create this policy.

4 So according to the California Department of Food
5 and Agriculture direction, fair Boards were asked to consider
6 the following four criteria: No. 1 is community values and
7 standards in regards to cannabis, as reflected by local City
8 and County cannabis ordinances.

9 No. 2, the fairground's proximity to schools, youth
10 recreation centers, parks, and other areas where minors
11 congregate.

12 No. 3 is potential federal enforcement on cannabis
13 use, and then No. 4, our relationship with California Highway
14 Patrol and/or local law enforcement.

15 So it sort of begs the question: What has changed
16 since the Board approved the cannabis event policy, 6.05, and
17 this was brought to the governance committee with lots of
18 discussion.

19 So here's what has changed, let's take each one
20 separately. The first criteria, community values and
21 standards in regards to cannabis as reflected by local City
22 and County cannabis ordinances.

23 A lot has changed in the City of Costa Mesa since
24 this policy was first adopted. Let's look at that right now.
25 Measure X was passed in Costa Mesa in November of 2016, that

1 allowed for medical marijuana research, manufacturing, and
2 wholesale distribution in certain industrial zones and that
3 green zone in Costa Mesa is located north of the 405.

4 In November of 2020, Costa Mesa residents passed
5 Measure Q, which amended Measure X to allow, by permit,
6 storefront cannabis in the commercial zone and cannabis
7 delivery businesses in the commercial and green zone; and you
8 can see that that measure passed by quite a wide margin, 65
9 to 35 percent.

10 To date, the City has issued six conditional-use
11 permits for non store-front delivery businesses, and those
12 have been approved by the City of Costa Mesa.

13 There are currently 65 applications pending with the
14 City for cannabis retail businesses, and I would also like to
15 introduce Scott Drapkins; Scott, I see you back here.

16 Scott is the assistant director of development
17 services for the City of Costa Mesa. He's been very very
18 helpful to me in gathering updated information about the City
19 of Costa Mesa's ordinances, and he's available here to answer
20 questions that might come up as well.

21 So clearly, this has changed since 2018 in the City
22 of Costa Mesa. Let's look at the second criteria, which is
23 the fairground's proximity to schools, youth recreation
24 centers, parks, and other areas where minors congregate.

25 Well, our location has not changed. This is a map

1 that we shared with the Board back in 2018, as well -- 2017,
2 and '18, and it shows the OC Fair and Event Center, in fact,
3 the event zone is smack dab in the middle of that aerial
4 photo; you can see the aqua roof of The Hangar building and
5 then the event buildings that are just south of that.

6 This is the map that was shown back in 2018, which
7 the Board considered. The blue area in the upper right-hand
8 corner and to the north includes Costa Mesa High School,
9 Costa Mesa Middle School, Davis Elementary School, TeWinkle
10 Park and the skate park. Okay?

11 The guidelines from CDFA said that the Board should
12 consider any schools, recreational centers, parks, or
13 anywhere where minors gather within 1000 feet of the
14 fairgrounds; so this is what this map is looking at.

15 The red area to the west, includes Orange Coast
16 College and the green area to the south includes Vanguard
17 University and, again, our location has not changed since
18 2018. Okay?

19 The third criteria that the Board was asked to
20 consider is potential federal enforcement on cannabis use.
21 Currently, marijuana remains federally illegal, but you
22 probably have heard in the news that the U.S. House of
23 Representatives voted on April 1st to decriminalize
24 marijuana, removing it from the federal list of controlled
25 substances.

1 That discussion has now moved to the senate, and we
2 don't know the outcome of that yet, but that certainly has
3 been in the news recently.

4 And then the last criteria was our relationship with
5 California Highway Patrol and/or any local law enforcement,
6 and as you all know, we have a very excellent relationship
7 with the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Costa Mesa PD,
8 and several other police departments throughout Orange
9 County.

10 I thought it also might be helpful to understand
11 what other fairgrounds are doing. This is a list of some
12 recent cannabis events at other California fairgrounds.

13 I'm sure that it's not a complete list, it's a
14 little difficult to gather this information, as not all
15 fairgrounds in California are district Ag associations, but
16 this is what we've been able to find.

17 The National Orange Show in San Bernardino hosted a
18 cannabis event in 2017. The Sonoma County Fairgrounds hosted
19 the Harvest Ball cannabis and Music Festival that was held
20 December 11th and 12th of last year.

21 The 46th DAA, which is the Southern California fair
22 in Lake Perris, hosted Loud Lands cannabis Festival just a
23 few weeks ago, on April 16th. The 38th DAA, which is the
24 Stanislaus County Fair in Turlock, will host an event called
25 Dazed on the Green, cannabis and Music Festival, which is

1 scheduled for September 17th and 18th of this year.

2 And then lastly, the California State Fair, that's
3 Cal Expo in Sacramento, they hosted the cannabis Cup in 2018,
4 and they will also feature a cannabis competition for the
5 first time at the 2022 California State Fair in July.

6 So to kind of wrap it up, we are presenting on
7 behalf of staff and the Governance Committee, we're
8 recommending that the Board approve the sale, promotion,
9 sponsorship, and display of independently tested and
10 regulated CBD products on the fairground that contain no more
11 than .3 percent THC.

12 CBD products are widely available, we've had
13 numerous requests, many at our Board meetings from event
14 promoters and merchants who would like to feature CBD
15 products for sale and also sponsorship support.

16 And then the second recommendation is for the Board
17 to discuss and provide further direction on cannabis-related
18 sponsorships, the sale of glass pipes and smoking devices,
19 which, again, have been requested by members of the public
20 and event promoters and then cannabis-related events.

21 So I'll leave it at that, I'm sure you have
22 questions, we'll do our best to answer and --

23 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Chair La Belle.

24 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes, Director Bagneris.

25 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I do have a couple questions.

1 That .3 percent THC, what is that? Is that a small amount,
2 is that a medium amount, is that --

3 MS. RICHARDS: It's considered a trace amount, very
4 small amount.

5 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Okay. Go back a slide. Most of
6 those fairs that were listed look like they're smaller fairs,
7 so they probably are raising money by having these events.

8 MS. RICHARDS: Yes.

9 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Okay. Which would not be our
10 concern, but I'm not sure about the State Fair.

11 MS. RICHARDS: The State Fair is one of the five
12 largest fairs in California.

13 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I just wanted to note that.

14 CHAIR LA BELLE: Are there any other questions from
15 the Board before I turn it over for public comments, and then
16 obviously, we'll bring it back to the board for more
17 discussion.

18 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Director La Belle, I have a
19 question --

20 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.

21 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: -- for CEO Richard. When the CDFA
22 gave the guidelines to us about 1000 feet away from schools,
23 when was that?

24 MS. RICHARDS: That was in -- those guidelines were
25 published in October of 2017.

1 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Thank you.

2 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: And just for historical
3 reference, when we voted on that, that was a real strong --
4 that was the strongest consideration, the fact that we're so
5 near all these youth and school activities.

6 BOARD MEMBER RAFIEI: Sure. I just want my fellow
7 directors to know the State limit now for sensitive use is
8 600 feet, which is what schools fall under.

9 So that's why I asked about the timing of it,
10 because when the City was doing their planning, when Costa
11 Mesa did their planning, the State guidelines were 600 feet
12 for sensitive use, which includes schools and so on and so
13 forth. Thanks.

14 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. At this point, let's turn it
15 over for public comments.

16 Do you we have any speakers?

17 MS. RICHARDS: We do. Jeanine Robbins.

18 MS. ROBBINS: If it's okay with you guys, Mike has a
19 couple things to pass out before I start to talk.

20 BOARD MEMBER RAFIEI: Are they goodies? Edibles in
21 the morning? Board members that don't want to use their
22 pipes, they can give them to me.

23 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Are you buttering us up?

24 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I want you as my witnesses in case
25 my mother sees a picture of this.

1 BOARD MEMBER RAFIEI: I got you.

2 MS. ROBBINS: Good morning. It is so nice to be
3 back here speaking in-person again. My name is Jeanine
4 Robbins, and my husband, Mike, is the owner of Paradise
5 Cigars.

6 As he said, we've been selling here at the
7 fairgrounds since 1979, making this actually our 43rd year at
8 our home away from home.

9 In addition to selling at the swap meet, we also
10 sell at Fight Club OC and have sold at the Orange County fair
11 for many years, though not currently.

12 During the last twenty years at the swap meet
13 pre-COVID, we sold glass products, as well as selling them at
14 the Orange County Fair for a decade. The glassware is my
15 baby. I run that section of our business, and I love it.

16 It is a huge section of our business. I love glass
17 products. I love everything about them. They are true works
18 of art, as you can see. I love watching them being blown,
19 the colors, the designs.

20 I love the uniqueness, the shapes, pipes in every
21 animal design that you can imagine; pipes in every shape,
22 size, and color. Imagine a dragon in full flight two feet
23 long and a foot high blow out of glass. The pieces are
24 spectacular.

25 Due to my love of glass, we had a huge selection

1 from which customers can choose. I have dozens of
2 collectors, people who do not smoke, people collect glass,
3 like they do thimbles, spoons, teapots, or anything else that
4 catches their fancy.

5 A lot of my customers are senior citizens, probably
6 60 percent, the reason is, is they're out at the swap meet,
7 they feel free to stop and talk to somebody else of their
8 generation about the product that they need. They don't feel
9 comfortable going in to smoke shops with the music blaring
10 and a younger staff.

11 I love picking out pieces with certain customers in
12 mind and the satisfaction I get when they do, indeed,
13 purchase that piece I picked for them; the ultimate customer
14 satisfaction.

15 I have a list of pieces that different customers are
16 looking for, and they are so happy when they get my call; yet
17 now, they do not get my call.

18 See, this policy went into effect in 2018; yet, we
19 were still selling glass until our last day before we were
20 shutdown for COVID, which was March 8th of 2020.

21 When we returned to the swap meet for one day at the
22 end of May, we had been out -- in 2021 -- we had been out of
23 work or almost 14 months. That first day was a rousing
24 success; vendors and customers alike were jubilant. Then our
25 problems started.

1 Before our next day at the swap meet, which was in
2 June, we were told we could no longer sell glass, that we
3 were violating this policy that's under review today.

4 I spoke to Michele and explained how we had always
5 sold glass with no problems long after this policy was
6 enacted and asked to be able to sell it one last day in June
7 to blow out inventory and was told no.

8 So I have had thousands of dollars of inventory
9 sitting at home for over two years, since March of 2020.

10 This policy refers to paraphernalia; let me read an
11 excerpt from State law: "Pursuant to Health and Safety Code
12 Section, marijuana and its products involved in any way with
13 conducting lawfully by this section are not contraband, not
14 subject to seizure.

15 After the passage of Proposition 64, marijuana
16 paraphernalia is excluded from the Health and Safety Code No.
17 11364. It is lawful in California" -- if I could have 20
18 more seconds -- "possessions of the devices used to smoke
19 marijuana is generally not a criminal offense."

20 I think that this policy should be rewritten or at
21 the very least enforce as written in the definition of
22 paraphernalia; as shown, does not include glass pipes. It is
23 specifically excluded from California's Possession of Drug
24 Paraphemia law.

25 After all, a pipe is just a pipe, and we have sold

1 all kinds of pipes since that very first day in 1979. Thank
2 you so much. Thanks for the extra time too.

3 MS. RICHARDS: Thank you, Jeanine. Mike Robbins.

4 MR. ROBBINS: Hi. I just have some more paperwork
5 for you guys just to help you make a decision too --

6 CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you.

7 MR. ROBBINS: -- on the CBD.

8 So I think it will be really quick. I just wanted
9 to let you know that it's all mainstream; you see these ads,
10 these are from Walmart and Ralph's and Target, and I even saw
11 CBD infused sheets at the Dollar Store.

12 It's a mainstream item, it's seen everywhere, and
13 when Ralph's is promoting marijuana too on their receipts, I
14 think we can take another step and say that the prohibition
15 is over, and we can take the other step too. Thank you very
16 much, you guys.

17 CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Mike.

18 MS. RICHARDS: Thank you, Mike. Gibbern Stout.

19 MS. STOUT: Good morning, Board. Thank you for
20 letting me speak. I wasn't going to speak on this, and then
21 I heard the conversations.

22 A couple things I'd like to point out is, one, don't
23 forget, at the equestrian center, there are literally
24 hundreds of children on site every day. So that's just one
25 thing to think about.

1 This is a really tough issue, and as a parent of an
2 18- and a 22-year-old, I really really struggle with this,
3 because, of course, we've all grown up, pot is legal, it's a
4 gateway drug.

5 I've done a lot of research on my own, and my
6 feelings are still conflicted on it. So this is a really
7 hard decision, so I really respect the struggle you have with
8 this, but I'm also really big on personal freedoms, and I'm
9 really big on supporting small business.

10 So I encourage you to do all that you can to support
11 local small business, and especially businesses that have
12 been loyal to the fairgrounds and have done business here for
13 many years, so.

14 And I think, as far as personal freedom goes, as
15 long as it doesn't affect somebody else, I think you should
16 be as liberal as you can with personal freedoms.

17 I do not see how pipes or paraphernalia or whatever
18 you want to call it, affect other people. I can see
19 consumption of the actual products that go in the pipes, I
20 think that should be the focus more.

21 But this is a tough one, so I don't know what you're
22 going to do with it, but I do encourage you to liberally
23 support small business and liberally support personal
24 freedoms and good luck.

25 MS. RICHARDS: Thank you, Gibbern. Reggie Mundekis.

1 MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi, good morning, Reggie Mundekis.
2 Thank you for the opportunity to address you this morning on
3 this issue.

4 In the graphic that CEO Richards presented of the
5 schools, there is a school that's missing, it's the Kids
6 Castle Preschool at the church on the corner of Fairview and
7 Fair Drive. It's a small preschool, so it's easy to miss, so
8 that also takes up that corner.

9 And I'm also struggling, as I struggled before when
10 we brought up -- when we discussed this issue previously, I'm
11 struggling with those trying to make the argument that, you
12 know, if we measure 1000 feet or we measure 600 feet from the
13 property lines of the schools that surround us, that we'll
14 have a donut hole in the property, that we can have our
15 cannabis events in; that's really not appropriate and that's
16 not the way that those planning and zoning laws typically
17 work.

18 The example events, with the expectation of what Cal
19 Expo is doing with their agricultural competition, are really
20 events which are not suitable for this property for a number
21 of reasons, even if they didn't have the cannabis aspect.

22 So we have to come to some agreement, as far as
23 what's family friendly, what's appropriate for the
24 neighborhood, which is surrounded by single-family homes,
25 churches, preschools, parks where youth hang out, an

1 elementary school, and a high school.

2 So you got to think about this, about if you would
3 want this next to your kids' elementary school. And
4 sometimes when you're struggling with an issue with this, if
5 you put in another term and you see if you still feel that
6 way.

7 One of the things that's legal that people don't
8 ever think about that much are strip clubs; strip clubs are
9 perfectly legal. And so is having an adult-event expo.

10 Now, I'm not advocating for that, but for those who
11 are saying that we should have all these, you know, cannabis
12 consumption events and really pushing hardcore cannabis
13 events here, put in the word "strip club," put in the word
14 "adult expo," and see if you feel the same way, especially
15 when it would be next to your kids' school. Thank you.

16 MS. RICHARDS: Thank you, Reggie.

17 That concludes public comment.

18 CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you. Let's bring it back to
19 the directors. I do have one question. The gentleman from
20 the City of Costa Mesa, what, I think Michele indicated there
21 are 65 applications pending.

22 Are these in retail areas, and what is the criteria
23 the City of Costa Mesa is applying in terms of distance from
24 schools and parks and churches and other things?

25 MS. RICHARDS: Would you please, just so we can have

1 your voice on the recording?

2 MR. DRAPKIN: I figured that question was going to
3 come up. Good morning, Board and Chair. The City
4 regulations for distances right now is -- well, first of all,
5 thank you for having me here.

6 The City's regulations for cannabis, they're
7 evolving, as Michele mentioned, over the last, you know,
8 almost ten years, and right now we're in the retail stages of
9 it.

10 We do have a significant amount of applications that
11 have processed recently in the green zone, which is near
12 South Coast Plaza towards the north of the 405.

13 Right now we have about 65 applications in for
14 retail. The retail applications are fairly unrestricted with
15 regards to the ordinance provisions. What I mean by that is,
16 there's no cap to them; there's no distance requirements
17 between them.

18 There are, however, some sensitive-use distance
19 requirements, and generally, they're 600 and 1000 feet. They
20 are 1000 feet from K-12 schools, child day care, playgrounds,
21 homeless shelters, and 600 feet from youth centers.

22 Youth centers is defined in the Code specifically,
23 and I don't recall exactly what the exact definition of it
24 is, but basically it's 1000, 600 feet.

25 The assumption is, with the 65 applications that the

1 City is going to receive, not all of them are going to
2 probably make it. They'll be cream of the crop that will
3 show up and last, and the majority of them will probably not.

4 But I could be wrong, certainly we haven't studied
5 it. Most cities do have a cap or distance requirements;
6 Costa Mesa chose to do otherwise. We do have an extensive
7 ordinance, however, that has a lot of process requirements to
8 get you there.

9 The ordinance is so robust that, by the time an
10 application is getting to retail, there's very few issues.
11 It's vetted and filtered extensively.

12 So happy to answer more questions.

13 CHAIR LA BELLE: So it's 1000 feet from K through 12
14 schools?

15 MR. DRAPKIN: Correct, and child day cares,
16 playgrounds, and homeless shelters.

17 CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you. Okay. All right.
18 Let's bring it back to the Board for discussion and just open
19 it up with that.

20 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Okay. So Director La Belle.

21 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes, Director Bagneris.

22 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I do struggle with this whole
23 concept. I don't have a problem with the sale of glass pipes
24 and smoking devices, as long as they're not used on the
25 property; just selling them, I don't really see a big deal

1 with that.

2 I am concerned about cannabis-related sponsorships
3 and cannabis-related events, especially since we are so close
4 to schools, No. 1, and No. 2, we advertise as a
5 family-friendly place. So I'm really concerned. I don't
6 know if we're going to go there or not, that would not be my
7 preference.

8 So when I read that language, that the Governance
9 Committee has brought for, approving the sale, promotion,
10 sponsorship, and display; if it read "approving the sale and
11 display of independently tested products," I'd feel better,
12 because I don't know what that promotion and sponsorship
13 looks like or what it would look like or how do we promote
14 and sponsor other products on the property.

15 So with that language change, I would be okay with
16 that particular recommendation.

17 CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Director Bagneris.

18 Any other comments?

19 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yeah, thank you. I had a couple
20 questions for Michele and, maybe, Josh, because when I was
21 looking at this and just seeing how -- where we were as
22 policy makers when this issue started versus where we were a
23 year ago to really where we were at the beginning of this
24 month, so many things have changed and we're on a completely
25 different plane.

1 So, you know, my first reaction, just as a, you
2 know, almost as an ease of process was to look at this, what
3 would it look like if we just repealed the entire policy, as
4 opposed to trying to spend the next couple of months, years
5 piecemealing it away.

6 But I did have, especially with some of the public
7 comments, have some questions about, you know, if we even
8 wanted to consider that, the repeal of the entire policy,
9 what would that look like for our fairgrounds?

10 So my question is, you know, what discretion does
11 the Orange County Fair have to book, plan, deny events that
12 happen on our property?

13 MS. RICHARDS: Well, as long as those events are
14 legal within the State of California, we can book them on the
15 property, unless there is a local Board policy against that.

16 So where cannabis events themselves are legal within
17 the State of California, this Board followed the guidelines
18 that CDFA put out and determined by policy that those events
19 are not allowed -- currently allowed on the property.

20 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Okay. So we don't have any
21 discretion to deny an event that would come to us if we found
22 it was not conducive to the local community and the local
23 family-friendly environment that we have?

24 MS. RICHARDS: I'm going to have Josh weigh in on
25 that, you know, it's more a policy issue than a legal issue.

1 But Josh, did you hear the question?

2 MR. CAPLAN: Yes, I did.

3 Can you still hear me clearly?

4 MS. RICHARDS: We can.

5 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

6 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.

7 MR. CAPLAN: Okay. So Director Aitken, you ask a
8 very difficult question. I think the short answer is the
9 district, as a State institution, could not discriminate
10 against event promoters based on the content of the event.

11 I think that would implicate the commercial-free
12 speech right of individuals and event promoters. So we
13 certainly have to consider on a case-by-case basis.

14 But, you know, again, to restate that in a different
15 way, if there's significant public health or safety concerns
16 with regard to a specific event, the district could certainly
17 decline that event based on that content-neutral basis.

18 But if the district was presented with an event, the
19 district could not say, "You know what, we don't like the
20 type of business this event promoter is in," and reject the
21 event on that basis; I think that could recreate some legal
22 challenges.

23 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Okay. Thank you, Josh. I
24 appreciate that.

25 I know we have a lot of really strict rules and

1 guidelines when it comes to, during fair time, how we want
2 our vendors, our booths presented, what type of signs that
3 they have to have, is the enforcement of those guidelines on
4 signage for vendors or, let's say, naming of events something
5 that we could work with potential event promoters?

6 MS. RICHARDS: Sure, and we often do.

7 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Thank you. I guess, my last
8 question is: If we repealed this policy in whole, this does
9 not affect, in any way, any violation of our smoking policy,
10 which already covers the property?

11 MS. RICHARDS: Correct. In fact, CDFA emphasizes
12 that in their guidelines, that smoking -- whatever the
13 smoking regulations are on the fairgrounds, and as you know,
14 they are State regulations, but then the OC Fair and Event
15 Center has a more strict policy against smoking, that applies
16 to cannabis as well.

17 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Thank you.

18 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.

19 BOARD MEMBER RAFIEI: I had a question about OC
20 Fairground's criteria. In Costa Mesa, in Santa Ana, in other
21 cities where they're bringing this forward, they have a
22 strict set of criteria.

23 As the representative from the City said, by the
24 time you get to the point where they have a license, you've
25 vetted them, they're the creme de la creme of what we're

1 doing.

2 I would hope that we as a fairground has the same
3 thing where we have a criteria that you have to meet in order
4 to be a vendor or to do an event, host an event. I would
5 think the same sort of guidelines that the cities go through,
6 as far as making sure, one, they're licensed by the State,
7 paying their taxes, doing everything they're supposed to be
8 doing, and also, following the rules of the State when it
9 comes to making sure they're not advertising to children.

10 A lot of the concerns that I hear, I'll tell you, I
11 practiced hush tone practices when I'm in different groups
12 and working with others and one of the things I pride myself
13 on is wandering, giving my mind an opportunity to wander
14 where my colleagues are coming from.

15 And I challenge you all to try to not think of a
16 cannabis event as automatically a reef for madness, not
17 family-friendly event.

18 Just months ago we talked about gun shows being
19 family-friendly. I can tell you, as a daily cannabis
20 consumer, I'm much calmer after I consume, than if I were to
21 go to a gun show. Everybody has different perspectives on
22 it, but these are not events that are going to have smoke
23 billowing out of them and loud music.

24 And other things to think about, these events happen
25 all throughout the state, they are revenue generators for

1 sure, and I think in a county that overwhelmingly supports
2 Prop 64 and a city that is now moving forward to, very soon,
3 I think in May they're going to start doing their CMP process
4 for their retail license, that we don't -- we're not going to
5 have them all day long, it's not going to be every day 365
6 days a year where we have a retail store on site.

7 We're opening this up to meet the demands of, not
8 just our vendors here at the fairgrounds, but also the
9 community around us that is legally doing this.

10 On May 3rd, I think it's going to be public later
11 today, the City of Santa Ana is going to be reviewing their
12 ordinance, and what are they going to be talking about,
13 consumption lounges.

14 So I mean, that's how far behind we are. We're
15 banning the sale of pipes, they're talking about consumption
16 lounges in Santa Ana, they're talking about expanding five
17 more licenses in Santa Ana, and special event permits, which
18 means if we don't do it at the fair, I promise you in Santa
19 Ana, there're going to be special events sponsored by
20 individual retailers. So this is coming, I want us to be
21 part of the process and not sticking back as it passes us by.
22 Thank you.

23 CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you. Director Kovacevich.

24 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yeah, just want to -- further
25 on that, as well, just to hit on a couple points here.

1 So by background, I actually run a publically-traded
2 company on the Nasdaq called Green Lane, and we sell bong
3 and pipes, we sell CBD products, we're listed on Nasdaq, and
4 one of the standards for listing on Nasdaq is that you're not
5 in violation of federal law.

6 So, in fact, if you go to the State Code, as was
7 pointed out, paraphernalia for cannabis is legal. At the
8 federal level, it's not; it's under the Controlled Substance
9 Act, but most of these products all fall under tobacco laws
10 anyway.

11 So to me, you know, if a publically-traded company
12 can sell these products legally and be listed on the
13 exchange, it seems like a no-brainer to allow these products
14 to be sold on the fairgrounds.

15 I think, you know, again, being tobacco products,
16 they should be age-restricted, so I would recommend for that
17 in the policy.

18 CBD products are legal at the federal level. The
19 Farm Bill passed in 2019 and made CBD legal with a .3 percent
20 THC threshold. So I think, again, that should be something
21 that we certainly adopt here, because that is fully federally
22 legal and locally acceptable as well.

23 And then when it comes to cannabis itself, you know,
24 I agree with Director Rafiei that, you know, look, things
25 have changed and are continuing to change.

1 I often compare cannabis to alcohol, right, that's
2 something we're all very familiar with. I just noticed, a
3 nice invitation to the OC Wine Society, nobody would think,
4 "Oh, this isn't a family-friendly event."

5 In reality -- and I have a two-and-a-half-year-old
6 son and at Green Line, we also sell child-resistant
7 packaging, so I'm a fan of child-resistant, but I do find it
8 a bit odd that I have a cannabis beverage in my fridge with a
9 child-resistant package on it and right next to it I have an
10 alcoholic beverage that does not have a child-resistant
11 package.

12 Now, God forbid my son was to ingest the cannabis,
13 we would be concerned, he would be sleepy, dazed --

14 BOARD MEMBER RAFIEI: Hungry.

15 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: I would not worry one second
16 if he was going to live or die, right, the reality is nobody
17 has been killed from cannabis.

18 Now, if he drank that alcoholic beverage, that would
19 be a serious concern, death is an option here, right? So
20 here we are, you know, openly embracing alcohol, which I'm a
21 fan of, right, I'm not saying not to do this, but let's, you
22 know, try to be consistent in how we apply.

23 If this is truly State legal, legal in the local
24 area, and something that, you know, we can do it in a
25 family-conducive manner, right, I think we do need to have

1 some oversight over that, age gate it for sure, 21 and up,
2 right, you have to do it correctly.

3 And looking at these ads, I mean, these are, again,
4 Ralph's, we're talking about, you know, these products being
5 advertised on, you know, Twitter, is going to be embracing
6 this big time with new ownership.

7 So, you know, do you want to advertise to kids, do
8 you want to be, you know, super audacious with your content,
9 no.

10 But can you advertise these products and do it in a
11 tasteful manner that, you know, really should be more
12 normalized because just like you would be able to advertise
13 alcohol and nobody would really bat an eye at that even
14 though you have kids who, you know, by the way, I mean, teen
15 use of alcohol is much more dangerous than teen use of
16 cannabis.

17 Especially, when it comes to drunk driving and stuff
18 like that. So I think we just need to apply consistency
19 across the board.

20 The smoking aspect is a big differentiator. When
21 you consume alcohol, there's no second-hand. You can consume
22 cannabis the same way, right? I mentioned the cannabis
23 beverages in my fridge, cannabis edibles, you know, they're
24 doing tasting dinners and things like that.

25 So the smoking thing is a little bit difficult. I

1 think if you, obviously, contain it in an environment where
2 people opt-in, that's different, but having exposure to
3 people that, you know, wouldn't want that second-hand, I
4 think that is a challenge too.

5 So that's my perspective. I hope that makes sense
6 in terms of how I laid it out, and I think it would be
7 something to consider when drafting this policy.

8 CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Nick.

9 Any other comments/questions?

10 MS. RICHARDS: Chair La Belle, if I could add
11 something.

12 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.

13 MS. RICHARDS: Because Directors Rafiei and
14 Kovacevich have shared, Josh, could you please explain for
15 transparency and information for the Board and public about
16 their ability to participate in this discussion.

17 MR. CAPLAN: Yes, of course. And I'm coming to this
18 discussion from the context of Conflict of Interest Law that
19 is applicable to individual State officers, which would
20 include Board members of the 32nd DAA.

21 There's particularly three areas of Conflict of
22 Interest Law. There's Statutory Law, there's Common Law, and
23 there's also the individual incompatible activities of State
24 offices that each Board member signs when they accept the
25 appointment by governor of the State of California to take a

1 seat on the 32nd DAA Board of Directors.

2 Now, each of these areas apply specifically to
3 contracts and agreements, and the purpose behind that is to
4 be sure that a Board member is not benefiting indirectly or
5 directory from any decision that he or she might make on a
6 specific contract in his or her official role as a Board
7 member.

8 I would specifically cite the Section 1090 of the
9 Government Code, which expressly prohibits public officials
10 from being financially interested in a contract in both the
11 official public and private capacity.

12 And the primary focus of Section 1090 is to be sure
13 that every public officer is guided only by the public
14 interest, rather than by some personal financial interest,
15 either direct or indirect, when dealing with contracts in an
16 official capacity.

17 Because the Board today is considering making
18 changes to or changes that might impact its cannabis event
19 policy, there are no specific contracts that are up for
20 consideration today.

21 So Section 1090 would not impact or prevent those
22 directors from participating in the discussion today or from
23 voting on the policy.

24 But if there were future discussions or
25 considerations of specific contracts, like it would be

1 applicable to all Board members, if any Board member has a
2 direct or indirect financial interest before the contract is
3 approved to be passed, we have to specifically consider each
4 contract to make one of two determinations.

5 The first is that if a Board member has a direct
6 financial interest in the contract, even if that Board member
7 refuses himself or herself from the discussion, the contract
8 should be considered void at the outset.

9 And the reason for that is, there's a presumption --
10 a preclusive presumption in California that if an individual
11 Board member or State official has a financial interest in a
12 contract and sits on a Board that's considering that
13 contract, even if that official or Board member refuses
14 himself or herself from the discussion, California Law
15 essentially says the refusal is not enough; it's presumed
16 that that financial interest has effectively infected the
17 entire voting body and that contract would be void.

18 There is, however, an exception for that general
19 rule, which is that if Board members have, what's called, a
20 remote financial interest in the contact, that refusal would
21 be sufficient.

22 A Board member would simply have to refuse himself
23 or herself in any discussion, decision-making process, or
24 vote on that specific contract, and the law specifically
25 identifies what is meant by the remote interest exception.

1 I won't go over those details today, I think,
2 perhaps, it would be best unless the Board or some individual
3 Board members just want me to explain at a greater length.

4 But we can consider individual situations of a
5 specific contract to determine whether it's a blanket
6 prohibition under Section 1090 or whether that
7 remote-interest exception would apply.

8 But to sum up for the Board purposes of today,
9 again, because the Board is not voting on any contract or
10 making any decision that will result in any financial benefit
11 to the fairgrounds, direct financial benefit, in terms of
12 revenue generation and contracts, those members would not
13 need to remove themselves from the discussion today or any
14 vote on the policy.

15 MS. RICHARDS: Thank you, Josh.

16 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Director La Belle.

17 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes, Director Bagneris.

18 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Before we move forward, it seems
19 to me, we need to have our guidelines in place if we're going
20 to approve that recommendation, that first recommendation,
21 and I think we should table it until we get the guidelines
22 that we want to go with it, No. 1.

23 No. 2, I don't have a problem at all with the sale
24 of glass pipes or smoking devices by our vendors on the
25 property, so that one I would be willing to deal with today,

1 if we need to.

2 CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Director Bagneris. In
3 terms of clarification guidelines, specifically, what were
4 you thinking that staff needs to -- and the committee needs
5 to look at to clarify that?

6 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I believe Director Kovacevich
7 talked about a couple of items, and I wasn't sure what
8 direction we would be going.

9 So I think we need to come up with whatever those
10 guidelines are going to be. I'm not sure what they should
11 be, but I'm thinking for, you know, for example -- I'm
12 struggling -- but the advertisement for the sale of the
13 items, the -- that you cannot use the product on the
14 property; those kinds of guidelines. I would think we would
15 want to outline that before we approve something like that.

16 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. Just from my perspective,
17 kind of the overwhelming issue with when we considered this
18 originally and the representative from Costa Mesa articulated
19 it, we are in close proximity to a number of K-12 schools,
20 parks, and other things, as the exhibit showed.

21 And I think, when we looked at it some years ago,
22 that was the criteria that played most in my mind. I think,
23 correct me if I'm wrong, but a lot of the current operations
24 in Costa Mesa are predominately in an industrial area and are
25 somewhat removed from schools and other parks. Am I correct

1 in that assumption, or is that not correct?

2 MR. DRAPKIN: All of the existing facilities and
3 establishments are in industrial zones, that's located north
4 of the 405. The approved ordinance for retail is all
5 commercial zones.

6 CHAIR LA BELLE: With the K-12 criteria --

7 MR. DRAPKIN: Same criteria for all.

8 CHAIR LA BELLE: Well, I am certainly not opposed to
9 the glass pipes, and, I think, Mike and Jeanine, as they
10 articulated, they've been basically selling those products
11 for literally decades, and I don't have a particular problem
12 at all with that.

13 I do have concerns relative to where we are within
14 the community with the proximity to schools and parks. I
15 would, you know, certainly suggest, if Director Bagneris
16 would like to have that additional information brought back,
17 I'm more than comfortable with tabling this to allow that to
18 occur.

19 And I don't think under Robert's rules, we need to
20 have a motion to table it, but in response to Director
21 Bagneris, I would be moving -- or I would suggest we table
22 this and bring it back with the criteria as requested.

23 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I would also like to see a
24 survey of the community to get their feedback. I don't know,
25 have we done that already?

1 MS. RICHARDS: We have not.

2 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: To find out what the general
3 community that surrounds us feel about this whole activity
4 before we make a decision. So if we do table it, that will
5 give us time to do that as well.

6 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: So are we suggesting to draft
7 a new policy for the Board to review?

8 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: This is Director Cervantes. A
9 couple quick things, one is I have a question for Josh. What
10 you just talked about, does that apply for the two Board
11 directors that are running for office?

12 MR. CAPLAN: That's an excellent question, Director
13 Cervantes. I think the short -- without knowing more
14 information, I would say the discussion that we had regarding
15 Section 1090 and officials participating in the making of
16 contracts, I do not think running for public office would
17 trigger Section 1090.

18 There is, however -- and it's something that I
19 mentioned in the opening part of my comments, which is, in
20 addition to Section 1090, there is also the incompatible
21 activity as a State office.

22 But I'll defer to individual Board members running
23 for public office to consult with their own counsel just to
24 confirm that serving as a public official for another agency
25 or jurisdiction and remaining on the Board.

1 They are consistent with that incompatible activity
2 statement, and so, hopefully, that answers your questions.

3 Again, I don't think it implicates conflicts of
4 interest law under Section 1090, and, again, I'm not
5 individual counsel for individual Board members.

6 So those Board members would have to make that
7 individual determination and look back for their own
8 incompatible activities statements that they signed when they
9 received the appointment from the governor.

10 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Thank you. And I do want to
11 say that I do agree with Director Bagneris. I feel that
12 because I've been here for quite some time, there's different
13 things that get taken into consideration, and to be truthful,
14 there is so much that could be a huge money generator.

15 And, you know, to be part of the 21st Century and be
16 on top of everything that is here, doesn't really make this
17 specific item an item that needs to be here at the actual OC
18 Fair.

19 It appears that there's tons and tons of places that
20 are in the process of hopefully being approved, and I still
21 agree with what Director Bagneris just said about
22 family-friendly.

23 So when we Google and when we search the OC Fair, I
24 still want to make sure that we have a pulse on our
25 commitment to the community and also that it is a

1 community-friendly environment for families to enjoy and
2 everybody.

3 So I would move to move forward with a revision that
4 Director Bagneris suggested. I think that makes everything
5 more transparent and clean, and I also agree with you on the
6 pipes.

7 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: So just to be clear, Director La
8 Belle -- Chair La Belle, also for Josh, is Robert's rule, the
9 most recent addition, do we have to vote on a table so we can
10 go back and discover the things that we may be missing in
11 this policy recommendation, or can we just -- can the Chair
12 just move forward?

13 MR. CAPLAN: Director Bagneris, did you ask whether
14 the Board needs to vote to table this item?

15 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes, yes.

16 MR. CAPLAN: Based on past practice, yes, I think
17 the Board would need to be [sic] a motion and vote on whether
18 to table this agenda item, since it's now been up for
19 discussion as part of the agenda.

20 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: So Chair La Belle, I move that
21 we table this -- the recommendation, that first bullet, I
22 move that we table it for a later date.

23 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: I have a comment.

24 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes, Director Kovacevich.

25 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: I just want to know, kind of,

1 what are the exact next steps, because it sounds like we've
2 made -- I think we're all aligned on a few things. I would
3 hate to see all of the progress halted.

4 If we, I mean, I would like to see a draft of a new
5 policy that, you know, it sounds like everybody is aligned
6 with the bongos and pipes, the CBD products, and potentially,
7 the sponsorships and advertisements, if they're done in a
8 tasteful family-conducive manner.

9 I think there's still debate around the events, but,
10 you know, I wouldn't want to slow the progress on those
11 initiatives, if everybody feels like there could be a better
12 policy that we could review, I don't know.

13 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: So Director La Belle, what I was
14 thinking was, because we didn't get a second on that motion,
15 I was expecting to get a second, we would table it, and then
16 I was going to come back and make a motion that we approve
17 the sale of glass pipes and smoking devices on the property.

18 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Second.

19 DIRECTOR AITKEN: If I could -- did you make a
20 motion? I'm confused.

21 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I move that we table the first
22 bullet that's recommended so we can come back with some
23 fuller robust policy language and maybe guidelines that go
24 with it.

25 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. Do we have a motion to table

1 and second on the first item?

2 Is there any further discussion?

3 BOARD MEMBER RAFIEI: This is Director Rafiei. I
4 mean, I would support tabling this if we had some concrete
5 guidelines of what we're coming back with, because I don't
6 want to have another conversation next month about this and
7 then we table it, and I know that's not the intention.

8 But what I'm guessing from what I'm wandering is
9 that they need more information, some of our colleagues need
10 more information about what these events would look like,
11 what it would mean if there was a cannabis event on site, and
12 so on and so forth, before they can make a decision.

13 And I want to ask you all to wander about how
14 family-friendly cannabis events can be, because I take my
15 nine-year-old to them all the time, and I explain things to
16 him; it's better than hiding it from your family, I believe.

17 But I'm open to tabling this if we're going to come
18 back next month with more specifics for the Board members to
19 look at.

20 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I have a question, Chair La
21 Belle.

22 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes, Director Aitken.

23 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I guess, I feel like we're talking
24 about two different things. I'm fine with tabling it, if
25 that's what the Board wants, but I feel like the first bullet

1 point that our Governance Committee is recommending that we
2 do is just about these CBD products that don't have more than
3 .3 percent THC, which is already in line with California
4 State law.

5 So these aren't the second bullet point which would
6 be totally concentrated independent cannabis-related events,
7 I feel like I would rather have a substitute motion that
8 approves what the Governance Committee is recommending, which
9 is really already in line with California State law.

10 And then next month -- I love the idea of doing a
11 survey of our public about the related events; what those
12 look like, guidelines, usage on the property, et cetera.

13 And as to the second point -- second bullet point of
14 the second point, I mean, I think that there's nothing in our
15 current policy, the way I read it and read California law,
16 that prevents the sale of glass pipes right now, considering
17 that it is not considered drug paraphernalia, so that was
18 just move of a point of clarification.

19 But under our current policy, as I read it, there's
20 nothing that should prevent that from happening, and I don't
21 think we need a separate motion.

22 So I would just like to, as a point of discussion,
23 do we want to just approve that first bullet point, which is
24 really legal as California State law?

25 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Federal.

1 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Federal law, excuse me.

2 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: No, I agree, but Chair La Belle,
3 when I first made the comments, I said I was struggling with
4 the language about the promotion and sponsorship, nobody
5 dealt with that.

6 I said that I was okay with approving the sale and
7 display of independently tested regulated CBD products on the
8 fairgrounds that contain no more than 0.3 percent THC.

9 But I never got an answer on what the rest of that
10 looked like. So, I mean, if the Board is okay, I would make
11 that motion right now, and we can move forward with that.

12 I would like us to say about the glass pipes, since
13 it's on that list, just to make it clear that we all agree
14 with that. I don't see how that would hurt, if we moved in
15 that direction.

16 So with that said, because I'm not really hearing
17 anybody talk about promotion and sponsorship, I move that we
18 approve the sale and display of independently tested
19 regulated CBD products on the fairgrounds that contain no
20 more than 0.3 percent THC and also allow the sale of glass
21 pipes and smoking devices.

22 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: I'll second that.

23 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. We have a motion and a
24 second. I think that's very clear.

25 Is there any further discussion on that?

1 Does the Board wish to, per Director Bagneris's
2 suggestion, conduct kind of a community outreach survey to
3 identify kind of community thoughts relative to the process?
4 Is that something -- and we can do that --

5 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Do we want to vote on the motion
6 first?

7 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.

8 BOARD MEMBER RAFIEI: I have a question before, I'm
9 so sorry. Michele, maybe you can explain the promotion and
10 sponsorship.

11 I mean, I would assume, if Jeanine and Mike have a
12 booth, and they put a picture of one of their glass pieces,
13 that's promoting a glass piece. And the sponsorship, is
14 there an answer for Director Bagneris before we move on?

15 MS. RICHARDS: Yeah, I think promotion is kind of a
16 catch-all. This language would allow, for example, a swap
17 meet vendor to sell CBD lotion or, you know, CBD products to
18 promote that they sell those products.

19 It would allow someone like Roy, who has requested
20 this for his fight club, for example, to accept a sponsorship
21 from a CBD company that sold CPD products.

22 The Pet Expo, for example, there's lots of pet
23 products that are CBD-based, that would allow Pet Expo to
24 sell those products.

25 So promotion is, I think, a catch-all, sort of, you

1 know, would allow signage or ads that, you know, that vendor
2 or that event promoter could display.

3 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Which we do anyway, when people
4 sell things, they do that -- okay.

5 MS. RICHARDS: That's right.

6 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Okay. And sponsorship?

7 MS. RICHARDS: And sponsorship would be just like
8 I -- the example that, Roy, if you're still here, I know that
9 Roy has suggested to this Board before for limited events
10 that are, maybe, 21 and over or that have, you know,
11 certainly, you know, these are very mainstream products right
12 now, but it would allow one of our event promoters, like
13 Fight Club, to secure a sponsorship from a company that
14 manufacturers CBD products.

15 DIRECTOR AITKEN: That are below .3 percent THC?

16 MS. RICHARDS: That's correct. I should add this
17 bit of information: Anything over .3 percent THC falls into
18 the definition of cannabis; anything .3 percent or lower is
19 not considered, you know, in the same category as cannabis.

20 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: So my question then -- I asked
21 to take those two out -- if they were still removed, it would
22 not change the -- how they're promoted or their sponsorships;
23 is that correct?

24 MS. RICHARDS: I think if you took out sponsorship,
25 that would change, that would not allow our event promoters

1 to secure sponsorship from a CBD company.

2 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Okay. So that's important. So
3 I have two pieces.

4 MS. RICHARDS: Okay.

5 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: When I made the motion earlier
6 to table, was there a second?

7 MS. RICHARDS: Yes.

8 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Okay.

9 CHAIR LA BELLE: No, I didn't say second.

10 (Multi-talking; unreportable.)

11 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Okay. So I would ask, for the
12 first part of this, for that motion, I would rescind that, as
13 long as the seconder agrees.

14 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Agreed.

15 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Okay. So that takes that off
16 the table.

17 Now back to this motion, that sponsorship -- I'm the
18 motion maker, so I would agree to put promotion and
19 sponsorship back in, if the seconder also agrees.

20 BOARD MEMBER RAFIEI: I agree.

21 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Okay. I call for the
22 question.

23 MS. RICHARDS: I think that's important, because,
24 you know, we need to understand, as staff, exactly what the
25 Board would like us to come back with; so I'll let you take

1 your vote.

2 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I call for the previous
3 question.

4 CHAIR LA BELLE: And the sponsorship only applies to
5 the .03, correct?

6 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I think we're voting on the first
7 bullet point as stated.

8 CHAIR LA BELLE: Correct, okay.

9 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Back to that.

10 CHAIR LA BELLE: I understand, okay.

11 BOARD MEMBER RAFIEI: Full circle.

12 CHAIR LA BELLE: The question has been called.
13 Summer.

14 MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle.

15 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.

16 MS. ANGUS: Director Cervantes.

17 DIRECTOR CERVANTES: Yes.

18 MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

19 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

20 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

21 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

22 MS. ANGUS: Director Kovacevich.

23 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.

24 MS. ANGUS: And Director Rafiei.

25 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

1 One bullet point down.

2 CHAIR LA BELLE: All right. Let's go ahead and move
3 on to --

4 BOARD MEMBER RAFIEI: So can I make a motion to
5 table the discussion on providing direction for the
6 cannabis-related sponsorships and events to the next meeting?

7 MS. RICHARDS: Yes. And let me clarify; the second
8 bullet, the first sub-bullet, would be cannabis-related
9 sponsorships, that would be for -- to include any events on
10 the site and also our own self-produced events, like the OC
11 Fair, for example.

12 BOARD MEMBER RAFIEI: So I table that we have this
13 discussion after there's more information for our directors
14 to consider for the next meeting.

15 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: I'll second that.

16 CHAIR LA BELLE: And specifically, what are we
17 requesting staff to do between now and the May meeting?

18 BOARD MEMBER RAFIEI: Figure out the entire
19 policy.

20 MS. RICHARDS: We can certainly draft something and
21 bring it back.

22 BOARD MEMBER RAFIEI: And the survey that Director
23 Bagneris asked for.

24 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: And the survey, don't forget
25 that survey.

1 MS. RICHARDS: We can do that.

2 CHAIR LA BELLE: Just as a suggestion, before we
3 call to question, given other things that are underway, May
4 isn't too far off, like a couple of days; is that going to
5 give you enough time or would some more flexibility, say,
6 June or whatever, is that -- I just ask that of Michele.

7 MS. RICHARDS: I would prefer June, rather than May,
8 given what's --

9 BOARD MEMBER RAFIEI: So I'll amend that to table
10 this to the June meeting with more information from staff.

11 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I'm not sure if we need to
12 table, because all it said was discuss and further direction.
13 So we're giving the further direction, so I don't think we
14 need a motion to table.

15 BOARD MEMBER RAFIEI: There we go. I rescind it.

16 CHAIR LA BELLE: All right. We'll come to June.
17 All right.

18 MS. RICHARDS: Chair La Belle.

19 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.

20 MS. RICHARDS: If I could request a quick break, I
21 think our transcriptionist would like to take a quick
22 five-minute break, if that's okay.

23 CHAIR LA BELLE: I'm good with that. Okay.

24 (Recess.)

25 CHAIR LA BELLE: Before we move on to the next item,

1 I just wanted to clarify that Director Bagneris's motion and
2 the second also included the sale of glass pipes, so on and
3 so forth, correct?

4 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes, that is correct. It should
5 have been transcribed that way.

6 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. For the record, thank you.
7 Okay. Next item, 8C, if you want to go ahead and introduce
8 that, Michele.

9 MS. RICHARDS: This is another item brought forth by
10 the Governance Committee, and I know Directors
11 Rubalcava-Garcia and Cervantes are not here, but I'll speak
12 on their behalf.

13 In reviewing the Board governance policies, we also
14 noted that policy 2.05, which is the reporting wrongdoing
15 policy, was adopted by the Board in February of 2020; so
16 right before the pandemic hit.

17 The purpose was to provide guidance to 32nd DDA
18 personnel, including staff and the Board about their
19 responsibility to report unethical behavior or wrongdoing
20 related to the 32nd DAA.

21 So the policy does a really good job of explaining
22 the State of California's whistleblower filing and procedure,
23 but it also called for the establishment of a separate ethics
24 hotline, which would be administered by a third-party and the
25 language in the policy says, "overseen by the Board."

1 And it was -- as I said, it was adopted right before
2 the pandemic shut down operations, and it was never set up.
3 So as we were reviewing the policy, the committee, along with
4 staff, noted that including that ethics hotline, actually
5 duplicates the purpose and the process of the State
6 whistleblower hotline, and it may also present a conflict of
7 interest by being overseen by the Board of Directors.

8 The idea was for it to be completely independent of
9 any personnel related to the 32nd DAA. So in order to avoid
10 this potential conflict of interest and then eliminate the
11 costly and inefficient duplication of the state's
12 whistleblower hotline, the committee and the staff are
13 recommending the elimination of that separate local ethics
14 hotline and pointing people to the State process.

15 So that's the recommendation from the committee and
16 the staff. The mention of the ethics hotline, which is
17 attached to the staff report, has lots of mentions of the
18 ethics hotline.

19 So if the Board were to agree with the
20 recommendation, we would go back and edit that policy and
21 then bring it back for ratification by the Board in June.

22 CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele. Are there any
23 public comments regarding this item?

24 MS. RICHARDS: There are not.

25 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. I'll come back to the

1 directors --

2 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes. Chair La Belle, I move
3 that we amend the Reporting Wrongdoing Policy 2.05 to
4 eliminate the separate ethics hotline.

5 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I second.

6 CHAIR LA BELLE: I have a motion and a second. Any
7 further discussion?

8 Call to question, Summer.

9 MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle.

10 CHAIR LA BELLE: 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 MS. RICHARDS: Great. I would like the record to
21 reflect that Director Cervantes had to leave the meeting, but
22 we still have a quorum.

23 CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele. Item 8D.

24 MS. RICHARDS: Okay. This is an information item.
25 In September of 2016 under, then, Governor Brown, SB 1383 was

1 passed.

2 This is California's short-lived Climate Pollutant
3 Reduction law, and this particular year, 2022 and beyond,
4 there's certain requirements of that new law that will impact
5 operations at the OC Fair and Event Center, particularly with
6 our Flagship Event, the OC Fair.

7 So I would like to ask Jerry Eldridge, our director
8 of facilities to come up, and Jerry is going to educate all
9 of us on SB 1383 and what we're going to do in compliance.

10 MR. ELDRIDGE: Good morning.

11 CHAIR LA BELLE: First of all, Jerry, it's good to
12 see you after two years.

13 MR. ELDRIDGE: Yes, it is. It's good to be here.
14 Good to have everyone back with us. Welcome to those that I
15 have not met yet. I am the facilities director here at the
16 Orange County Fair and Event Center, OC Fair and Event
17 Center.

18 So, yeah, I'm going to be speaking to the SB 1383
19 bill that's been -- the State has been, since 2016, really
20 trying to pin many different applications to divert organic
21 waste, regular waste, and just a lot of material from the
22 landfills.

23 And as they've been implanting these, we've been
24 trying to comply in different manners and different ways that
25 they've been given to us, but this SB 1383, they finally were

1 able to get something real specific that we can grab a hold
2 of, and so we've done that.

3 We've put together a program that helped divert, as
4 the slide there shows, 350 tons of organic waste, that's our
5 goal; organic waste, and we'll talk about that right now.

6 So there's a picture of what a landfill looks like;
7 if nobody's ever been to one, it's quite a mess.

8 So the requirements that they put on us so far is,
9 in 2020, the State had asked that 50 percent of our organic
10 waste be diverted from landfills, but since 2020 was such a
11 difficult year, they haven't really been able to pin enough
12 information to help implement -- help us or large food
13 producer or consumers -- consuming areas that are on State
14 property, is actually what the rule is, it's for State
15 property only.

16 So in 2020, they wanted 50 percent. In 2022, they
17 finally got us the information that we needed to help us
18 develop our program, and they're going to start implementing,
19 having people come around -- I asked them -- they had a
20 meeting a while back, last week.

21 I asked them, "Who is going to come around and start
22 fining and writing a report and stuff," and they said that
23 they don't have anybody for that. They are asking us out of
24 complying with what they're asking us to do, to start taking
25 measures. And they're working on getting some implementing

1 steps in place, but we're going to do our part, and I'll show
2 you how.

3 By 2025 they want 75 percent of organic waste
4 diverted from landfills. Why is California mandating this?
5 Organic waste in our landfills create an aerobic breakdown of
6 the organic material, which creates methane gas, and this is
7 also considered greenhouse gas.

8 In order to reduce the methane gas, we need to
9 reduce the amount of organic waste that goes to the
10 landfills, of course.

11 I talked to our waste hauler, oh, a few months ago
12 trying to have him help me develop this program, and we're
13 talking about the landfills and how they will put a layer of
14 dirt over sections to, like, cap it off.

15 And the unfortunate part about doing that is they
16 actually keep oxygen from going into some of these areas, and
17 it won't decompose. They're finding, like, 10 or 15 years
18 later, apple cores still not decomposed.

19 So it's a big deal to help to get the organic waste
20 out of there, so that we're not having these greenhouse
21 gasses and that product going out.

22 The landfills are responsible for over 21 percent of
23 of the State's methane gas and landfills are the third
24 largest producer of methane gas in the U.S.

25 So how California is looking to reduce in their --

1 how they're looking to accomplish this is by reducing.
2 They're working on prohibiting the sale of and procurement of
3 the Styrofoam, like, containers and cups.

4 So, I think just recently, San Francisco is looking
5 into, you know, a no sale of Styrofoam anymore. They're
6 eliminating -- sorry, I'm backed up here.

7 Well, they're eliminating straws, anything that is
8 not landfill-safe that won't biodegrade. Sorry, I think I'm
9 on the wrong slides.

10 No, I'm all right, so I'm just going to wing it
11 here. So they increase the amount of material to the
12 landfills. So what they're having us do is to start buying
13 and procuring more products that are compostable; so they
14 have paper products, clamshells that are now cardboard that
15 will compose in a landfill.

16 And that's -- increase the quantity of recyclable
17 and compostable materials that are diverted from landfills.
18 Sorry, I just told you that.

19 So by understanding what we can divert and recycle,
20 we can reduce the landfill waste substantially with little
21 cost through proper sorting.

22 So I wanted to give you an update on what organic
23 waste means, because for a while when I was working from 2016
24 trying to understand what is organic, what really can be
25 thrown away; so I'll take you through a little walk here.

1 Organic waste, also known as biodegradable waste, is
2 produced from living organisms like plants or animals, so
3 food waste. We have green waste, and that's, like, landscape
4 trimmings, grass trimmings, tree trimmings; that's all our
5 green waste.

6 Non-hazardous waste would be lumber, pruned
7 branches, stumps, trees, used lumbar, shipping pallets, and
8 other wood debris from construction and demolition
9 activities.

10 Food-soiled paper, means paper products that have
11 been in contact with organic materials to a degree that they
12 would no longer be recycled into a paper product waste; so
13 that would be products like paper towels, napkins, plates
14 that have been soiled too much with greases and oils from the
15 food; that would then -- that can't go into paper recycle, it
16 would go into the organics pile.

17 Fibers, such as paper and cardboard, are organic
18 waste and animal bedding and manure is organic waste. So
19 what does that mean for the OC Fair?

20 Year-round the OC Fair and Event Center will gather
21 as much organic waste as possible through providing 35-gallon
22 totes for our preconsumor organic waste, we're going to be
23 giving, like your curbside totes that you would have at your
24 home, those are 65- to 90-gallon.

25 We're going to be giving out smaller ones that are

1 35, so they'll fit behind the concessionor's booth, they can
2 put their kitchen scraps and all their waste into there, and
3 then at the end of the night, push it out to the front, and
4 we'll come by and pick them all up, dump them, and bring that
5 through.

6 We'll be placing green post-consume organic waste
7 containers next to our blue recycle cans that we currently
8 have and use those -- they'll be labeled for organic waste.

9 And we're purchasing -- we're purchasing a
10 biodigester; this was something that was on our capital that
11 we approved, and we're actively having it fabricated right
12 now.

13 But we can take -- it will process one ton of
14 organic waste per day, and we can put our animal bedding in
15 in, we can put our food bedding [sic] -- some cardboard, tree
16 trimmings, the green waste from trimmings -- grass, sorry;
17 it's been two years, right? A little nervous.

18 So we're going to monitor this. And how we're going
19 to do the compliance here is we're going to go around by
20 looking into the organic trash cans, making sure that they're
21 not being, you know, if there's a contaminant -- anything
22 that goes into this organics, if it gets hauled to the
23 transfer station, and there's contaminants in it, it all gets
24 taken to the dump, right?

25 So we've just wasted all of that effort and spending

1 money to pick it up, spending money to haul it separately,
2 and now it's contaminated.

3 So we're going to be going around and just making a
4 visual. We're going to be recording annually how much waste
5 we -- organic waste that we divert, we already record how
6 much recycle that we divert.

7 So what materials are also diverted from the
8 landfill by the Orange County Fairgrounds? We currently
9 have, since 2016 -- or 2017 we started keeping track of this.

10 So we currently have diverted and recycled 27,000
11 pounds of plastic; 4,000 pounds of aluminum; 2,400 pounds of
12 glass; metal and wire, this is from, like, you know, jobs
13 that we've done or pulling old lines that we've found in the
14 grounds and wire, 8,000 pounds; 1,500 pallets; and used
15 cooking oil that we reclaim every year, 6,300 gallons.

16 So together we can focus on waste reduction, product
17 redesign, and eliminate wasteful practices by reducing,
18 reusing, and recycling.

19 And this is the picture we'll be having periodically
20 throughout the grounds reminding our customers to get
21 involved with what we're trying to do and educate the
22 community.

23 This is what the biodigester will look like when we
24 receive it. The green section there is where the -- majority
25 of our waste will be animal bedding. We throw about 250 tons

1 of animal bedding out every year. So we will now be able to
2 compost that ourselves and reuse the product that comes out
3 of this.

4 So everything will go on that green section, it will
5 come up the escalator into the darker black section on the
6 top, which is a shredder, and then go down into the digesting
7 system itself.

8 On the left-hand side is the organic waste section
9 that we generally produce, and on the right-hand side is
10 what's going to come out, that we'll be able to reuse on our
11 grounds or the company Heart, who is providing this system
12 for us, said that if we generate more than we can use,
13 they'll be glad to take it and pay us for it. So that's
14 going to be a small revenue, but, you know, at least we're
15 not just dumping it.

16 Here is the signage that we're going to be having.
17 So that blue on the right is our general recycle that we have
18 all over already. The can on the left is for the organic
19 recycle, and those will be set out and those are new for the
20 program that we have now.

21 Any questions?

22 CHAIR LA BELLE: Sure, I have a question. In terms
23 of the cost for what we're needing to do to meet these State
24 requirements, are there any State funds available from an
25 application standpoint that could help offset some of those

1 costs?

2 MR. ELDRIDGE: I haven't actually seen any -- I've
3 been in close communication with a lady by the name of Malary
4 with Cal Recycle for the last few years. She hasn't been
5 able to provide that information as well.

6 We've always been trying to -- any help we can to
7 buy the recycle cans, any help we can to help with hauling
8 fees, but currently that I know of, unless somebody can help,
9 I haven't seen that.

10 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. On a personal note, I'm a
11 Costa Mesa resident, I put out two bins last night, one green
12 one and one regular one, and we've been doing it for,
13 probably, four to five years now through the waste hauler.

14 So, anyway, any questions of Jerry?

15 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I would like to go back and see
16 the signage slide that you had.

17 Does it actually say the types of products that can
18 go in the green one?

19 MR. ELDRIDGE: I know it's kind of small.

20 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yeah, I can't really --

21 MR. ELDRIDGE: I don't know how to enlarge it.

22 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: The reason I'm asking is because
23 at my job back in the old days when we were on-campus, which
24 we haven't been in two and a half years, they made it very
25 clear what went in that bin, because people just throw stuff

1 in either one, it didn't matter, if it was a trash can,
2 that's how they considered it.

3 So I'm just wondering what it says on there, so I
4 would know what to throw in that green one versus what to
5 throw in that blue one.

6 MR. ELDRIDGE: So on the top it says, "food waste
7 only" in green, and then the picture, the first picture is
8 actually somebody scraping their plate and then the smaller
9 ones are actually fair food that we have on grounds, just as
10 an example.

11 I wanted to -- I really wanted that one scraping the
12 plate because if you just put food pictures, then they're
13 throwing the plate and everything in there.

14 One of the expectations that we have this year, and
15 it will be a soft opening for our vendors or food providers
16 is that they do provide compostable and organic paper
17 napkins, cups, silverware, straws. It's all out there; I
18 know it's a little more expensive to provide that.

19 But it will help us not have contaminants because if
20 somebody does put their plate in that organic waste and it is
21 a compostable cup or a plate, they'll take it, and we won't
22 have any problems with it.

23 But if it's plastic -- it's a plastic cup, that just
24 killed that whole haul right there. So, it's a learning --
25 it's going to be -- definitely, California, they understand

1 that it's a learning experience for us all.

2 But I think -- I mean, I don't think, I know for
3 sure that biodigester, if we can divert 350 tons of organic
4 waste a year, plus how much we're already recycling with just
5 general recycling, we're really doing a good thing this year.

6 DIRECTOR AITKEN: So we created the "food waste
7 only" graphic?

8 MR. ELDRIDGE: Yes.

9 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Can we put that up where the
10 white -- because I feel like people know what the blue sign
11 is, but the white sign, people might not know what that
12 means.

13 MR. ELDRIDGE: The white -- the one that says --

14 DIRECTOR AITKEN: See where it says, "Please sort
15 your waste here" and then there's, like, a white plate on the
16 left?

17 MR. ELDRIDGE: Correct.

18 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Right. I don't know if people
19 might -- I'm just thinking people that are not -- what I like
20 to call myself -- full-sized --

21 MR. ELDRIDGE: Sure.

22 DIRECTOR AITKEN: -- and they're looking down,
23 they're not going to see that sign, right, so they might just
24 see -- either put something on top or put something that's on
25 the left-hand of that sign that just says -- I love that

1 graphic.

2 I think it's extremely -- the pictures are better
3 than words, right. Maybe just put it up there too so people
4 know when they're going up to it; just a suggestion.

5 MR. ELDRIDGE: Yeah, so thank you for that, and
6 we'll work on that. The symbol on the right in the white is
7 plastics recycle and the symbol on the left is -- there's
8 specific symbols for organic, plastics, and trash. So that's
9 what the white is on the symbol.

10 Those signs -- they're not going to be at every
11 location where the cans will be. Those will be more, like,
12 on the entry coming into the fair, just letting people know
13 we're doing -- we're recycling here, and they will be at,
14 like, probably in the mall, where we have a high-traffic of
15 food, we'll have those signs by those, but, yeah, I like your
16 thought on that.

17 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Are they already made?

18 MR. ELDRIDGE: I have some made. I don't have
19 enough, but I have some. I needed to make them. I have four
20 of those right now. It's not a big deal.

21 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Or even something on the top that
22 just says, like, "food waste." I feel like people look down
23 and they're not going to know.

24 MR. ELDRIDGE: Sure.

25 Any other questions?

1 CHAIR LA BELLE: Just as a recycling note, all of
2 us, when we buy plastic products or cans, we pay the CRV on
3 it, and my understanding is, currently, at the State, there
4 is \$660,000,000 in unclaimed recycling funds, and my
5 understanding is the, you know, the governor has had some
6 initial discussions and the legislature is working on how
7 they can get those funds dispersed.

8 So the plastic and the cans in my garage are
9 increasing awaiting a decision as to whether you're going to
10 double the recycling or not. So I would just throw that into
11 the hopper. They won't outlast me, though, I've got enough
12 room in my garage.

13 MR. ELDRIDGE: Yeah, they have been talking about
14 increasing the recycle revenue because they're trying to get
15 people to bring more in.

16 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yeah, that will encourage people to
17 do it.

18 MR. ELDRIDGE: Right, right. They have been making
19 a push because plastic is really hard to recycle, even though
20 it's a recyclable product. They have a hard time reusing it
21 and breaking it down and everything it takes to break it
22 down.

23 So you've probably seen a lot of the new cans that
24 are coming out of water; water is really getting popular to
25 be in aluminum cans now because that's such an easier and

1 better product to be able to recycle.

2 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I wish I knew that last week; I
3 just took all my year-long recyclables and got \$20.

4 CHAIR LA BELLE: For those that live closely, Orange
5 Coast College has a recycling center and the students work
6 there. It's a really great program.

7 So we collect as many as we can get and load up the
8 SUV and take them over there. So it's a really good program
9 to have.

10 MR. ELDRIDGE: Yeah. The Orange Coast College is
11 where I had come across the biodigester. They actually have
12 a composter and talking to the lady who deigned the
13 composter, I had her come over and see what we have here on
14 the grounds and would that composter work for us.

15 But the volume that we have, the composter wouldn't
16 be able to keep up and that one will, from the time you put
17 the food it, you're at a week before you're getting product
18 out, and that doesn't work for us; we're doing that much
19 volume. So one ton a day is going to be really good for
20 sure.

21 CHAIR LA BELLE: Would that be able to handle the
22 capacity during the fair, I know it's quite --

23 MR. ELDRIDGE: I don't think it -- I don't think it
24 will handle the capacity during the fair because we have a
25 tremendous amount of waste.

1 But we're going to be gathering the organics in --
2 from those green containers and from the 35-gallon totes, and
3 that will all go into a 40-yard specific for our organic
4 waste and then that will be hauled off grounds.

5 So I won't know the capacity or how much we will
6 save or divert until after the fair, but we will be using the
7 biodigester mostly, probably, for everything that we can;
8 mostly the bedding, animal bedding for the fair right now,
9 and some of the organic waste.

10 But the hopper holds three tons and it produces one
11 ton a day, you know, it will digest one ton a day, and we'll
12 probably -- I'm anticipating about eight tons or more of
13 organic waste a week. So I just wouldn't be able to keep up
14 with that.

15 CHAIR LA BELLE: Pretty good. It is an information
16 item, but are there any public comments on this item?

17 MS. RICHARDS: We have no cards.

18 CHAIR LA BELLE: No cards, okay.

19 Any further questions from the Board?

20 MS. RICHARDS: Thank you, Jerry.

21 CHAIR LA BELLE: Thanks Jerry, good to see you
22 again.

23 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Thanks, Jerry.

24 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. Next item is 8E, report on
25 the public feedback of our Three-Year Strategic Plan.

1 MS. RICHARDS: So following the Board's approval
2 last month of the Three-Year Strategic Plan, we posted the
3 document on OCFair.com with an electronic form to elicit
4 feedback from the public; that was available for the last
5 five weeks.

6 We also included e-blasts with our Neighbor
7 newsletter, our StayConnected newsletter, and our At The Fair
8 publication, and also used our social media platforms to
9 provide a direct link for members of the public.

10 We received 25 responses; they were all very
11 interesting to read, and they were attached to the staff
12 report that you all received.

13 I tried to kind of categorize them in preparing for
14 this meeting. They were all very positive about the
15 strategic plan, but there were also a lot of suggestions in
16 there too, and I'll turn it over to the Board to consider any
17 amendments that you might want to make.

18 In particular, there were two comments from the
19 public that asked about why the agriplex was not included in
20 the strategic plan.

21 And just as a reminder, you also know, last month,
22 that the Board initiated the development of the Ten-Year
23 Master Site Plan and the agriplex was one of those projects
24 to be included in the plan. In fact, we're all very very
25 excited about that particular project.

1 So the Board has approved including that for further
2 development in the Master Site Plan. The last page of the
3 strategic plan currently is titled Property Initiates, and it
4 states that the Board of Directors will be discussing future
5 direction for the OC Fair and Event Center property, making
6 decisions about a Ten-Year Master Site Plan.

7 Once approved, the projects identified in the plan
8 for 2022 to 2024, the time period of the three-year strategic
9 plan, will be added to the document.

10 So we'll continue to update the three-year strategic
11 plan as those Master Site Plan projects are identified and
12 approved.

13 So at this point, I'll turn it back to the Board;
14 you've all received the comments, and we'll take direction on
15 any amendments that you feel you may or may not want to make
16 regarding the three-year strategic plan.

17 CHAIR LA BELLE: Before opening it up to the Board,
18 are there any public comments on this item?

19 MS. RICHARDS: There are. We have two.

20 You would like to take those now; Gibbern Stout.

21 MS. STOUT: Hello. Thank you again for letting me
22 speak. Some of those comments that Michele just mentioned,
23 one of them was certainly mine, but I also know that there's
24 many comments that was made -- the deadline, I guess, was
25 supposed to be Tuesday.

1 So I don't know if they're included in that 25
2 total, but we had reached out to some of our agricultural
3 people. The last few weeks have been busy for me, so I
4 haven't been on social media; I didn't see that.

5 I would love it -- many people would love it if
6 there was a way to e-mail -- I know you have many blast lists
7 for communication. We get a lot of communication for the
8 equestrian center, so that would be fantastic.

9 But yes, I did not notice that the agriplex was
10 mentioned in the strategic plan, and we're very excited about
11 it. It's huge, and it's very exciting. So we just want to
12 be sure that it's added, specifically, if possible, to the
13 strategic plan.

14 We also ask that you please please please consult
15 the extensive agricultural resources available to you; you
16 have many on staff, you have many that have spoken at past
17 meetings who have offered their help, FFA leadership, there's
18 4H, The Farm Bureau, many many resources available to you and
19 they're very excited to help.

20 There's many factors that you probably don't know
21 about that go into an agricultural complex, so it's critical
22 that it be included in the planning, especially on the large
23 scale. It will save you a lot of time, money, and effort by
24 consulting these people in the beginning.

25 Another thing I would like to suggest is that you

1 remove the word "entertainment." When you have the word
2 "entertainment" in agriculture, that's a trigger for a lot of
3 people.

4 I do know that citydwellers often find agricultural
5 activities entertaining, which they, obviously, always are,
6 so I don't think the word "entertainment," when we're talking
7 about agricultural education, is necessarily appropriate; so
8 you might want to reconsider that.

9 I know that it's not intended that way, but there's
10 many people who do not. So, again, very excited about this
11 agriplex and to really have a return to agricultural
12 education for our agricultural district. Thank you.

13 MS. RICHARDS: Thank you, Gibbern. Reggie Mundekis.

14 MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi, thank you for the opportunity to
15 address you on this matter. I would just like to say thank
16 you to the Board and the staff who have worked on this and
17 thank you for the great product that you put forward and
18 great job.

19 MS. RICHARDS: All right. Thank you, Reggie. That
20 concludes public comment on that item.

21 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. Thank you, Michele.
22 Bringing it back to the Board, any comments from the
23 directors?

24 I think I would just add that the Board, at our last
25 meeting, conceptually gave some priorities to some of the

1 major projects, and my understanding is that the staff is
2 working with the Facilities Committee now to refine some
3 specific recommendations that have come back to the Board.

4 And I don't know if Ashleigh wants to comment on
5 that or not.

6 DIRECTOR AITKEN: No.

7 MS. RICHARDS: Still in development, but, yes, we
8 will --

9 (Cross-talking.)

10 CHAIR LA BELLE: -- it's going to come back.

11 MS. RICHARDS: Absolutely.

12 CHAIR LA BELLE: We are focused on, now that the
13 strategic plan is completed, taking the infrastructure study,
14 which is a very thorough analysis of our facilities, as well
15 as the concepts and the original Master Plan concept.

16 And I think the Board made it very clear at our last
17 meeting which projects we want to move forward with and which
18 projects we have passed by and said, you know, not today and
19 probably not ever.

20 So with that any -- is there an action from the
21 Board?

22 BOARD MEMBER RAFIEI: I make a motion to
23 follow-through on staff's recommendation to consider the
24 feedback, and since there's no amendment, then we move
25 forward.

1 CHAIR LA BELLE: And would that include finalizing
2 the strategic plan? I think we're taking a step forward in
3 terms of our mission statement up there --

4 MS. RICHARDS: I wondered if anybody noticed that --

5 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes, I did, but first, I'd like
6 to second the motion.

7 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. For clarification, the
8 motion is to basically approve the strategic plan based on
9 the feedback that staff has received from the outreach.

10 Is that the motion?

11 MS. RICHARDS: Correct.

12 BOARD MEMBER RAFIEI: Yes.

13 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. Any further discussion?

14 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: No discussion, but it is --
15 that's new. Thank you.

16 CHAIR LA BELLE: All right. With that, I would call
17 to question.

18 MS. ANGUS: Chair La Belle.

19 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yes.

20 MS. ANGUS: Director Bagneris.

21 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes.

22 MS. ANGUS: Director Aitken.

23 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes.

24 MS. ANGUS: Director Kovacevich.

25 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yes.

1 MS. ANGUS: And Director Rafiei.

2 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Yes.

3 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. I think the next item on the
4 agenda would be closed section?

5 MS. RICHARDS: It's not, we have one more quick
6 presentation.

7 CHAIR LA BELLE: Oh, I'm sorry, Joan.

8 MS. RICHARDS: Our chief business development
9 officer, Joan Hamill is going to give us a quick recap on
10 Imaginology 2022.

11 MS. HAMILL: Good morning -- or afternoon, oh,
12 almost afternoon. I want to talk about the recap of
13 Imaginology and discuss the event and just go over a few
14 things, the live and in-person version of Imaginology made
15 its triumphant return just a couple of weeks ago.

16 And I want to thank and congratulate the Board of
17 Directors and the staff of bringing Imaginology back to a
18 community that was eagerly anticipating this event; this
19 wonderful community giveback that the OC Fair Board of
20 Directors and the event organization gives to the public.

21 Some pictures, right, I think Director Aitken
22 mentioned pictures, right. After being on hiatus for two
23 years, Imaginology 2022 was scaled back a bit this year in
24 programming and layout.

25 It went from a three-day event to a two-day event.

1 New plans and approaches were developed in anticipation of
2 these changes. But what didn't change was outpouring from
3 the community and from our partners that embrace this event
4 and celebrate its return with us.

5 It was a joyous fabulous weekend, as you can see in
6 these few pictures here, learning hands-on engagement,
7 agriculture, education, discovery, and just plain all-out fun
8 was the order of the weekend, and it was fun.

9 Thank you, Director Rafiei, who attended with her
10 son, Kian, for the first time, I think, to the Imaginology,
11 and I wanted to share some numbers with you.

12 We had just under 15,000 patrons, exhibitors, and
13 partners this weekend; Saturday had the higher attendance of
14 the two days and Sunday was a later crowd, which tracks
15 evenly with previous year's events.

16 So more facts: There were close to 1,500 total
17 participants in our scavenger hunt, which is very very
18 popular. We get a lot of feedback on that, everyone was
19 asking if it was coming back and it did, so it had a lot of
20 participation in that and it was divided pretty equally over
21 both days.

22 Just under 1,000 ribbons were awarded to students
23 who entered in the school project competition, which
24 consisted of two categories this year: murals and
25 engineering.

1 We heard feedback from educates who appreciated,
2 actually, a scaled-back version of school projects, so they
3 could focus more, rather than, you know, 20 different
4 categories or 40 different categories, so that worked out
5 well.

6 Hero's Hall Fort, you can see a gentleman in the
7 bottom doing the obstacle course, that had a total of 4300
8 participants over the weekend, and I just want to let you
9 know, on Sunday alone, there were 3,000 participants. So it
10 was very very business on Sunday.

11 We were lucky to have 125 volunteers donating their
12 time to help out and help us with the event and engage with
13 the public, 16 of our own wonderful CCFF (inaudible), we had
14 84 from the Irvine Youth Action Team, who earned their hours.
15 So they earned their volunteer hours, and we had 25 master
16 gardeners participate as well.

17 There were a total of 76 4H livestock animal entries
18 that consisted of -- and this is important -- 15 chickens --
19 you see a young lady there having her chicken judged -- 15
20 cavies, which are guinea pigs, 25 rabbits, 20 diary goats,
21 and one single solitary pygmy goat, who was the star of the
22 event, because pygmy goats are stars.

23 On to our OC Fair and Event Center website, there
24 were 89,325 total page views for Imaginology, and on social
25 media, the total reach was a whopping 235,710 and that

1 includes Facebook, Instagram post, reels, and stories.

2 Some more pictures here. So what you're seeing up
3 here is you see a father engaging with his son looking at
4 some gems that are underneath the microscope, a wonderful
5 singer from one of our mariachi groups, kids at play with
6 their parents, we have goats on display, a young lady in a
7 rockband, a young gentleman playing at Hero's Hall, and a
8 young 4Her and eagerly anticipating, I think she's giving
9 that judge a run for her money right there.

10 And then lastly, some more pictures. I just wanted
11 to -- the laughter and the fun and just kids engaging,
12 parents engaging, playing, off their devices throughout the
13 whole weekend, you can just see it in these pictures.

14 And some feedback that we received: At the very
15 top, I don't know if you can read that, it's a little bit
16 small. It was from one of our feature exhibitors who said,
17 "I love getting to be a part of such an amazing hands-on expo
18 for kids that supports new adventure."

19 Another featured exhibitor, they were from Santiago
20 Canyon Gemology alumni, said, "Thank you for having us at
21 Imaginology this year. When it was all over, we all had a
22 warm and fuzzy feeling that we did something special for two
23 days. Another thing we noticed was that there were no bad
24 vibes anywhere, every last person seemed to be smiling and
25 having a good time."

1 And then an educator from a school that participated
2 many many years, Zion Elementary in Garden Grove who e-mailed
3 us afterwards, "I just want to take a moment and say thank
4 you to you and all the folks at Imaginology. Please know
5 what a positive impact this event makes for our school and
6 that we truly appreciate all of you."

7 She also mentioned the importance of the ribbons
8 that the kids receive and acknowledge that they get
9 third-hand, not just from their parents, not just from their
10 teachers, not from their classmates, but from the public and
11 from the judges and how powerful that is and having those on
12 display and the kids taking those ribbons home. So she
13 thanked us for that as well. They participated in the school
14 projects competition.

15 And this event, it just makes such a profound and
16 positive difference in the lives of many many children,
17 youth, and families. It was an extraordinary weekend.
18 Congratulations to all who were involved in the planning and
19 the presentation of a very very successful event.

20 As you can see, you see some kids here performing on
21 stage. You can see Kian, Melahat's son standing in front of
22 his school's entry, that was a group project, and he happened
23 upon it and saw the ribbon and Director Rafiei saw that.

24 So it was pretty exciting to have that happen, so
25 you see all that kind of discovery take place, and it was a

1 first place, I think it was also a Division 1, so lot of
2 performance, lot of happiness.

3 So that concludes my report. I'm happy to answer
4 any questions that the Board may have, but it was a fun
5 weekend.

6 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: I wasn't able to attend, but I
7 had some friends that went and they had a blast. When I
8 wanted to come, it was, like, I think it was going to be 30
9 more minutes before you'd be closed, so I didn't think it was
10 a good idea, but I hear it was just fabulous, so.

11 MS. HAMILL: Yeah, we had a great weekend, and it
12 was busy up until the very end; each day closing at 5 p.m.

13 CHAIR LA BELLE: Congratulations to staff.

14 DIRECTOR AITKEN: We found our theme for next year;
15 "No Bad Vibes."

16 MS. RICHARDS: No Bad Vibes, I love that. It is a
17 labor of love for all of us, for sure, a real community
18 giveback. So thank you to Joan and her team and all the
19 staff -- and everybody; it's an all-hands-on event.

20 CHAIR LA BELLE: Perfect. Okay. Next item is Ad
21 Hoc Committee Reports. Are there any public comments on the
22 committee reports?

23 MS. RICHARDS: There are, and, maybe, as we go
24 through the list we can --

25 CHAIR LA BELLE: Perfect, okay. Leadership

1 Committee, I would have nothing at this time. Financial
2 Monitoring Committee, Director Kovacevich and Director
3 Bagneris, any comments?

4 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: We can go ahead and read the
5 report very quickly. We met on 4/22. Good news, the
6 District continues to demonstrating favorable performance
7 against the '22 budget. Year-to-date, March 22 revenue is
8 almost 1.5 million and is favorable to budget by over
9 \$250,000.

10 Revenue for the month of March was a bit short of
11 budget, mainly due to events that were canceled and moved to
12 other dates, but it will normalize later in the year as these
13 other events were rescheduled.

14 Operating expenses year-to-date through March 2022
15 are at 4.67 million and are favorable to budget by 1.5
16 million dollars and much of this positive variance is
17 reflected in payroll and related expenses.

18 While staff is doing a great job of keeping expenses
19 low, there are several unfilled positions due to recruiting
20 difficulties that are helping our variance, but not helping
21 the workload on the staff, so we would like to fix that.

22 Year-to-date for the period ending March 31st, 2022,
23 net proceeds are over 2 million dollars favorable to budget,
24 and as of March 2022, cash and investments are up to 60.8
25 million dollars.

1 The 2021 audit is underway with about 20 percent
2 completion, and there is one notable call, staff shared an
3 accounting error that was discovered, I believe it was
4 discovered -- we discovered it, right? Staff discovered it.

5 And it was caused by a number of general ledger
6 entries being duplicated. This caused revenue to be
7 overstated by approximately \$690,000 for the year, 2021, and
8 the good news is, staff has made the appropriate adjustments,
9 shared the findings with the auditors, and reporting is now
10 back up-to-date and accurate.

11 In reviewing the situation, staff has concluded that
12 reconciliation and review procedures were done incorrectly,
13 leading to the error, not being discovered until now, but
14 good news, proper controls and procedures have been put into
15 place to ensure compliance moving forward. Our next meeting
16 is scheduled for May 20th, 2022.

17 MS. RICHARDS: And Director Kovacevich, if I could
18 just add a few things about that last item. When the Board
19 appointed me CEO in October of 2019, I made a pledge to the
20 Board and the public that when we make errors, we're going to
21 shine a light on them, we're going to raise them up, discuss
22 them, and find resolutions to them, and really that's what
23 this is all about.

24 We have a new director of finance as of about eight
25 weeks ago. He's here, I would like to introduce Max King.

1 Max, stand up.

2 I point this out because Max and his very excellent
3 accounting abilities discovered the error very early on, and
4 there were several mistakes that were made in 2021 that led
5 to the over reporting of our revenue. I want to emphasize
6 that this was an accounting error in our accounts.

7 It, in no way, involved any cash leaving the
8 building, it would be, like, if you entered your paycheck
9 twice in your checkbook; you're going to show a higher
10 balance than what the bank has. So Max and his team have
11 been doing their due diligence for several weeks now to make
12 the adjustment; it's been made.

13 We have shared that with the auditors, and I want to
14 thanks Max for finding the error and quickly getting on top
15 of it and certainly apologize to the Board that we made a
16 little less than the 15.9 million that was reported in 2021.

17 So Max is here, if there's any specific questions,
18 or if anyone has any questions following this meeting, we're
19 happy to go into more detail as well.

20 CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele. The next item
21 would be --

22 MS. RICHARDS: Oh, we do have a public comment on
23 this -- on the finance.

24 CHAIR LA BELLE: On the fiance.

25 MS. RICHARDS: Gibbern Stout.

1 MS. STOUT: You guys are going to be sick of me
2 today. I'm happy to see that the equestrian center is in the
3 strategic plan, and if the numbers in the budget are correct,
4 you will see the boarding income is very very high; that's
5 because the facility is full right now with a very long
6 waiting list. So we're very excited about that.

7 Also on the budget, I noticed that there were
8 several new line items for your plan for horse shows for the
9 coming year in 2023.

10 Again, very excited that the equestrian center has
11 been included in the overall plan, but I'm going to strongly
12 remind you to consult a horse show promoter to make sure that
13 your planning and your budget projections are realistic and
14 that the planning takes into account the many many specific
15 and unique requirements and needs that a horse show
16 competition would involve.

17 Also, remember that such events require -- it's not
18 safe on asphalt for horses, so that's something that you
19 really need to take into consideration in your planning and
20 your budgeting.

21 Also, note that -- I don't know how much of your
22 budget that you're planning on -- I don't know if you've
23 spoken to horse show promoters, but planning on shows in the
24 next year, I don't know if you've talked to a promoter, if
25 you have dates, the horse show calendar gets very full very

1 soon, that's something you need to think about.

2 Also, I know paying for parking and admission is a
3 big source of revenue for the fairgrounds, note that paying
4 for parking will not be something that horse show -- what's
5 the word I'm looking for, my gosh, I'm tired today -- people
6 going to a horse show -- horse show audience will not be
7 paying for parking, and they will not be paying admission,
8 as these are things that they get to see now for free.

9 Horse shows are very exciting and entertaining, but
10 they are not currently something that people pay to see, so
11 just keep that in mind when you're budget-planning. Thank
12 you.

13 MS. RICHARDS: Okay. Thank you, Gibbern.

14 CHAIR LA BELLE: Do you have another one on finance?

15 MS. RICHARDS: No.

16 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. Facilities Committee,
17 Director Aitken.

18 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes, thank you.

19 So we had a very fruitful meeting; there's a summary
20 of our meeting that's attached to our reports. One thing I
21 just wanted to highlight is every year we do approve a
22 contingency budget.

23 As we all know, things are becoming more expensive
24 and harder to get, so we are -- we have been -- about \$40,000
25 into our contingency budget.

1 So we'll just update everybody and work with the
2 Finance Committee if we're getting a little too close to the
3 sun, but right now we're very comfortable with what we we've
4 been allocated.

5 As we move through the Master Site Plan, we did
6 discuss the fate of Building 15, for those of us that have
7 taken our kids, it's where the chickies are; where we raise
8 the little chickies.

9 That building is, unfortunately, at the very very
10 end of its life and been deemed unsafe for future use. So I
11 just want to highlight that because it will come up for
12 further discussion about the removal of that building.

13 And then, I don't know, I know we had, after our
14 meeting, a walk-through for both the Lot G utilities, as well
15 as, maybe, a quick update on the doors.

16 MR. KARNS: Thank you, Ashleigh. We have another
17 Facility Committee meeting next week. We'll provide a full
18 update on the challenges brought to the committee so we can
19 work for the Board next month on everything in more detail.
20 Status of the door project, I'll turn to Jerry.

21 MR. ELDRIDGE: The architect has got drawings to the
22 fire marshall, I believe the fire marshall is very close to
23 approving the design, and then -- our expectation is still to
24 get Los Alamitos and Costa Mesa in before.

25 DIRECTOR AITKEN: All right. Thank you very much.

1 So that's all for facilities, unless any directors have
2 specific questions.

3 CHAIR LA BELLE: Any questions of Ashleigh?

4 MS. RICHARDS: We do have one public comment for the
5 Facilities Committee, Gibbern Stout.

6 MS. ANGUS: Oh, that's been withdrawn.

7 MS. RICHARDS: Oh, all right. That concludes public
8 comment.

9 CHAIR LA BELLE: Nothing on the Governance
10 Committee. Community Affairs Committee.

11 MS. RICHARDS: We do have a public comment, though,
12 on the Governance Committee from Reggie Mundekis.

13 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay.

14 MS. MUNDEKIS: Can I move that to Governmental
15 Relations; I wrote down the wrong one.

16 MS. RICHARDS: Okay.

17 MS. MUNDEKIS: Sorry about that.

18 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. Community Affairs Committee,
19 Director Bagneris, Director Rafiei. Barbara, any update?

20 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: We did meet. Hang on just a
21 minute. I was so wrapped up in everything else, I forgot.

22 Okay. So we did meet on the 25th, and we discussed
23 the Diversity Equity Inclusion Public Art Project, and so we
24 do have an update. The staff did show us some light tower
25 plans because we're kind of -- we want to move into a

1 different direction, than having just a static.

2 And they gave us some cost estimates, but we do need
3 an engineering study, a feasibility study before we can do
4 that, so that's going to cost about 2,5000. The Board did
5 approve the 50,000 for the project, so that will cover it
6 there.

7 Once we get that feasibility study done, we'll be
8 able to know just what we're going to be able to do with the
9 stations that are already out there -- I guess they're not
10 called stations, the towers that are out there.

11 So let's see. We also talked about the nonprofit
12 ticket outreach; we did that last year, we're going to do
13 that again this year. So Directors, if you have some
14 recommended nonprofits that we can give tickets to, make sure
15 that you touch base with the CEO Richards about that. And
16 we're going to distribute approximately 5,000 general
17 admission tickets.

18 Director Rafiei, is there something --

19 BOARD MEMBER RAFIEI: I just want to thank the staff
20 tremendously for putting that work together. The meeting we
21 had on Monday was really helpful to both Director Bagneris
22 and myself moving this incredible project forward.

23 I also want to add that we're going to be working
24 with some nonprofit leaders to help offset the cost of the
25 fair for some attendees; this is in the very beginning stages

1 of it.

2 But hopefully by the next meeting, we'll have some
3 updates on what we can do to help families, not just coming
4 into the door but, you know, thrive and buy the food and
5 participate in the attractions.

6 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: And CEO Richards, do you have
7 anything else to add?

8 MS. RICHARDS: No, I think you did a great job.

9 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Okay. Yeah, we're excited about
10 it. Once we get the feasibility study, we'll be able to
11 bring back what our designs for the LED panels [sic] and any
12 cost and all of that. So we're excited about how we're
13 moving forward. That's all.

14 CHAIR LA BELLE: Just a comment, and I mentioned
15 this to Michele, I've identified five, maybe six nonprofits
16 that have a clear interest and would fit into it, and so I'll
17 be, you know, conveying all that information as I finalize it
18 to Michele.

19 One of the individuals I spoke to, I indicated that,
20 obviously, being able to get into the fair, there's plenty of
21 things you can do without spending money, but obviously, once
22 you're in there, to be able to participate in some of the
23 food items and the carnival itself is something else, and I
24 said, you know, directors are working on coming up with some
25 options for next year.

1 And the individual I spoke to said, oh, it's -- the
2 way it will work is once the tickets go to our CEO or our
3 executive director, she will turn around and contact all the
4 board members and ask for 50 bucks to help offset the cost of
5 going.

6 So I think that's what you're going to find with a
7 lot of the nonprofits, that they'll, you know, in response to
8 getting tickets to go to the fair, they'll step in and put
9 some dollars in.

10 You know, we can't make them do it, but I think it's
11 something that they'll want to do to kind of enhance the
12 experience and I appreciate what Melahat and Barbara have
13 done to move this thing forward.

14 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: And so let me just make sure you
15 understand; we're not just giving tickets, we're talking
16 about food and beverage as well --

17 CHAIR LA BELLE: Right.

18 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: -- to give them that full
19 experience because getting tickets is one thing, but eating
20 once you get on the property is something else. So its going
21 to be a full fair experience that we're giving them.

22 CHAIR LA BELLE: Everybody has got to get that deep
23 fried butter or --

24 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Something, anything; deep fried
25 anything.

1 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. Centennial Farm Liaison,
2 Melahat.

3 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Well, yeah, we've got our big
4 event coming up on Friday from noon to five at Roadies Clay
5 Shooting place, I'm super excited to go shoot some clay
6 disks, and we've got great opportunities for the silent
7 auction. I know the Lakers didn't do well this season, but
8 there's always hope for next season, I'm giving up some of my
9 Lakers tickets for some of those.

10 And I know that Director Ruiz has also either
11 sponsored with his labor unions, some of the things that
12 we're doing, but I'm looking forward to and I am hoping to
13 see some of you there to shoot some clay disks with me.

14 Did I miss anything, Joan or Michele?

15 MS. RICHARDS: No, its good.

16 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. Michele, do you have
17 anything you'd like to add on behalf of the entertainment and
18 Business Development Committee?

19 MS. RICHARDS: I'll speak on behalf of the committee
20 that ticket sales are going very well for our three big
21 entertainment venues.

22 We're continuing to book new events in those venues
23 every week and attached to the staff report was a full
24 up-to-date schedule, if anyone wanted to look at specific
25 shows.

1 CHAIR LA BELLE: I did notice the LA County fair, I
2 guess, is going to go from May 5th to the 30th, and I looked
3 at their entertainment bookings; they have the Beach Boys,
4 they have ZZ Top, which is one of my favorites, not my wife's
5 favorite, but one of my favorites.

6 And I know staff is working very hard with our
7 consultant to maximize who we can get in there, so I
8 appreciate all your efforts.

9 MS. RICHARDS: It's going to be a really good season
10 this year.

11 CHAIR LA BELLE: Sounds good.

12 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: The LA fair, they're, like,
13 30,000 seats for their concerts, right?

14 MS. RICHARDS: You know, I don't know offhand.

15 CHAIR LA BELLE: At the race track?

16 MS. RICHARDS: Yes.

17 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yeah.

18 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: A lot bigger than 8500.

19 MS. RICHARDS: A lot bigger.

20 CHAIR LA BELLE: Yeah, it's -- well, I don't have a
21 comment; I'll just leave it at that.

22 Okay. Anything on the Governmental Relations
23 Committee, Director Aitken?

24 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Yes, and I know we have a public
25 comment on that, so don't let me forget. We're kind of going

1 through and just starting to reach out to our City and county
2 partners to make sure that they know that we are coming,
3 we're getting ready, and we would love to have programming
4 opportunities with local libraries, school districts to help
5 get the word out to them that we're going to have an
6 in-person fair this year.

7 Briefly, on the state of the district presentation,
8 we're going to do something for our City and community
9 partners during the fair, and then, maybe, we can see how
10 that goes, actually, make sure that we can get that
11 information out to the community at large, it might not make
12 it to the fair at that specific time period.

13 But most of our committee meeting, we had a video
14 conference call with Mike Flores, who is the deputy
15 agricultural secretary to Secretary Karen Ross, and he was
16 nice enough to spend quite a bit of time with us, giving us
17 an update on the JPA.

18 It's something that I think our CEO and I have,
19 obviously, been involved with since the beginning and she's
20 been giving us really regular updates, but it's actually
21 starting to happen.

22 It was something that was, you know, we didn't know,
23 with the pandemic, what they were going to do, what it was
24 going to look like, but he did announce that they are going
25 to actually start a pilot program with two of the fairs going

1 into -- that have opted-in, and that's a big word that you're
2 going to hear us say a lot, because it is still an opt-in
3 choice.

4 There's two fairs that have decided to opt-in to
5 that model, and we're going to be watching really closely and
6 seeing how it goes.

7 Obviously, as those of you in the audience and
8 watching know, we are a very different animal than the
9 majority of the fairs in the State of California. We are the
10 most, probably, financially feasible and financial profitable
11 fair.

12 We are independent. We do not rely on the State of
13 California for our operational budget, but a lot of our
14 smaller one-day, two-day county fairs all over up and down
15 the state have very different financial models and troubles.

16 So we're going to be watching as this goes forward,
17 we don't know how many fairs are going to opt-in, what it's
18 going to look like, how they are going to structure their
19 fair Boards, and so we are going to be bringing that back and
20 updating it.

21 But one of the things I continue to ask Deputy
22 Flores -- assistant Deputy Flores every time that we speak is
23 all about opting-in and will the Orange County Fair Board be
24 mandated to join this framework if we have been consistently
25 told no.

1 So a lot of the things that we are going to be
2 watching, how is the new structure, how they set up their
3 Board, who's going to be on it, what is it going to look
4 like, how are they going to be sharing things like payroll,
5 things like HR, things that smaller fairs just really can't
6 afford to do on their own, it's not going to apply, that we
7 are not going to be changing our structure right now.

8 And I want to announce that I thought -- that Mike
9 Flores did say that he is going to come down to Orange County
10 and make a presentation at one of our Fair Board meetings so
11 that we can personally ask in the public, raise questions
12 with him, ask him questions about the format, how it's going
13 with other fairs so that it's not just the public relying on
14 our CEO and I reporting back on these meetings. And I think
15 that's really important to be transparent and open as we go
16 through this process.

17 So Michele, I'm sure I forgot -- it's a pretty
18 detailed report. We tried to put in everything that we
19 discussed with the -- with Mr. Flores in this summary, but of
20 course, we might have left something out.

21 So if anyone -- I know we have a public comment, but
22 if I left anything out that's a major point, please let me
23 know.

24 MS. RICHARDS: No, I think you did a great job.

25 We do have one public comment from Reggie Mundekis.

1 MS. MUNDEKIS: Hi, thank you for the opportunity to
2 address you on this matter. So yesterday I spoke to Director
3 Aitken about this because I was kind of confused by the staff
4 report because in the past there's been discussion of
5 actually two JPAs, the State-level cafe JPA and then a local
6 JPA being formed to take over operation of the fairgrounds.

7 So only the State-level cafe JPA is currently on the
8 field, and there's no action being taken about what's
9 happening about the control of the actual fair Board.

10 So with that said, I would like to thank Director
11 Aitken for the phone call to clarify that -- those issues.

12 And regarding the cafe, this may not work for us
13 because a number of the services that they're providing are
14 things that this district is able to provide for themselves,
15 but there's an opportunity here to basically strip the ball
16 and find a way to argue that we should be able to manager our
17 own construction projects.

18 Now, one of the arguments against that is going to
19 be, you don't have the people on staff to do it, because to
20 manage construction projects, you usually need to have
21 licensed civil engineers and the plan checkers and the
22 construction inspectors, but there could be a way that if we
23 contract with, say, the City of Costa Mesa and work with them
24 on that.

25 And I see that as an opportunity to push that we

1 need to opt-out of a cafe so that we can get to construction
2 projects management and there's some other arguments that we
3 can use for that, including that if you look at our annual
4 revenues, we are -- in annual revenues, we are the equivalent
5 of a middle-sized City of Orange County in general fund
6 revenue.

7 General fund revenue is what is used to fund all
8 your City hall services, your plan check, your City council,
9 your City clerks, your police, your fire department, you
10 know, your parks and rec, middle-sized city.

11 So quite frankly, if Villa Park, which is Orange
12 County's smallest city, if they can have their own City
13 Engineering Department, why can't we come up with something
14 like that and tha'ts what I'm looking at at that pushing when
15 the cafe proposal comes up.

16 And I'm putting together some data that furthers
17 that argument, because I think that that's something that
18 fairs and expositions, that's not something that they would
19 think about, but if we move it that way, that's very powerful
20 also in terms of our strength and also in terms of our reach
21 into Orange County and our connections here so thank you.

22 MS. RICHARDS: Thank you, Reggie. That completes
23 public comment.

24 CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Michele. Just to expand
25 a little bit on Reggie's comments, particularly for our two

1 new Board members, in the past on a couple of occasions, we
2 have made an outreach to try to expand the number of
3 construction management firms that would be on the list at
4 the State level, CCA does a very good job, don't have a
5 problem with them, but I think Reggie is absolutely correct.

6 Over the next several years, we're going to be
7 embarking on a very ambiguous capital improvement program to
8 make the improvements to specific amphitheaters, to the
9 agriplex, to, basically, bringing all of our resources
10 together here.

11 More is going to be better than less, and I think to
12 have the ability to be able to reach out and have more than
13 one construction management firm be available to us to
14 complete those projects is going to be important for two
15 reasons.

16 No. 1, more is always better in terms of being able
17 to have the resources, and No. 2 a tad bit of competition is
18 always a good thing in terms of getting proposals from
19 different firms.

20 So I don't think any of the firms that we contacted
21 took the bait, so to speak, and made the outreach effort to
22 general services to get on the list. So we're -- CCA is the
23 one that provides that service to us.

24 I will say, I have, through Michele and Ken, I have
25 communicated from time to time with individuals at CCA and

1 they're very supportive, very cooperative, do a good job,
2 don't want anything to interpret that they aren't there for
3 us, they are very much.

4 But again, having more resources rather than less,
5 and I think Reggie is correct, if Villa Park can have a city
6 engineer, why -- certainly our ability to work with the City
7 of Costa Mesa and other entities in the county could be
8 helpful.

9 So that's something I throw into the pot for
10 Ashleigh and the committee to focus on, and we'll see how
11 that matriculates.

12 I've had some experiences with JPAs, and formed
13 right, they can obviously have a very good benefit, adding
14 another layer to a bureaucracy that already exists, it's not
15 necessarily productive.

16 We are the No. 1 fair in California, without
17 exception, and we have a very capable staff, and we basically
18 handle all our internal means ourselves and I understood if
19 you're Yolo County and you have an executive director and a
20 forklift operator and that's your entire staff, why it's a
21 little different in terms of how you operate it, it could
22 obviously be beneficial to them.

23 But right now I don't see the application having
24 that great of benefit to the OC Fair and Event Center, but
25 we'll see how it progresses and things happen, some of which

1 we control and most of which we don't, so.

2 My apologies. Okay. Oh, we talked about
3 Centennial. We have nothing on the Hero's Hall. I think we
4 have a very brief closed-session.

5 MS. RICHARDS: We need just a few minutes in
6 closed-session. If we could ask for staff and the public to
7 just exit, it will only take us a couple minutes and then we
8 just have a few minutes of an update when we return, so don't
9 go far.

10 (Off-the-record discussion)

11 CHAIR LA BELLE: So we're back in session. The
12 Board considered the legal advice of counsel on the matters
13 listed on the closed-session portion of the agenda and has
14 nothing further to report.

15 Okay. Michele.

16 MS. RICHARDS: Okay. We know everybody is tired, we
17 just have some very quick operational updates. So I'll turn
18 it over to Ken first. Ken Karns.

19 MR. KARNS: Thank you. CEO Richards asked me to
20 provide four updates. First item, a little further
21 information on the Master Site Plan. Thursday, March 24th,
22 the OCFC Board of Directors provided detailed input direction
23 to staff on the draft Master Site Plan concept.

24 On Wednesday, March 30th CEO Richards and I met to
25 review next steps, organize the project's facing and

1 priorities, we developed a draft phasing and scope document
2 as a starting point.

3 Staff will be developing in-house a new PowerPoint
4 Site Plan document, which will encompass the project's
5 phasing, general scope of work, and order of magnitude
6 budgets reflecting the new draft Master Site Plan as directed
7 in the March Board meeting. This will be used for further
8 review and input.

9 On Wednesday, April 13th, an internal team met to
10 review all the requirements, who will be responsible for
11 work related to the development of the Master Site Plan
12 PowerPoint, this team has set up regular meetings every two
13 weeks to review the progress.

14 Monday, April 18th staff reached out to CCA to set
15 up meetings to discuss CCA's involvement and support related
16 to order-of-magnitude budgeting and more specifically project
17 estimating, financing, or any other support. We hope to have
18 that meeting next week.

19 Once a phasing plan with an order of magnitude
20 budget is completed, staff will work on financing plan
21 scenarios. The current goal is to see how far we get with
22 this scope of work and the PowerPoint by June, then, if
23 necessary, continue working through fair and July and August
24 with a backup goal of September Board of Directors meeting
25 agenda item for review.

1 Staff will continue to update the Facilities
2 Committee Meeting for reporting out at the monthly Board of
3 Directors meeting.

4 Our Serenity Walk, Thursday, February 24th, the
5 Board of Directors, approved staff moving forward with an LOU
6 with CCA on partial design and budget for three different
7 levels of work on Serenity Walk tied to Hero's Hall and the
8 A4M Skyhawk.

9 On Friday, February 25th, Hero's Hall Veterans
10 Foundation Board Chair Nick Berardino dropped off a check to
11 OCFC to cover the cost of LOU No. 1. Staff immediately met
12 with CCA to move forward with this part to the project. OCFC
13 and CCA finalized the LOU and internally created an account
14 code to track any budget expenditures.

15 On Thursday [sic], March 1st, staff met with CCA via
16 Zoom to review the project and next steps. Again, on Friday,
17 March 11, staff and CAA and the architect -- the landscape
18 architect met via Zoom for a kick-off meeting and to develop
19 a schedule.

20 On Friday, March 18, the project team met on site to
21 review potential scope of work, concepts, and details.
22 Wednesday, March 23rd, staff met on-site with Hero's Halls
23 Veterans Foundation Board chair and a representative from the
24 Veterans to solicit feedback on the project. The information
25 and feedback was extremely helpful.

1 Monday, March 28th, the project team met via Zoom to
2 review the feedback that was provided. On April 13th, the
3 team met to review very early preliminary architectural design
4 and further discuss three levels of potential work related to
5 the budget.

6 And just yesterday, April 27th, the project team met
7 to review the project and provide input to the architect and
8 CCA. Next steps are for the project team to do a final
9 drawing review in early May. The team will then be setting
10 up a meeting with the Board committee to do an update and
11 review of the concept drawings and review next steps.

12 The team is targeting the May Board of Directors
13 meeting for further discussion of the three levels of
14 concepts, direction, and next steps from the Board.

15 Our Orange County Healthcare Agency -- I'm trying to
16 talk fast. The Orange County healthcare agency has provided
17 direction related to the annual fair to staff.

18 This year we will continue messaging on health and
19 safety related to masks and vaccination. There will not be a
20 mask mandate for the 2022 annual fair. There will not be
21 mandatory proof of vaccination requirements at our gates or
22 our entertainment venues or buildings for the 2022 annual
23 fair.

24 Among the last item -- I think we have a slide --
25 beach clean-up day. Lastly, OCFC staff volunteered once

1 again for beach clean-up day on Saturday, April 23rd. A
2 great way to get out and do our part.

3 And do you recognize anyone?

4 That concludes my report. Thank you, CEO Richards,
5 happy to answer any questions.

6 MS. ANGUS: Thanks a lot.

7 MS. RICHARDS: Summer, didn't know we were going to
8 that.

9 CHAIR LA BELLE: Excellent report.

10 MS. RICHARDS: Yes, take a breath.

11 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. Michele.

12 MS. RICHARDS: Okay. Here we go. Spring has sprung
13 at Centennial Farms. Oh, my goodness, Joan and I took a walk
14 over there yesterday, there are piglets, there are baby
15 goats, baby lambs, the flowers are in bloom, crops are
16 growing like crazy, please go visit Centennial Farm.

17 On April 7th, we were well represented at the OC
18 Business Council annual dinner, pictured here, Directors
19 Rubalcava-Garcia and Aitken joined me, along with Directors
20 Kovacevich and Rafiei.

21 This annual event is a great opportunity for OCFEC
22 to network with other OC business leaders and be well
23 represented in the business community.

24 Okay. So you know when the billboard goes up, the
25 fair can't be far behind, just 79 days to be exact, 79 days,

1 and it's already starting to look a lot like fair around
2 here.

3 Billboard is up, new signage at the Pacific
4 amphitheater, and have you seen our street team yet out in
5 the van, out and about in the community?

6 They were there for an Earth Day event at the
7 Outlets at Orange this past weekend, and that was the
8 kick-off of our summer road show.

9 Soon RCS will be arriving with carnival setup, the
10 community is already creating their entries to be judged at
11 this year's fair, 4H and FFA students are getting their
12 animals ready to show, and we're booking new entertainment
13 every week. So stay tuned for more updates in May and June.

14 Orange Coast College has selected the OC Fair and
15 Event Center as its 2022 Park Community Partner of the year.
16 OCC President, Angelica Suarez said that OCFEC was selected
17 based on the long-term partnership we have provided and the
18 cooperative parking arrangement that has existed between the
19 two organizations since the 1980s.

20 And I will be accepting the award on behalf of the
21 organization at OCC's upcoming commencement ceremony on May
22 27th in the Pacific amphitheater.

23 And I think I have, like, regalia to wear, gown and
24 -- yes, yes. They e-mail, and I thought, "I don't need
25 that." "Oh, no," if you're going to" -- yeah.

1 CHAIR LA BELLE: Make sure we have pictures.

2 MS. RICHARDS: Okay. I will.

3 Okay. Hiring has begun for the 2022 fair, but we
4 still have lots of summer jobs to fill. We'll be joining
5 forces with the City of Costa Mesa to host a job fair on June
6 4th. So please help us spread the word, if you can. Visit
7 OCFair.com/jobs for a list of openings and more information
8 about being part of the OC Fair.

9 And just real quick, I know Director Kovacevich
10 reviewed the numbers, but we're doing very very well, as you
11 can see, we're at this point, end of March, we're 2 million
12 dollars favorable to budget and our cash and investments is
13 sound, continues to be sound. We're up 55.7 percent year
14 over year.

15 Joan, I know you wanted to show a few slides on
16 events.

17 MS. HAMILL: Yeah, I can be very brief.

18 So we have a very very busy upcoming month -- close
19 out of this month and the upcoming month. The marathon
20 making its return, and we're delighted to have this event
21 return to Costa Mesa and our property. That's happening this
22 weekend.

23 Apartment Association of OC is having their trade
24 show here on May 5th. Back to back six to six night markets
25 May 6th through 8th and the 13th through 15th coming up.

1 March of Dimes, their largest fundraiser, the March of
2 Babies, takes place on Saturday, March -- excuse me -- March,
3 excuse me, I said March, didn't I -- May 7th.

4 The California Sneaker Convention is also on May
5 7th. The Gem Fair, May 13th through 15th, and as DL was here
6 earlier, I want to make mention of the original swap meet on
7 the 14th. The 29th annual SOS Wild and Crazy Taco Night
8 fundraiser is on May 19th, and this has offerings from
9 generous and well-known local chefs creating traditional and
10 gourmet tacos and a variety of restaurants participate in
11 this great fundraiser.

12 The SandSports Off-Road and Motorsports Super Swap
13 is on the 21st and Costa Mesa Speedway is also on the 21st.
14 Not on this slide, and I can mention it again next month, but
15 we will see the return of Scott's Fest -- Scottish Fest --
16 May 28th and 29th and then at Centennial Farm -- on the next
17 slide -- Centennial Farm and Hero's Hall, both open
18 throughout the week, although not this weekend with the
19 marathon taking place. Centennial Farm continues to have
20 robust school tours each day of the week in the morning and
21 then open in the afternoon and weekends to the public
22 typically.

23 Centennial Farm will have two garden classes in May.
24 On the 14th, we have Summer Salads, if you wanted to make all
25 your summer salads with everything you've grown in the

1 garden, and then we also have Gifts From the Kitchen, a
2 preserve food class, and that's escabeche, which is also
3 known as which gardiner, which is crunchy marinated
4 vegetables and it's preserved and its a great compliment to
5 any brunch meal or charcuterie.

6 You will enter this class -- you'll participate in
7 this class and you'll go home with an actual product, so
8 that's kind of nice.

9 Hero's Hall continues with the exhibitions Fighting
10 for the Right to Fight and the recently refreshed Santa Ana
11 Army Air Base exhibit on the second and our speakers series
12 continues on May 7th, we have Photographer Shane Sato and
13 Documentary Filmmaker Robert Horsting will present the Go for
14 Broke Spirit, portraits of Japanese American World War II
15 veterans, and this discussion details the segregated Japanese
16 American 100th and the 442nd regimental combat team, which
17 became the most decorated unit for its size and length of
18 service in U.S. history. This, while Japanese Americans were
19 unjustly incarcerated here at home in the United States
20 during World War II.

21 And that concludes my report.

22 MS. RICHARDS: And that concludes our staff report.
23 Thank you for hanging in there with us.

24 CHAIR LA BELLE: Good, excellent. Thank you so
25 much.

1 Any questions of staff?

2 Okay. We'll go around the table. Let's start with
3 Ashleigh.

4 DIRECTOR AITKEN: Oh, thank you. Just wanted to say
5 welcome back, everybody. Thank you for your patience as we
6 try to remember how to do this. It was wonderful to be
7 back.

8 I will be running in the Orange County marathon this
9 weekend, but I will not allow any pictures of it, as running
10 is a loose term when it comes to me.

11 So I will look forward to seeing it -- they have the
12 big expo on Saturday night, if you haven't been there, it's
13 actually really fun. So see everybody next month.

14 CHAIR LA BELLE: Great, thank you, Ashleigh.
15 Barbara.

16 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Yes, first of all, I would like
17 to thank stuff for this social distance in our Board room, I
18 didn't know what to expect, so thank you very much for doing
19 that.

20 We appreciate it. The pandemic is still here, but I
21 think we're in the endemic now, right? Okay. Thank you for
22 doing that.

23 I think we had a really really good Board meeting.
24 I would like to ask too, if we can agendize, either next
25 month or the following month, the foundations -- look at the

1 bylaws to possibly change them so that we no longer have to
2 support -- I shouldn't say -- not support, but have Board
3 members on those foundation Boards as well.

4 So I would really like for us to take a look at the
5 bylaws for both of the foundations, if we can agendaize that
6 at some point.

7 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay.

8 DIRECTOR BAGNERIS: Other than that, I love the fact
9 that our staff does not let grass grow under their feet, and
10 this is brand new and fresh, and I did notice it all the way
11 around. So I really thank you for that as well.

12 You guys pay attention to detail, I noticed the cow
13 when I came up, and so then to see that. So it's good to see
14 everybody and to have the participation of our public and we
15 made it through the pandemic. So I'm very happy about that
16 and good to see all of my fellow directors as well.

17 CHAIR LA BELLE: Thank you, Barbara. Melahat.

18 DIRECTOR RAFIEI: Thank you, this is great, can't
19 wait until next month.

20 DIRECTOR KOVACEVICH: Yeah, I'll echo the comments
21 of the great job here. I love the painting that we have
22 around with the updated words. So it's wonderful and
23 appreciate the social distancing. Good to see everybody.

24 I will make one sports-related comment, I know the
25 Lakers are out, the Clippers are out, but the Golden State

1 Warriors are very much in, California team, so tune into the
2 playoffs, it's quite fun.

3 CHAIR LA BELLE: Okay. I just want to thank
4 everybody. It's good to see you all in-person, some of you
5 for the first time, actually, in two and a half years.

6 It's good to be back here and let's keep our fingers
7 crossed that the variant that's out there now stays under
8 control, and I want to thank staff for their diligence in
9 putting this all together.

10 And, I guess, my last question is: Do we know yet
11 what the deep fried gourmet thing is going to be at the fair?
12 Is it a --

13 (Cross-talking.)

14 MS. RICHARDS: Kool-Aid chicken sandwich.

15 (Cross-talking.)

16 DIRECTOR AITKEN: I mean, I'm going to eat it, but I
17 don't know if I'm happy with it.

18 (Cross-talking.)

19 CHAIR LA BELLE: All right. Thank you so much, look
20 forward to see you all next month.

21 Meeting adjourned.

CERTIFICATE
OF
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

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I, KATHERINE THOMAS, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND
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DATED: MAY 10, 2022

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OC FAIR & EVENT CENTER
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