

## April 24th, 2025 OCFEC Board Meeting

**Nick Kovacevich** Sorry for my tardiness. We will get the meeting going here it is 9:37. Welcome, Thank you for coming. We'll call the meeting to order all matters notice on this agenda, in any category may be considered for action as listed any item not so notice may not be considered. Items listed on this agenda may be considered in any order at the discretion of the chairperson. The mission of OCFEC is enhancing equitable community access to agriculture, entertainment, cultural and educational experiences. And now, do we have a volunteer for the Pledge of Allegiance, Vice Chair of Bagneris.

**Barbara Bagneris** Right hand Over your heart.

**Everyone** I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you, Summer if you could please lead us in roll call.

**Summer Angus** Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** Here.

**Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneris?

**Barbara Bagneris** Here.

**Summer Angus** Director Pham?

**Summer Angus** Director La Belle?

**Summer Angus** Director Rubalcava- Garcia?

**Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia** Here.

**Summer Angus** Director Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz** Here.

**Summer Angus** Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Here.

**Summer Angus** And Director Jackson?

**Dimetria Jackson** Here.

**Summer Angus** Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** Okay, thank you. Now we're going to go ahead and move our agenda item number 10A, which is under Governor governance process, and it is the presentation of Arab American Heritage Month proclamation by our a steamed Community Affairs Committee.

**Dimetria Jackson** Good morning. Rashad Al-Dabbagh was born in Saudi Arabia and immigrated to California in 1999 after receiving a Masters of Arts in political science from Cal State Fullerton, Rashad served as a partnership specialist with us, Census Bureau, passionate about giving a voice to the Arab Arab American community. Rashad founded the Arab American Civic Council to help build Arab American community power through civic participation during each election cycle, Rashad and his team registered hundreds of voters and mobilized 1000s of Arab Americans to vote, leading to a significant increase in turnout among Arab American votes. In 2015 he helped launch the Refugees Welcome guidebook to support refugee resettlement through advocacy campaigns and to help refugees navigate. Refugees navigate. More helmets. In 2013 is 2021 Rashad was an elected delegate to the Polish Democrats party, where he served as the party's Arab American Caucus last year, recognizing his work impact on Orange County. OC Weekly named Rashad the organist. He continued to advocate for the Arab American community. Rashad was instrumental in building the groundwork coalition to officially designate little Arabia, leading promoter, excuse me, leading promoter, age as Arab American Heritage Month in California. Thank you. Can have borrowing classes, whereas the 32nd district agricultural Association's mission is to enhancing community access to agriculture, entertainment, cultural, educational experiences. Whereas the district's mission is Orange County's Town Square, the safe place where community gathers and finds value.

**Dimetria Jackson** Whereas the district recognizes the importance of honoring the month of April as Arab American heritage, and whereas the district recognizes the Arab American community and their achievements in agriculture, arts, literature, sciences, medicine, business, entrepreneurship and whereas the district celebrates the Arab American community and making contributions to enrich diverse culture and heritage of Orange County further resolved OC care and Events Center reinforces the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion and non discrimination, as for institutional values that safety is underlying and making any one person or community feel welcome and rearing any setting. Further resolved, it is a position of OC theory medicines board of directors and staff to enforce

the policy prohibiting discrimination of any person on the basis of race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, his response to four concerns accordingly. Now, therefore, the Board of Directors of the district as Arab American heritage, in honor of Arab American heritage 2025 the 32nd district agricultural Association, who as the founder and executive director of the Arab American Civic Council, builds community power through civic recitation, through honors, leadership and building a coalition to establishing Arab American community through voter registration drives, refugee support programs and advocacy campaigns. Thank You.

Rashad  
Al-Dabbagh

Alright, just express my appreciation for this proclamation, for this recognition, Arab Americans truly appreciate this. I can guarantee you all we're a community that's been here for centuries. We're not foreign to this nation. We have folks who went here for hundreds years, and folks who just came, just arrived to have a better life, to have a better future for our children. So I truly appreciate this and support. I appreciate your support. This is a time when we need the support, when we need solidarity, because there's a lot of discrimination, a lot of misunderstanding. So during Arab American Heritage Month, I encourage everyone to in addition to this, I encourage everyone to please take some time to learn about Arab American history. Attend an event in the Arab American community, visit a little radio or even a local Arabic restaurant here in Costa Mesa, and just get to know the community. Get to know the people, that way we can be together, build stronger relationships, protect each other and keep each other safe. Thank you so much. Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Thank you very much. That was right now we got our homework. Got to go make a visit and get some food.... Next, we'll move to the minutes. We do have the minutes from the board meeting held on March 21 the board meeting held on March 27 and the board meeting held on April 9, so any other board needs to discuss the minutes.

**Barbara Bagneris**

Director Bagneris I move that we approve all three sets of minutes.

**Robert Ruiz**

This is Director Ruiz. I second.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Okay, so we have a motion a second to approve all three sets of minutes. Summer?

**Summer Angus**

Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich**

Yes.

**Summer Angus**

Vice Chair Bagneris?

<b>Barbara Bagneris</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Director Rubalcava- Garcia?
<b>Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Director Ruiz?
<b>Robert Ruiz</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Director Bilezikjian?
<b>Tanya Bilezikjian</b>	I have to abstain from the 21st but yes, otherwise.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	And Director Jackson?
<b>Dimetria Jackson</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Thank you.
<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	All right, it passes, thank you. Next, we're going to move to the consent calendar. I'll introduce the consent calendar here, all matters listed under the Consent Calendar are operational matters about which the board has governing policies, implementation of which is delegated to the CEO, they will be enacted in one motion. There will be no discussion of these items prior to the time the Board of Directors votes on the motion, unless members of the board, staff or public request specific items to be discussed separately and or removed from this section. Any member of the public who wishes to discuss Consent Calendar items should notify the chair of the board at the time request to be recognized by the invitation of the chair of the board to address the board. Does anyone have we have any public comments? No. Does the board have any or the staff have any items to pull.
<b>Michele Richards</b>	We do actually, there are three. One under standard agreements, SA-098-25 SP and under standard agreement amendments, SA 07725GE and 078-25GE, those are contracts for the fair. They're not ready yet. We'll bring them back in May.
<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	Does the board have any discussion on this?
<b>Barbara Bagneris</b>	Mr. Kovacevich, with the exception of approval, I move the consent calendar.
<b>Robert Ruiz</b>	Second.

<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	Motion and a second, Summer.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Chairman Kovacevich?
<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Vice Chair Bagneris?
<b>Barbara Bagneris</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Director Ruiz?
<b>Robert Ruiz</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Director Bilezikjian?
<b>Tanya Bilezikjian</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	And Director Jackson?
<b>Dimetria Jackson</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	Thank You.
<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	Do the scheduling, we'll break for closed session, and then we'll circle back when we can. Thank you.
<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	Hi, welcome back, everyone. The Board met in closed session and have nothing to report on that we do want to quickly move to Agenda Item number 10 c, while we have the quorum here, so Agenda Item number 10 c is under governance process, annual consideration and vote on the number of discounted fare admission tickets and parking passes to allocate two Centennial farm foundation board members. And I'll turn this over to CEO Richards to explain before. Oh, we don't have before. Well, well, well, Sorry, my mistake. Ken. Do you have any good jokes?
<b>Ken Karns</b>	I can repeat the one we used at the staff meeting up to...
<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	We do have quorum now, Director Jackson. Go head to item 10c CEO Richard.
<b>Michele Richards</b>	Okay, we have an MOU with the Centennial farm Foundation Board of Directors, and in that MOU it says that the district ,that's the OC fair and Event Center, at its sole discretion, may provide to each active foundation member one complimentary pass to the district's annual County Fair. Which pass may include an F lot parking hang tag, the type and quantity of additional complimentary passes will be assessed by the district on an annual basis. So we bring this item to the board every every year, so each Centennial form Foundation Board member can

come to the fair any day, any of the 23 days. Right? We the past have also made consistent with what we offer our fair employees and general admission fair passes that they can buy for \$2 each. They also get an F lock hang tag to park when they come to the fair. So again, we're recommending that we continue that same allotment for the 2025 OC Fair as what we've done the last several years.

- Barbara Bagneris** Hearing no comments, I move that we review the recommendation of the fairpass.
- Robert Ruiz** Second.
- Nick Kovacevich** Motion in a second, Summer.
- Summer Angus** Chair Kovacevich?
- Nick Kovacevich** Yes
- Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneris?
- Barbara Bagneris** Yes.
- Summer Angus** Director Ruiz?
- Robert Ruiz** Yes.
- Summer Angus** Director Bilezikjian?
- Tanya Bilezikjian** Yes.
- Summer Angus** and Director Jackson?
- Dimetria Jackson** Yes.
- Summer Angus** Thank you.
- Nick Kovacevich** Okay, motion carries, I think that's the last goodness. Yes. Leadership Committee with those. Okay, so thank you, Director Bilezikjian we will actually jump to item number 10 B. This is to review past due amounts and to vote on whether or not to write off again. I'll turn this over to CEO Richards.
- Michele Richards** Okay, I'm going to tee this up and then hand it over to Melissa. So every two years or so, we bring a list of past due amounts that despite our best efforts, we have been unable to collect. These are all under \$500 and the state gives this board the authority to write off that bad debt. So we'll turn it over to Melissa to give a little more detail.
- Melissa Au-Young** Thank you. I'll be brief. So we are requesting that the Board approve the

list, provided there's 14 accounts totaling \$1,716.14 and so there are a few things I did want to note on the list, and the include that was included in the stock report. So there, if you look on there, there's about three that's at this point that are one or two cents. That's slightly rounding errors at this point. And so the amount of time to create an invoice and correct for that, that just doesn't make sense. So we are asking that the board delegate to staff the authority or the ability to automatically write off debts 99 cents or under, and usually that is a county errors. Okay, so we are requesting that with this item, and then also that one that I did want to highlight on there is a current vendor that we do use, Roy... And so he is a current vendor that we use for many years. It's a debt holding \$286 it's third from the bottom related to an event in 2021 so this was actually an accounting error that was discovered this past year. And so that's where an invoice was actually never created, because it's this past year, discovered for several years ago, and so that event had already settled and closed out. So at this point, we are requesting, because it was our error that the debt discharged, as opposed to going back to the vendor and collecting, although and so that that is included on here. But I did want to clarify that, since it is a current vendor that we utilize other than that, I think. So this action does not affect anything over \$500 which requires that we go to the State Controller's Office for writing off the debt, and so that is kind of a longer or just process. So this doesn't affect that. This is only \$500.

**Dimetria Jackson** Question. What's the impact of the write off to the vendor?

**Melissa Au-Young** So, these vendors will be provided with they are provided 1099, format the year, because it does count technically as so, yes.

**Nick Kovacevich** And do we? Do we do? We have a policy of not being able to work with vendors if we write off debt, or is it circumstantial?

**Melissa Au-Young** It's one of those. We take it by circumstance. So, for example, Roy, that is something so it depends on the circumstance, something where it's one thing, some of that is all around in there that we just go after the fact. So we don't want to say as a policy, we're not going to work, but we do take it on a case by case circumstance. Especially for the junior livestock auction. We do have a policy saying that they cannot come back the next year, for example. So you do see a couple of those that are add ons and plans, and so they can't come back the next year and participate in the auction.

**Barbara Bagneris** Let's say its over 500, is there some sort of policy about that?

**Melissa Au-Young** Yeah. Generally, over 500 tends to be something of someone actually starting that tends to be yes.

**Nick Kovacevich** For all my concert tickets last year, I'm hope i'm not on the list I would like to attend again. Any other discussion from the board on this? Melissa, I appreciate your two cents on this. Coming in late, we've got a public comment everyone. We've got Gibran Stout.

**Gibran Stout** I just have quick question. You mentioned you do this every two years or so, but there's some on there that are five or six... I'm confused. Why don't you adjust the invoice? It seems like you're spending way more time and energy and salaries payable for all the paperwork per dollar or less...postage. So I guess I'm just confused. Why you don't just adjust the invoice, especially if it's an accounting error. Question for staff. So how I'm just curious.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you. Gibran yeah, I guess, you know, I'll ask another question as to the process, right? Does it make sense to adjust the invoices, or do the write offs? Or what's the..

**Melissa Au-Young** We do get booked as this amount, generally, for the previous year? And so there are certain lenses, but they are still the responsibility for the most part of the promoter. So we do tend to pursue it and include it on the list that way, if it is, for example, because that is tied to that event. As a practice of don't generally staff discretion to do that kind of hold it as part of it's still the responsibility of the staff.

**Nick Kovacevich** Any other board discussion. All right. While, I was making a joke, and I was going into the motion to approve the request for items under 99 cents to not require any board will be right off. I'll go ahead and make.

**Barbara Bagneris** That the right offer pass through amounts and...

**Nick Kovacevich** And yes, and and approval past due amounts, sorry, included in my motion. So those items in my motion second, thank you.

**Summer Angus** Chair Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneris?

**Barbara Bagneris** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz** Yes.



<b>Summer Angus</b>	Director Bilezikjian?
<b>Tanya Bilezikjian</b>	Yes.
<b>Summer Angus</b>	And Director Jackson?
<b>Dimetria Jackson</b>	Yes.
<b>Nick Kovacevich</b>	<p>So I do believe now we have, finally completed all action items. I know director Ruiz has to leave, so thank you for staying through and assisting with those votes. No other action items, but still plenty of items to do. Here. We'll circle back to the public comment, which is agenda. Item number eight, public comments allow issues not on the current agenda. However, no debate by the Board shall be approved on such public comments and no action will be taken on such public comment items at this time as well, requires formal public notice prior to any action on an agenda item, speakers requested votes with the comment card of the meeting Secretary prior to the start of the meeting, and are limited three minutes. Comments will be accepted on all other agenda items at the time each item is listed on the agenda, speakers wishing to address the board on items on the agenda are requested to fill out and submit a comment card to the meeting secretary prior to start a meeting and identify the agenda items on which you desire to address the board. Speakers are again limited to three minutes, so we do not have any general public comments. So that concludes our public comment period, and we will move onto Agenda Item number nine, which is the CEO operational announcements and updates. We do have a public comment, but I'll first turn it over to CEO Richards to provide those announcements and updates, then we'll take public comments, then we'll take board discussion.</p>
<b>Michele Richards</b>	<p>All right, a few updates for you. So after the board's approval of the 2025 through 2029 strategic plan, we posted the plan on our OCfair.com website. In addition, we sent an email to our contacts at the organizations that are listed on the slide with a link to the strategic plan. So these are organizations that we work closely with, and we wanted to, in case they missed it on our website, for them to have access to the plan. There are six initiatives included in the plan, and I assigned an executive champion to each initiative, who will form employee Task Force groups to work on each initiative. We want the staff involved in executing on this plan, so every employee will have an opportunity to contribute, and staff will provide updates each month to the board as we work to achieve the goals that were approved by the Board. Each year, the Anaheim Community Foundation, on behalf of the City of Anaheim, honors its volunteers and volunteer programs. OCFEC was honored this year with the Civil Silver Award for our contributions to the Anaheim Public Library Summer Reading program through fair admission ticket donations by director</p>

Rubalcava- Garcia, Anaheim public libraries received hundreds of admission tickets to the 2022,23, and 24 OC Fairs to use as prizes for the kids participating in the Summer Reading Program. So we were recognized at that convention with this beautiful certificate. I wanted to share that with you all. A new contract for horse stall cleaning, horse feeding, and general facility maintenance went into effect April 1, and the crew from LWI the winning winner has been busy preparing the stalls, starting with those on the east side designated for boarding of privately owned horses. You can see some of the work already started to clean up the facility and address some code issues found in some of the stalls, offices and tap rooms. This is an example of some of the work in individual stalls. So this is not the same stall, but on the left you can see significant water damage and rust, and then on a on the right is a completed stall that the crew addressed with the rust abatement along the base, and they fixed the water hole, and the stall is now ready for a new renter. On the left, the end of this farm was filled with an over going vine that was damaging the structure and providing a nice hiding spot for critters. In addition, the patio area installed by a former renter was uneven and presented a potential trip hazard. The area has been cleaned up and leveled by the crew, and then looking at two different barn aisles on the left is the previous photo. It's not the same barn aisle, but if you look on the right, you'll see that that aisle has been leveled to create smoother walkways free of ruts and trip hazards. And at The Ranch, we're very much looking forward to showing off the improvements and available stalls for rental at the May 14th discovery day. Staff continues to work to promote private rental opportunities on the east side of the property, while rolling out the public education programs. And Michele Capps will zoom in later to tell us a little bit more about discovery day.

**Michele Richards** 85, that number inspiring? Anything guesses? 35 days til opening day. And at the May meeting, we're going to give you a little sneak peek of the fair and some things we have in store, and then the full presentation in June, with all its craziness. It is with sadness that we announced the passing of Ed Arnold. Ed spent most of his career in television broadcasting in the Los Angeles market, but we know him as an ardent supporter of veterans heroes Hall and the community, he did a tremendous amount of work to help us relocate the A4M Skyhawk jet to Hero's Hall and served as MC's and C at many of our Hero's Hall programs. He will be greatly missed, rest in peace, and I know that Director La Belle could not be here, but he wanted to dedicate the closing of this board meeting to to Ed's memory. And then lastly, at our own meeting on Tuesday, we recognized Thursday. Maybe some of you did as well, and I read a statement from California Secretary of Food and Agriculture Karen Ross, "It's a good reminder of our purposes of fairgrounds and our connection with agriculture. "And she said in her notice, In recognition of Earth Day, CDFA would like to lift up farmers

and ranchers as stewards of the land, nurturing the soil, conserving water and protecting biodiversity to sustain our food systems. In California, where 90% of farms are family owned, I found that to be a stunning statistic. 90% of farms are family owned. These farmers provide a third of the nation's vegetables and over three quarters of its fruits and nuts, all while navigating challenges like drought, extreme heat and shifting pest pressures. So I thought it was a nice connection. CDFA is committed to supporting a vibrant agriculture economy, healthy communities and thriving ecosystems. This Earth Day, let's celebrate the hard working hands that feed us while protecting our natural resources. Because for farmers and ranchers, every day is Earth Day, yes, and that concludes my my updates.

**Nick Kovacevich**

Great. Thank you. 85 days and counting, yes, it's great. All right, so now we'll take the public comment. We do have one public comment before the board discussion, Gibran. Gibran, three minutes.

**Gibran Stout**

I'm just frustrated, confused. Why do you guys never, ever post CEO announcements? There always seems to be so much information there. It's never, ever posted before the meeting. And unless you're sitting here in the meeting, you don't have any clue what's going to what's coming, and the public's just denied the opportunity to be informed in advance and forces us to be clairvoyant, a phrase from Bagley Keen. It's just frustrating that we're denied the opportunity to review the stuff in advance and to prepare. So I have to sit here and watch it all the people who aren't here have no clue, and I'm scribbling notes, and then I have to put together my public comment in literally 10 seconds or less. So I'd like to ask that you please post all complete reports, not just a brief summary, but when you have a report posted, you have all these meetings that you don't let us come to. You know, these committee meetings, advisory and then the CEO announcement is always so full of information. Please post it before the meeting. You obviously have it prepared. Why don't you post it before the meeting? You mentioned also, specifically, a lot of damages to the stalls that you're fixing. For years, boarders have been standing here telling you that there's been, you know, just deferred maintenance. This is regular wear and tear from horses, you know, living and eating and drinking and kicking and urinating on these metal stalls that are close to the ocean. So it's really frustrating that now here we are, you know, over two years after you took over that you're now doing the deferred maintenance and code issues horse stalls. There's no building codes for horse stalls, so I'm just curious what those code issues are. And still no trainers. You're not going to fill any stalls until you get trainers. It's like a yoga studio without yoga instructors. It's just an empty room. I know you said you're working on it, but I don't know what that means. I need made references to this robust plan, but haven't seen it. So yeah, it's going to continue to be empty. So you get those

yoga instructors in there. Thank you.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you.

**Barbara Bagneris** I have a comment on the report. I'm really happy to see those improvements, and I think that's the advantage of us running that property instead of having outside people who don't just weren't doing that at all. So I'm really glad to see that we're able to get back to that.

**Nick Kovacevich** Yeah. And I, you know, I know that with so much happening at The Ranch, it's, you know, what would be great to be able to engage more with the equestrian community, right? And I had a question for Josh, because I think one of the things prohibiting that is that there's litigation that's being brought against the board from members of that community. Would that inhibit our ability to have like discussions? Because typically we don't discuss, you know, with people that are actively suing us. But how would we handle that?

**Josh Kaplan** I guess I would generally refer to your litigation counsel. Yeah, I think the general practice is without essentially approval or consent from your litigation attorney. You generally it's it makes it a conflict to have discussions with people that you're involved in a lawsuit with. Also, certainly if there are members of the equestrian community that are not involved in active litigation. It sounds like the doors, obviously, I was open for those folks to engage...

**Nick Kovacevich** The door is always open for those folks. I just think hosting something could be very challenging because of that dynamic. So, you know, we look forward, I think, I don't know, I don't speak for the board, but I think you guys agree that we look forward to being able to do that engagement more, but it's really until the litigation is resolved. From my perspective.

**Barbara Bagneris** No, I concur.

**Nick Kovacevich** I think, yeah, okay, so, okay, anything else on the CEO report from the board here?

**Barbara Bagneris** Right? I need a countdown clock on my phone or something.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thanks for the report. CEO Richards and again, looking forward to the fair as always. All right, I forget where I am on the agenda here. I think we're back to 10 and we're down to D and speaking of riding events on the fairgrounds, we have the staff report here on the Imaginology event.

**Michele Richards** It was a fantastic weekend. Matthew did such a great job of presenting, previewing Imaginology. So we brought him back, but this time no

animals all hear his wonderful presentation. So Matthew is our supervisor of exhibits, design, and decor. All right, Matthew, it's all you.

**Matthew**

Like Michele said, there's no bunnies this time. But I assure you, I'm just as cute and cuddly. I want to talk about imaginology, It was a huge success this this year we had a 10% increase in our guests, which led us to 19,624...The community talent was truly inspiring. Thanks for entertainment department for gathering all of them. I saw the aerial dancers perform in the sky. I saw the Polynesian dancers, the mariachis, and I saw two girls give it they're all performing one of my favorite songs from The Greatest Showman. And it was so cute. I love watching them put themselves out there like that. The Roman railroad was such a hit. I saw this thing chuckin around from engine to Caboose full of people all day long. And it just added a new energy to imaginology That was really a treat to watch. The time out lounge did exactly what it was meant to do. The games were being played, the drinks were getting drank, we had a good time. This one right here, the Ninja Nation boot camp was my personal favorite. I did it twice, uh, Chair Nick saw me and can neither confirm or deny that I needed the opposite. Of course, even the ramp with little to no struggle.

**Nick Kovacevich**

I can confirm, but there is video evidence.

**Matthew**

So basically, the obstacle course was, you know, the floor is lava situation. You had to climb all this stuff, and then at the end there was this really tall, big ramp that you had to muster up the courage to get up. And I did it so, you know, look, there's my niece and Matthew doing it as well. They had a great, great time. The llama competition was the most funniest, fun, cute thing I've ever witnessed. I see nitty on the berm looking over Pacific Amphitheater in South Pacific on nearly every day, but to see these little guys up close and personal was a real treat. They're the funniest little critters. That one in the center look at that net is snatched. Saying, Zoe, my girl was working the whole time. Every time I saw her, she had a group of kids on the stage and an entire audience that was totally captivated by her magic tricks. That was a real treat to see. The bubbleologist was popping. Bubbleologists with these ground gates, and it was constantly packed, so much so that next year, we're rethinking where we place the bubbles, because we underestimated the power of the bubble. The hands on experiences were truly endless. We had magician, musicians here we had woodworking. And our clay play. Had 250 pounds of clay that was used throughout the course of Imaginology. The games are a great time. We had the chess tournament, which was a huge success again. And then we had this room that was full of these retro board games and the history of them. And it was really cool to see the kids engage with our past and bring a new skill level to our world. Imaginology competitions were again robust. It was fantastic

we had, and I have it on my hand 980 kids that were involved in our youth competitive programming, which is truly phenomenal. So what do you get when you add hands on fun and captivating theme displays and activities? I'll tell ya, you get all these smiling faces. Is really a treat to walk around and just see all of these kids have so much fun. On the top left, that's me and my niece and nephew, and I gotta say, we have so much to offer. We probably made it through a quarter of what we had before it was time to go home. To the bottom right, I see two lovely ladies, and Michele and Barbara. I got to experience the thing that I put with them, which was releasing the native butterflies at the end of the event, I got to hold Barbara's phone. I signed her grandchildren, and we shared that moment together with butterflies. It was really sweet, and congratulations to the Corral family who won our great grand prize giveaway, which was all of these organizations down below, including tickets to the 2025 OC Fair.

- Barbara Bagneris** Can you go back two slides?
- Matthew** Oh, sure can.
- Barbara Bagneris** Okay, you guys see where his niece and nephew are? Matthew created that and the airplane.
- Matthew** Yes, yeah, me and the exhibits team, as well as our creative services department, collaborated on creating these things sponsored by raising canes, and it was a real treat to see the guests.
- Nick Kovacevich** Great job.
- Michele Richards** Such a great weekend. It's a labor of love for our staff, for sure, thank you Matthew. It's a true labor of love for us and our biggest give back of the year. So thank you to Chair Kovacevich and Vice Chair Bagneris for coming to the event. I hope the kids had a great time. I know Barbara had a great time.
- Nick Kovacevich** You know, as Matthew said, there's so much to do. We had to come back again the next day. And we wanted to be first in line for the ninja obstacle course. Great. Got that right when it opened.
- Summer Angus** Yeah. Okay, we've got one public comment on this.
- Nick Kovacevich** Public comment, public comment on this. Any other board discussion before we take the public comment. Okay, go ahead, Gibran.
- Gibran Stout** yeah, yeah. Imagiology is great event. Our vaulting club, our kids have performed there every year since you have 12 for free. But as you well know, those of you who've seen it in the past, you didn't see it there this

year. That wasn't because we didn't want to it was because we weren't asked. So I don't know what kind of Equine event you had, what kind of interactive equine event you had. I imagined it was the probably minis in a corral. But if you went to this event, and you've been to Pasadena, you've done a comparison. And quite frankly, an exhibit is not where kids learn. They learn by having hands on doing it themselves. That's learning an exhibit is watching. So we hope in the future that you return the horses and return this and to say that you can't stop just because we're in litigation is kind of also confusing, because many people have sued you over the years for injuries they've suffered at fare yet they've not been barred from the property, and they've not been barred from discussions. And as you know, we've been begging you to have discussions for years. So here we are now. Thanks.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you, Gibran. Any other comment from the board on this matter?

**Dimetria Jackson** Unfortunately, missed Imaginology. I was out of town, but my husband did bring my daughter, and she had a great time. So, oh, sorry, I didn't know which day they were going to go, but they did. They did.

**Barbara Bagneris** I'd like to see more self-produced events, because this one is incredible, and everyone who comes enjoys it and even marketed it even more. It's a lot of people that, like I work with. They don't know about it, but this is an awesome event, and I'd like to even see more self-produced events.

**Nick Kovacevich** All right, that brings us to Item E, which is the committee reports. And we do have committee reports for four out of the five committees. We do have one public comment on the Facilities Committee report. So we'll start with the top, which is the leadership committee report. And I'll go ahead and kick that off. We did meet as a leadership committee on April 9 to plan this year. April board of directors meeting, as everybody may know, the leadership committee is also leading the search for the new CEO. So that is a closed session matter, so not to be discussed in our report, but we've been very active, not not easy to replace the shoes of Michele Richard, so continuing to work on that front. And our next leadership committee meeting is scheduled for May 7th. That's it on the leadership committee, unless any of the board has any questions. Okay? And then the next report that we have is the financial monitoring and Audit Committee report and chair ma'am is not here, so I would ask Director Bilezikjian to lead us through that.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** So yeah, we met on April 21 and we looked at the revenue from March and any update is inside of the reports, I don't need to read all of it. So everything is looking generally on or near budget for the year. There's some timing, you know, timing of invoices, and many going in and out, but, but everything is happening generally as as expected. We did assess the current invoicing aging reports and recommended that it come to the

board for approval, which happened today. And then we talked a little bit about the kickoff of the 2024 audit, which is going to be done by the same firm as it was last year. So we'll be getting a report on that. There was one item on the CFSA, and I mean insurance

**Melissa Au-Young** ...and I mean insurance rates, the estimates are California Fair Services.

**Michele Richards** Insurance estimates are lower than originally estimated.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** We'll be meeting again on May 19 next month.

**Nick Kovacevich** Great. Any comment from the board on this? Okay, thank you. And next, we will do the Facilities Committee report. And I believe you don't mind Director Bilezikjian and with Director Ruiz leaving early today. Could you lead us in that report.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** We met on April 16, we talked about the ongoing capex projects that are keeping Ken and his crew busy. There are 26 of them active now and nine completed for the year. We also talked about the two items that are ongoing for the Master Site Plan. The Admin Building was one of them, and I'm going to turn it over to Ken to give the big news on it. And then, yes, talked about phase two, which is the Midway restroom and showers, and we're looking to get to 90% drawings. And starting construction right after the fair closes. It was an electrical project preparing the fair for safety fire shut offs, so those ongoing electrical never stops, especially working with utilities. And then the we talked about this as one of the items about getting The Ranch ready for discovery day, and we'll be meeting again on May 7th.

**Michele Richards** Share some photos?

**Ken Karns** Yeah, we'll show the photos first. So tremendous amount of work for fire life safety, new water main coming in from from the street is finally underway. I think we reported last month that was our last permit to get that encroachment permit. So several week's worth of work is now started to get that to get that underway. Millwork is starting to arrive. So that's an exciting milestone that's in the in behind some of the new HR areas. And the sally port, where our armored vehicle will be able to safely back into and secure as money goes is coming together. This is our back door, front door, and you can see the Trespa panels siding going on. And you can see that we're testing the color match from the old to the new. And you can see above the standing metal scene roof is nearing completion. And with that, we have been talking for several months about the challenges that we faced regarding permits and inspection and delays. And with that, we had announced in the last few meetings that we had marked April 21st as a decision date on whether we will move or



have the ability to move in advance of the fair or whether we won't, through a series of meetings and projected schedules and a lot of hard work and input, we have made the final decision that we will not move in advance of the 2025 fair. Full completion occupancy dated without any other issues, is now projected between July 7 and July 9, which would be very tight for us to be able to effectively move and effectively function. This will give us the ability to do a very strategic, methodical move after fair now the contractor knows this is not, now we can relax. It's still full foot on the gas. They want to be done and out of here, as much as we want them to be done and out of here, but it was the right decision to make to make sure we lead an effective project and then do a systematic move, so we will not need a big advance the year, so Lego village will be there and function the same as it did last year.

- Tanya Bilezikjian** All that said the working and the pushing everything forward is not easy to do, appreciate the work you're doing.
- Barbara Bagneris** So I have a question of, when we finally start moving into the building, when is the board room, when is it finalized so we can come out of here?
- Ken Karns** So if we get full occupancy and fully functional, July 7 and so the next board meeting after that, which I believe is September, we will be in there having other words.
- Barbara Bagneris** I appreciate this space, but I sure miss ...
- Ken Karns** Yeah.
- Nick Kovacevich** Thank you for the report. Any other comment before we take the public comment? Okay? We do have a comment from Gibran. You have three minutes
- Gibran Stout** Sorry. Yeah. Again, I wish the full reports were published so we could have more advanced notice. But facilities, again, vacancies, it's important to recognize. I know you think you're doing a great job running it, but I'm just important to point out that the next closest equestrian facility is full with a seven month waiting list, and all Orange County Public equestrian facilities are full with waiting lists. So it would appear that your experiment with this new model has some flaws. I love hearing you say that you'd like to talk to the equestrian community...
- Nick Kovacevich** Sorry but I don't see how this is on the topic of the facilities committee.
- Gibran Stout** That facility, the equestrian facility, like I said, if you publish the reports in advance, so for you to argue with me is violation of Bagley King. So I would just like to ask that your point out also that your new contract with Lopez works is much cheaper, and you yourself have said that if

you found any savings, you pass it on yet the prices for the equestrian center the same. I find it interesting that you think you're running it because you're paying a contractor to do the work that you have employees doing. You know the equestrian center, it's just like roller coasters. You hire people who are experienced because you recognize it requires a special skill set. We've been begging you for years to help, to talk, to help this with this facility. I just hope that your new CEO doesn't exclude the public. I know Reggie here chastise you guys for talking to the public and dealing with the public. Deal with director and in the Facilities Committee did talk to us in the beginning, but I realize now that you got in trouble for that. So remember, you're stewards of a public property, and you work for the public. The public This isn't your property. So I just hope the new CEO is inclusive, doesn't exclude the public, and is not pushing an agenda. So looking forward to that. Thank you. Thank

**Michele Richards** I just, I just want to clarify something. The committee reports are posted Monday before every board meeting. So they are posted publicly on the website each Monday before the Thursday board meeting.

**Gibran Stout** The big outline, it is not an actual detailed report.

**Nick Kovacevich** I mean going through the also, we're going to try to really ensure that the public comment are relevant to the report itself. Because those reports are available. I'm looking at the report right here. It does have a summary where it talks about capex projects. It talks about Master Site Plan for the administration building. It talks about restrooms and showers. It talks about PSPs. It talks about trcc. And so I guess there is a mention of the minions on the stall, and we could keep the public comment, you know, hopefully to that, because that's on the facility report. But there's plenty of other time to, you know, talk about other things, public engagement and things like that. For public comment, we're not going to hinder that, right, but we do rely on the public comment on the reports to be more focused on the report, so I'll do a better job as a chair to ensure that that occurs. But thank you. And now that we've got a public comment, if there's nothing else from the board, we'll move on to the next report, which is the governance committee. There's a report for the Community Affairs Committee, and director Jackson, if you could sure lead us in that. Thank you.

**Dimetria Jackson** So the Committee met on April 9th. We discussed potential recipients of the Arab American Heritage Month proclamation. And as you are aware that the proclamation was issued to Rashad, the founder and executive director of the Arab American Civic Council this morning, I. Staff also briefed the Committee on plans for the cultural celebration of the 2025 OC Fair, which will include the we are OC event will be Sunday August

17, which is the last day of the fair at Plaza Pacifica, the atmosphere, cultural displays, cultural performances, music, dance. We'll be at the Plaza art stage. We'll have interactive booths and exhibits featuring various cultures in Orange County, and the highlight of cultural foods and beverages throughout our next meeting on the community affairs committee is... that's my report.

- Nick Kovacevich** All right, you can find it in time for that next meeting. You'd love to hanging there. good chairman.
- Dimetria Jackson** We'll make it work.
- Nick Kovacevich** Great, great proclamation today. Really excited to check out little Arabia. I want to get over there. So I've also, I've heard some from some people about potentially doing so, you know, some some Arab heritage events, maybe on our grounds at some point. I'd love to see that you know.
- Dimetria Jackson** We'll have to come back for that ROC event. Talked about even getting the recipients, you know, throughout the year and to come back to the fair for an activity and event so honor them all together.
- Nick Kovacevich** Maybe, maybe a dinner. Maybe a Ludacris concert so. Okay great. Thank you. So that concludes our meeting reports we're going to move to the upcoming events preview. And I believe we have Michele Capps zooming in.
- Michele Capps** I'm here. Hey there. So yes, we have events coming up this weekend. Is the air and water and so that is all things Porsche. From nine to three on Saturday, the ultimate Porsche. Porsche celebration Moors back to the heart of Southern California, from vintage legends to modern Euro's, experience the legacy, embrace the future and become part of the community that knows no equal. So last year, that was an amazing event. It was property wide, so come on down great cars, and it's going to be amazing again. And then the next weekend, we have OC marathon weekend from May 2 through the fourth begins on Friday, from three to seven with the fitness Expo. Runners will be picking up their packets, and they can check out 75 fitness and fun brands all throughout the expo. And then the next day, Saturday, it's the final mile of the kids run, and the expo will be open between 10 and five, and then the party really kicks off, from two to seven when the bands are here, and OC sports teams will be joining as well. And then Sunday is the real deal. The full and half marathons begin with cars being left on site before the sun even rises, they'll take busses down to the start line, which will be at Fashion Island. They'll run through the streets of Newport Beach and Costa Mesa, culminating with the finish line party right here at the fair. And the following weekend, the gym fair is back again, May 9 through the

11th, and on that Saturday, Speedway is coming back. Two Saturdays, Saturday May 10 and 17th, and on the 14th, come down. If you're hungry, you'll maybe you're feeling a little wild and crazy, like the 32nd annual all you can eat taco night, supporting share ourselves, mission of providing accessible health and social services to those in need. Check out the fundraiser information on their website. And then every Thursday, we've got that farmers market, and the goodwill truck is here to collect any of your donations. And over at Centennial farm, we've got more classes another sow and grow this one is teaching you all about the basics of transplanting those seedlings. Remember, last month, they had, you're planting your seeds in the containers, and now we're, we're going to be transplanting those seedlings into your garden successfully, with minimal stress to the plant or you. And then on Saturday the 17th, learn how to preserve.

**Michele Capps**

So this is all things canning, and the cost for this class includes a couple of jars and all of the ingredients and the recipes and the handouts, everything you need to know. And Centennial farm continues with Discovery days, and at this point they are sold out. We have been booked to capacity week after week, and the next discovery days at the farm will be the seventh, 15th and the 19th. It's always a great event to go out there and just watch the kids at all of the different stations, and then heroes Hall. We still have our speaker series continuing. They've been very popular. And the next one will be next Wednesday, April 30, from six to eight. And that one's going to be over at Pacific amphitheater lobby. The subject is from Camp Pendleton to Vietnam married Marines reflect on flights of terror to rescuing refugees. And on May 10, breaking their silence, filmmakers capture stories of Japanese American Vietnam veterans that one is from two to 330 back in Hero's Hall. And on May 31st, we have beyond the battlefield field, navigating the journey of veterans with PTSD. The presentation will include a screening of a documentary film ,The volunteer, followed by Q A with the filmmaker, and a discussion on PTSD. That one is from two to four in Hero's Hall. And then we're going to end out our events with one that we are very excited to host. This is our very first, the inaugural Ranch Discovery Day on May 14th. The reservation list is at capacity, which was 500 and now we have a wait list of over 70. The day will start at 9am and go to About noon. The day will be feel filled with animals, including horses, chickens, rabbits. Children will explore horse care and grooming military horses, arena grooming, the importance of bees, horse demonstrations and so much more. And I just found out that the the OC sheriff's department and their mounted deputies will be joining us as well. And in front of you, you have some bandanas and some seed sheets. Those will be our souvenir handouts that the children will be receiving on that day as well. And we can't wait to have you all out there. It's really going to be a fabulous day, and we're excited to show it

off to you. So thank you very much.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you any discussion I got I'm ready to go, as you can see, and some exciting stuff on the calendar I'm planning to attend. So it's good, alright, thank you. Alright. So we've only got, there's only Fantastic Four directors hunt here. So we'll do a move to the matters of information. We'll go around the room, I think starting with Doug, who's not here, but Doug did want to dedicate the meeting to passing of Ed Arnold, so we'll take a moment of silence and reflect On on Ed as we close meeting here. Thank you. soon as well. We have Director Bilezikjian.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** All right, I would be at the make it and take it, food preservation. I've already got my tickets. I'm going with my sister. I can't be very, very excited

**Nick Kovacevich** You'll see my wife there.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** I want to say the commitment that this board and this is this shows to DEI is so valuable to me. I appreciate so much work that you do to recognize communities that may be marginalized or need to be recognized. And the way that you know, I know that DEI has become a bit of a legal target, I don't care like these, these elements that make up Dei, as diversity and equity and inclusion are so critically important. I'm I feel so grateful. But we stand for them, regardless of headwinds. So thank you, Director, Rubalcava- Garcia and I just couldn't be more proud and also won the competition.

**Nick Kovacevich** Thank you.

**Dimetria Jackson** Just want to say thank you for that. Appreciate that. It is important. I really do appreciate the board and being part of this committee. I think the work we do is impactful, and I'm looking forward to seeing it on a larger front at the fair so we are OC, so I'm excited about that, and it's going to all come together. And I just think we want to invite your friends family, and it's the last day of the fair, and we might be figured out, but I think it will be a nice closing to the fair. So thank you for that. Thank you for the glasses today, and I think was a really good meeting today. Appreciate the staff or the work that you do. Yeah, that report was really great. I mean, I think such energy. I just want to thank the staff and everything that you guys all do, and thank my members for the work that you all put in, whether you're here or behind the scenes, you know, your committee meetings and everything and making this collectively run well. So thank you all.

**Barbara Bagneris** I want to thank you, Director Bilezikjian for saying that nothing wrong with diversity, equity or inclusion, just as long we're going to say Dei,

just softens it. Those three elements are important, and I appreciate you saying it, and appreciate that they have taken us a level up. Okay, because when I was on that committee, we weren't doing with all of this, but every meeting, they bring someone, and I'm so appreciative for the work to do and certainly Rubalcava- Garcia in that area. So thank you for that. I'm going to Ed rest in peace. I thank Director Doug La Belle for bringing that to our attention to do that and appreciate him. And 10% increase in attendance. There was nothing lacking. I came out two days and it looked like it was fair to me, so it was awesome. So just thank the staff, everyone who put that you went on, but a 10% increase in attendance is a pretty awesome thing, and I'm looking forward to the OC marathon.

**Dimetria Jackson**     Running?

**Barbara Bagneris**     No. I want to thank our chair. I can't thank him. I learned today that he's just two years older than my daughter, and I just appreciate how we can interact and interface and and come to agreement on things. And he's just been an outstanding leader. And I just, I can't say that enough. I'll say it every board meeting if I have to, but I look forward to his calls, his text messages, his emails, whatever it is to keep me informed as well, and the CEO important to what's going on, and I just really, really, really appreciate his leadership and what he's done for us. So want to say that out loud.

**Nick Kovacevich**     Thank you very much, and it's always good to when I'm showing up to see you there right with me. So we, we had a good time at the Imaginology I was also popped over to the Repticon, which was pretty cool. And I've visited the farmers market this last month, so looking forward to attending more things in May as well. Wanted to say, you know, happy Earth Day everybody, I think that the call about the soil, I think is so critical these days, and I think there's some good work being done to. I think that as I've done some research, that's that's like, a really, like, maybe the most key ingredient to our environment, right? And I'd love to see improvements as we focus more on that. And the fact that we have 90% of the farms in California being family owned is incredible. Speaking of California, all that economic activity all these family farms has apparently driven us up a slot on the global economy ranking list. We've overtaken Japan. We have a Japan fair here, I believe, and now we've overtaken them in the economic stats to be the 4th largest economy in the world, obviously behind the United States. Because we're part of it, China and Germany. So we're. Number Four as a state. Pretty incredible to be in that group. So congrats to our state, our wonderful state, and speaking of what's going on our state as well, the playoffs are here. Actually, I don't have my hockey stats. I think there's some hockey teams. Yeah, you could tell us who's in Ducks. Okay? Kings are in so we

got one, we got one California hockey team, and we have three basketball teams, and we've got the clippers, the Lakers, and, of course, my Warriors in the first round. So could go, could go anywhere, but you're not watching the books the Western Conference is pretty exciting. So, you know, again, it's just worth thank you for your work. We're working overtime with, you know, realize how easy our jobs are with with CEO Richards, because we're going over time here to try and find our new CEO she can't, she can't help us with that. That's that. We're on our own. So we're working overtime, but, you know, reminds me that we've got, you know, just one more board meeting. Michele Richards in charge here, so ideally, unless we can work something out. And so appreciate you and then everything you bring and we'll be sure to celebrate you a month from now at our next board meeting May 22nd and hope to see you all there. Thank you. Meeting adjourned