

OCFEC Board Meeting September 25, 2025

Nick Kovacevich Got an additional board member coming in in person, and one coming in in zoom shortly. But before we begin the meeting, I'd like to invite Gary Kutcher up here from the OC marathon, and I believe he has some exciting things to present.

Gary Kutcher I don't know about exciting things as big as the fair is, but listen, this year, the OC marathon in May was our largest to date. We've been here since 2009 and the OC marathon has continued to grow. We raised almost \$600,000 for various charities and and literally, our largest event here at the fair since our inception. Also that same year, we started the OC fair Fun Run. And the OC fair Fun Run was initially started as this really crazy idea to have the first Sunday and the last Sunday and then let everyone eat all the deep fried twinkies they want, but run at the beginning and the end. And after a few years of doing that, we said, that's a little too much work. Let's just do one. So ever since then, we've been doing one OC fair fun run every single year. It's always on that fourth Sunday. And this year I'm very excited to say that was our largest event to date. We literally had 3,300 people find they're happy right here at the fair. So it was that was pretty exciting. The the events, I had a couple of little things I don't forget. So this year we also added a one mile race. We've had this thing called ,The Run for a Clause, for years where we have this one mile race, it's gotten more and more popular for the real young kids, and so we did that here this year as well. Had 400 kids decide to to participate with their parents. And so that was really exciting as well. So it kind of lets that shorter distance in and and for those who haven't ran it yet, and hopefully everyone next year will we have exactly. We have four separate detours to fun. As the runners take off, they're able to break some plates beer pong, which is very appropriate for the little kids, and and shoot some baskets, and then they get to go on the the amphitheater stage, and we have some guitars there, and other instruments and and they get to kind of get their jam on. We take pictures of all of those. It's really kind of cool. Other things. During the course of our promotion, we've sent over 35 emails to our database, Southern California database, promoting the fair and the OC fair Fun Run, which is always good. And then in all of our participant emails, we also had a link to purchase fair tickets. We're not really sure how, how great that we don't know how many, because we just know he for us to know but, but we're always trying to promote the fair through this as well. And so this year, I'm just really happy to be able to say that we're able to present the the fair with a check for over \$28,000 this year. It's a it's it's been a great partnership. We hope to

continue it for for many, many years to come. And then after the race, Michelle and I are up there. We're and we hand out. Not only do the winners get a really nice award, they get the finish line tape that they broke, and they get a giant stuffed animal as well. And then we give away a bunch of other gifts as well, there at the award stage. So it really is just a fun morning before the fair opens. And I just want to thank the fair for the partnership and hope it continues for many years. Thank you. And Michelle, Did I understand you did not win, or you were in the running, though, right? Not even finished, too, I don't know.

Michele Capps

Yeah, my bib said number two, and that was about as close as I got.

Robert Ruiz

Gary. And when you said you hope everyone would run, you were referring to the 26.2 right? For everybody.

Gary Kutcher

Listen, Robert, last year, ran 26 miles with us. Wow, that's he was there. He, I mean, came in strong. He tries to say that he was hurting around mile 18. I doubt it. I think he's in great shape. And so we have the half marathon, and we have the OC five thing that happens right here. You know, coolest things about our marathon is we have great bands on the stage, but the runners in the marathon run directly in front of the stage as they're finishing. So it's pretty cool. Thanks.

Nick Kovacevich

Good morning. It gives me great pleasure to call this meeting to order in our new administration building. Thank you all for coming. And I will start by saying all matters notice on this agenda, in any category may be considered for action as listed. Any item not so noticed may not be considered. Items listed on the agenda may be considered in any order at the discretion of the chairperson. Second the mission of OCFEC is enhancing equitable community access to agriculture, entertainment, cultural and educational experiences. And now, do we have a volunteer that would like to lead us in the pledge? Director Ruiz?

Robert Ruiz

Sure. All rise, please, if you're able to. Hand over your heart.

Everyone

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

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you. Now we'll do a roll call. Summer.

Summer Angus

Chair Kovacevich?

Nick Kovacevich

Here.

Summer Angus

Vice Chair Bagneris?

Barbara Bagneris	Here.
Summer Angus	Director Pham?
Summer Angus	Director La Belle?
Doug La Belle	Here.
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, great. Thank you. We're going to go ahead and move up Agenda Item Number 10 A, which is the presentation of Hispanic Heritage Month proclamation by the esteemed Community Affairs Committee. If the chair of the committee would like to.
Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia	Yes, I would love to. I'm going to go ahead and defer my to Director Jackson.
Nick Kovacevich	That's what happens when you have two talented committee members. Either can step up.
Dimetria Jackson	Good morning. In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, we'd like to introduce you to Carla Roque. She's a mural artist, Illustrator and Orange County native. She holds a master's degree in illustration from Cal State University Fullerton. She has been designing and painting murals professionally for over 25 years, with an emphasis on community based public works art. Carla's intention as an artist is to create work that evokes childhood wonder and emotion through imagery, color and visual storytelling. She approaches the act of creating with a belief that art and beauty have the ability to forge human connection, compel the building of community and the manifestation of hope. If you get an opportunity, please check out her

**Natalie
Rubalcava-Garcia**

website, at the mural she's created for some of the schools in Anaheim, Fullerton and I believe and also in Irvine, are absolutely beautiful. And I love that she has the children working with her to create beautiful pieces of artwork.

Thank you, Director Jackson, so as the chair of this committee, we do not take this work lightly. So when we are able to recognize people within Orange County who are doing great things for specific initiatives, this one in particular Hispanic Heritage Month, it is our great honor to recognize Carla Roque, local artist. And I have to mention, she actually, and I don't know if this is, if this is common knowledge yet, but we're going to break some news here. No, just kidding. She has actually been selected to do a mural at OC Vibe, which is one of the largest economic development projects going on in the City of Anaheim right now, and members of our trades are also building the project. So it's actually being done within budget and be beyond or within schedule. I think they're actually ahead of schedule. So if Carla, would you please join us up here? I'm going to go ahead and read this. Like Director Jackson mentioned, Carla has made an impact across the county. She creates motivational murals, and they are just really inspiring. And I highly recommend that you take a look at her website, as well as her Instagram, which is Lady hope, and you'll see all of the great work that she's doing. And she does involve kids, which I think is amazing. A lot of these kids are after school program kids. So their parents are working beyond extended hours, and these kids are at school for quite some time, and then they get to go after school and just be part of a process that they get to see every day. So her impact is felt beyond just murals that she's creating, but kids, hundreds of kids within these school districts, are experiencing this. So bear with me as I read the proclamation. It is very long, but proclamation and resolution of the Board of Directors of the 32nd agricultural Association, which is also the OC fair and Event Center, whereas the 32nd District agricultural Association's mission is enhancing equitable community access to agriculture, entertainment, cultural and educational experiences. And whereas the district's vision is Orange County's Town Square, the safe place where the community gathers and finds value. And whereas the district this side recognizes the importance of honoring the month of September as Hispanic Heritage Month. And whereas the district recognizes the Mexican American community and its achievements in agriculture, the arts, literature, sciences, military service, business, entrepreneurship and all other Hispanic communities, whereas the district celebrates Hispanic American community's contributions to the rich, diverse culture and heritage of Orange County, and further resolves OC fair and Event Center reinforces the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion and non discrimination as core institutional values, that safety is the underlying

element to making any one person or community feel welcome in nearly any setting. Further resolved is the position of the OC fair and event center board of directors, this body sitting here and staff to enforce the policy prohibiting discrimination of any person on the basis of race, ethnicity, nationality or sexual orientation, and to respond to all concerns accordingly. Now, therefore, the Board of Directors of the district hereby proclaim the month of September, Hispanic heritage month at the OC fair and Events Center, and in recognition of this month, we would like to give you this honor. Miss Carla Roque. And Carla, would you like to say a few things, and then we'll invite the board up to take a picture.

Carla Roque

Thank you so much for this honor being recognized. I, I It's, it's, it's humbling to be recognized for doing work that you just love and are passionate about, and people and communities recognize you know that it's making an impact. So I'm just super grateful for that, and just thank you so much for having me.

**Natalie
Rubalcava-Garcia**

And can we get the board up for a picture really quickly? And I also have to mention so it even goes beyond the artwork. But she supports mental health and wellness initiatives as well, and has been part of my in the City of Anaheim, we do a suicide awareness and mental health awareness, which is also a September initiative, and she has been instrumental in supporting that as well. So just wanted to recognize that

Summer Angus

And while there's a little break, I just want to announce for The record that Director Newton Pham has joined us.

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you so much. Next, we'll move to the minutes, if anyone would like to make a motion.

Tanya Bilezikjian

Motion to approve.

**Natalie
Rubalcava-Garcia**

Second.

Nick Kovacevich

We have a motion and I'll second and we have a second. Summer.

Summer Angus

Chair Kovacevich?

Nick Kovacevich

Yes.

Summer Angus

Vice Chair Bagneris?

Summer Angus

Director Pham?

Newton Pham

Yes.

Summer Angus	Director La Belle?
Doug La Belle	Abstain
Summer Angus	Director Rubalcava-Garcia?
Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director Ruiz?
Robert Ruiz	Abstain.
Summer Angus	Director Bilezikjian?
Tanya Bilezikjian	Yes.
Summer Angus	And Director Jackson?
Dimetria Jackson	Yes.
Nick Kovacevich	and we do have Director Bagneris back
Summer Angus	Director Bagneris.
Nick Kovacevich	There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes from last board meeting.
Barbara Bagneris	Yes.
Summer Angus	Thank you.
Nick Kovacevich	<p>Okay, great, and may the record reflect that we have full board attendance today, so for however long that lasts, some people have to leave. But okay, great, we'll move quickly into matters of public comment. Public comment is allowed on issues not on the current agenda. However, no debate by the Board shall be permitted on such public comments and no action will be taken on such public comment items at this time, as law requires formal public notice prior to any action on an agenda item, speakers are requested to fill out and submit a comment card to the meeting Secretary prior to the start of the meeting, and are limited to 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, submit a comment card to the to the meeting Secretary prior to the start of the meeting, and identify the agenda items on which you desire to address the board. Speakers are limited to three minutes, and we do not have any general public comments on...We</p>

almost had one, we almost had one, but they got away. And so you got away, but we do have a few for later agenda items. So some are no, am I correct? No public comments.

Summer Angus

None on Zoom.

Nick Kovacevich

Okay, great. So that will close the public comment period, and we'll move right into the consent calendar. So all matters listed under the Consent Calendar operational matters about which the board has governing policies, implementation of which is delegated to the CEO, these 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 the time requested and be recognized by the invitation the chair to address the board. We do not have any public comments on this item. Do we have any contracts that need to be visited here?

James Canfield

Mr. Chair, I'd like to pull item. Sa 235 dash, 25 ft yr for a quick presentation explanation.

Nick Kovacevich

Okay, great love to hear about it. That one caught my eye. SA 23525FTYR.

Barbara Bagneris

Yes, Mr.Chair, I move the consent calendar, except for the Windows pool.

Nick Kovacevich

Okay, we have, we have a motion, but I'll go ahead and take the presentation before we do the second, but we'll keep your motion in play.

James Canfield

The item, excuse me, the item that I wanted to Scott to discuss was our master concessionaire agreement. We've had a long term agreement with the same company for multiple years. They've gone through multiple iterations, but we've really been blessed with a strong team that's been in place with us for many years. On the grounds this year, we reached the last the end of their contract, and as part of normal business and statutory requirements, an RFP was developed, and we went out to bid for that that was let in early July, literally just a few days after I got here. We went through the process as defined and required by by the statutes. We had a pre bid, a mandatory pre bid walk in which multiple vendors did participate. I participated as long as well as key members of our operation and leadership team. It was actually during the fair so they got to see. Really the full operation, all of the locations, everything that the current concessionaire is doing, got a

chance to ask questions there. Got a chance to send RFIs or questions in as part of the process, which we did get and answered the bid period closed, we had actually four bids that came in. And as part of the process, there's a an objective review of form the timing. There's a, you know, it has to be in by a certain time, it has to follow a certain format. And out of the four proposals that came that came in, three were considered non responsive because they failed to either be on time or to follow the required and statutory format that was spelled out in the RFP. So those were all deemed non responsive, and the selection committee did score the one responsive response. That's probably confusing, but and the recommendation of the committee and of the staff is to award to OVG 360 Hospitality, who is the successful bidder. And by the way, that is also our current provider I've seen, you know, in my experience, they've done a great job for us in querying the staff, our attendees, our partners, everyone's very happy with their service. They made a significant commitment for capital investment in the eight figure range over a 10 year period, which is very exciting. They've come up, they've they're adding some additional staff to help with our long term strategic plan. And those capital dollars, they have some great ideas and and different things that we can do, but ultimately will allow us to upgrade all of our food service capabilities. So we're very excited about that, and some of those dollars will go towards our Master Site Plan realization.

Nick Kovacevich

So, this item is the 10 year contract?

James Canfield

That is, well, it's two five years. It's the five year with a with a five year option at our discretion.

Nick Kovacevich

Okay, any comments from the board on this?

Tanya Bilezikjian

I'll second Barbara's motion.

Nick Kovacevich

All right, we have a motion in a second

Summer Angus

Just to clarify that the contract stays in with the consent calendar, it's not pulled, correct?

James Canfield

Yes

**Natalie
Rubalcava-Garcia**

Okay, thank you.

James Canfield

My first meeting, I'll say something wrong. I'm sure Josh will keep me in line.

Barbara Bagneris

We do have a comment. Yeah. So I had seen some articles about some

negative things about OVG, and did we take any of that into consideration? Or are they falsehoods? Or what?

James Canfield

There were, there were two issues that I'm aware of, and again, they're common knowledge in the industry, related to OVG. Number one, they're not related to any of their food service they're related to their overall venue and facility management contracts. One is being adjudicated. So I don't really have any specific detail other than what the allegations were. The other was a, again, a facility management agreement that the it's a very complicated process, but, but their contract was terminated, but again, within the scope of the contract and within the right of the the organization that oversaw it. So I think you know, in my experience in the industry, those kinds of things happen. I can very specifically say that this was an open and objective process that we, our team, put together a very clear and strong RFP, the process that I was part of was very carefully managed and in every way we followed the statute and the not only the spirit but the letter of the RFP document, it was reviewed by our legal counsel as well.

Barbara Bagneris

So thank you for that additional information, and I have nothing but great things to say about the service we get here from OVG. So with that, I call the question.

Summer Angus

I can do the roll call vote?

Nick Kovacevich

Yes please?

Summer Angus

Chair Kovacevic?

Nick Kovacevich

Yes.

Summer Angus

Vice Chair Bagneris?

Barbara Bagneris

Yes.

Summer Angus

Director Pham?

Newton Pham

Yes.

Summer Angus

Director La Belle? Muted. You may be muted, muted, You're muted. I'll circle back. Doug.

Barbara Bagneris

He's unmuted.

Summer Angus

Okay Director La Belle?

Doug La Belle

Yes.

Summer Angus	Thank you. Rubalcava-Garcia?
Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia	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	we will go ahead and break into closed session and we will be back as soon as possible. Thank you
Summer Angus	For directors, Pham and La Belle, we're creating a zoom breakout room, so hang tight. You'll get a notification to join the breakout room.
Nick Kovacevich	Nice. Okay, welcome back everyone. We met in closed session and received advice to council and have nothing to report. We'll move on now to Agenda Item number nine, which is an opportunity for our esteemed new CEO James, to give an operational announcement, an update. Go ahead, James.
James Canfield	Thank you, Mr. Chair, it, it, it's my pleasure to welcome everyone to the new OC fair and events center board room. We're going to consider this version 2.0 as you can see, we still have some some things taped down, and we're still working through the process so, so each of the subsequent meetings will will unveil 2.1 and 2.2 and 2.3 as we as we take full charge of of the building here, we're Currently under TCO, which allows us to use the space for this meeting, but won't, don't expect to have our full certificate of occupancy, probably until the first week of October. So, and again, that's just finalizing all the inspections and all the other things that need to happen so, but again, it's great to have everybody here. I've heard some great comments about the room and the look so very happy to have everybody and be able to enjoy this new space. You know, I I started on July the first, and I've had an opportunity to meet a lot of folks, spend time with the board and the staff. And, you know, I did not come from a fair background, and, you know, I just wrote, hit the ground running. And, you know, coming here two weeks before the fair open, give or take, and really seeing the

transition in the grounds. And one of the things that's remarkable, about this organization and our fair is that it's the best one, right? I think everybody agrees with that. And you know, that's great people, great programs, great partners, a great theme this year, find your happy. That was, that was genius, certainly a great legacy, and then the great expectations that come with that. And I was very honored to kind of be a part of that, and to come in and join the team when I did, and really be a part of the experience of the fair.

James Canfield

And for me, even though I've attended the fair in the past, nothing like being behind the scenes and really seeing how the magic is made. So I did pick up some some key things. The first was that that during the fair weekend means Monday and Tuesday, that that took some getting used to. I'm used to Fridays or Saturdays and Sundays, and then the turn, which is another thing, and I'm a golfer, so usually the turn is between, you know, nine and 10. Well, at the fair, it's the weekend, because it's the two dark days that that we have. And then the other key is. And we had an all staff meeting this week, and someone said, What was your favorite food in the at the fair? And I said, bacon. And so I firmly believe in it. And it was reinforced to me that bacon improves everything. So I we have been doing some serious work, and I apologize. I trying to have some fun. One of the things that I've learned about since I've been CEO, and you know, historically, I've I've managed public facilities that are owned by state, local, county government, and our venues have always been part of an overall emergency response plan for the city, the state, the region you know, whether that be, you know, in Florida, because of hurricanes, whether in California, wildfires or Earthquakes, or whatever it might be. And I learned about a group called serve, and that's California Emergency Response and resiliency venues and fairgrounds, which which is a mouthful in itself, but it's a group of public facilities and fairgrounds that are part of a collaborative that is related to us all coming together in our public facilities and being part of disaster response. And you know, the goals of it provide greater coordination with Cal Office of Emergency Services and local agencies focusing on preparedness and response. And then I think the key part of it is advocating for funding, and whether that's additional funding from the state dedicated to the grounds, and then also grants, state and federal grants.

James Canfield

And I know that there some of our other partner fairgrounds in the state have have been very successful in getting additional funding, both from the state and the federal government, to really enhance their their venues and their preparedness. And I think that's really one of the keys for us, and I think can also be part of our ultimate Master Site Plan, because everything that we do to improve any of our facilities improves them to be used as part of an Emergency Response Program. And I

think historically, one of the things we've always done here is large animal evacuations, etc. So you know, the money that we spend improving The Ranch Community Center as a for instance, is money that helps us be more prepared to be an emergency response venue. So we're going to be joining that organization. And again, it's not exclusive of any other organization that we're in. This is very specifically related to the ability to be a part of the emergency venue network in the city, in the state, the city, the county. And just really, I think, lines up very clearly with our mission as a public facility to better benefit the public and to provide the kinds of services that they're not going to be able to get at other places. So, you know, especially in light of, you know, I mean the fires that we had this year, one of my previous venues, so, which was in Pasadena ended up being a shelter for a considerable period of time just because of its location and where a lot of the displaced folks were. So I've always been one in Florida when for the hurricanes in Palm Springs, part of our agreement with the city was we kept, literally, a warehouse that had bottled water and food, and we were going to be, if we were still standing after the earthquake, we were going to be the main, you know, public shelter for people throughout the county and the area. So I'm really excited about this program and our opportunity to participate in this one. Just wanted to touch very quickly on our COO search. We're working with CPS HR, and they're leading the recruitment for us a number of key items that that we're looking for. Number one is fair experience, larger than venue experience, and then capital project management, which will be of importance as we continue with the Master Site Plan. The. Original posting is closed.

James Canfield

One of the things, and that I know is part of our of our long term strategic planning is to continue to grow our event footprint and activity and program footprint, not only during the fair, but also before and after the fair, but but doing the year round events. So those are activities that that are ongoing. Now. We've had meetings with with several folks that are interested in doing events, new events, including Pacific amphitheater, we're looking for additional programming in ASA, and certainly the hangar, which we all feel are just incredible facilities and great opportunities for us. And then ultimately, you know, the grounds wide festivals. And you know, having just seen the Sandsport Super Show as a for instance, which you know, has basically the same footprint as the fair. And you know, draws 40, 50,000 people over the weekend, and and you know, I know chair Kovacevich had a chance to come down on Friday and see it as well. And you know, to see the the entire grounds activated, really just reinforces the opportunity to do more large scale events that can take the entire grounds, you know, focus on entertainment, targeted lifestyle events, identifying new categories and as a for instance, this year, we not only have the

sandsport Super Show, but we have the off road Expo, which is a different leg of the off road and outdoor adventure stool related more to jeeps and trucks and those kinds of things where sand sports is more the UTVs and the side by sides. So we're working to identify additional categories that we can attract folks. And again, the Southern California lifestyle is so broad and expansive. You know, we've got the ocean, we've got the mountains, we've got the desert, we've got a little bit of everything

James Canfield

So we'll be looking towards those things, and then additional cultural events as well. You know, we have Japan Expo and the Scottish event and and so we're continuing to look to grow. So we're doing events that are again an amenity to the community and to the cultural groups and folks that we have here, not only in Orange County in the Costa Mesa area, but all of Southern California, working with our master concessionaire partner, OVG, one of the things that that They have proposed is adding a catering sales manager and trying to utilize our facilities more effectively to generate revenue for corporate, social, and catering functions. And again, whether that's a quinceanera, whether that's wedding receptions, whether it's corporate meetings we have, we're working right now with a large corporate group that's almost a grounds wide event, with a with a large local company. So we think that's a great opportunity for us to generate, certainly more incremental revenue and take advantage of the facilities that we have, and then other self produced events. And we're looking at some opportunities to expand some seasonal events and do some other things. And Michelle and the E and E team are working on those things. So I think we're working very hard as a team to kind of put the vision of the board into place as we continue to do these things. The other thing that I've been kind of busy with, again, is just kind of community and industry engagement, meetings with with Nica, the independent concessionaires, iafi International. Association, Western fares Association, we talked about serve and CCA as well. This building that we're in is a CCA managed project, and so I've been engaged with the leadership of CCA and if things go well today, I'll become part of that leadership. So I'm excited about that. And I've also been out in the local community, city of Costa Mesa, OCBC, South Coast Metro, Tribal Costa Mesa, to make sure that we're engaging with our community part. And making sure that our efforts are aligned with theirs, and that they're able to take full advantage of the things that we're doing, and whether that's hotel room blocks for exhibitors that come to shows or opportunities for folks to get information to fair goers about restaurants or other services and opportunities to bring other local businesses into what we do. So that's it for me. So just a quick snapshot. It has been an incredible time. Thank you to the board for you know, really the opportunity to be a part of this and looking forward to continuing to have this thing grow and

thrive.

- Nick Kovacevich** All right. Well now, now that we've got an official update, an official board meeting, you know, we're firing James, so we're ready to go. All right, so let's see we've got Agenda Item Number 10 now. We've already did A, so we're going to move to B. This is a board discussion and vote on appointment of member entity representative and alternate to serve on the California Construction Authority, CCA, board of directors. So you alluded to this, James, and I'll turn it over to you. We don't have any public comment on this item, so go ahead.
- James Canfield** The CCA is a joint powers authority in the state of California, and it is an alternative to working with the state's Department of General Services. Sorry, there are too many there. There are too many to keep track of, but it's really provides a streamlined process for design, program management and project management. And there are, I believe, six fairgrounds that are part of the joint powers authority, or six positions that make up the board of directors. The OC Fair and Event Center was one of those. Are still is one of those. Our previous representatives were Michelle, who was retired, and Ken was our alternate, who was also retired. So this item is to hopefully appoint me, and then I will participate as the OC Fair and Event center representative on the CCA board of directors.
- Barbara Bagneris** Mr. Chair, if there's no other discussion, I move that. We point James to that position.
- Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia** I second, and keep the second position open until the COO is...
- James Canfield** That's correct, that was the thought. And again, we got some great folks on the team now that I think could do that, but, but really want to see where we are with the COO position, and we can always bring that second seat back, but in the meantime, I feel I'll be able to serve and cover the meetings.
- Nick Kovacevich** Okay, great. Any board discussion. We do have a motion a second, all right, we'll go ahead to vote, Summer.
- Summer Angus** Chair Kovacevich?
- Nick Kovacevich** Yes.
- Summer Angus** Vice Chair Bagneris?
- Barbara Bagneris** Yes.
- Summer Angus** Director Pham?

Newton Pham	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director La Belle?
Doug La Belle	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director Rubalcava- Garcia?
Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director Bilezikjian?
Tanya Bilezikjian	Yes.
Summer Angus	And Director Jackson?
Dimetria Jackson	Yes
Summer Angus	Thank you.
Nick Kovacevich	Okay, great. Moving on to 10 C. This is a vote on whether or not to approve staff requests for out of state travel to attend the 2025 international entertainment buyers Association, I E B A annual conference October five through seven in Nashville, Tennessee. Music City, right?
James Canfield	Music City, yeah,
Nick Kovacevich	All right, very appropriate. Yeah. So James, go ahead and tell us about this one. Sorry, can we actually do have a public comment? But I'll get your comments first, then we'll do the public comment.
James Canfield	IEBA is really the International Conference. It's held in Nashville each year, and it brings together venues, promoters, talent buyers, talent agents and talent and it's where a lot of business gets done when it comes to booking facilities, managing tours, availability of dates. It's it's a conference that I've historically attended every year, and this year, our staff request is that we send Michelle Capps as our representative. Michelle has not been to the conference before, and I think due to. Role as the leader of the the entertainment team. I think it'll be of great benefit for her to be involved in those meetings and discussions. There's a lot of learning opportunities about the state of the industry. What's happening with with touring groups, their one on one, opportunities with talent agents as well as promoters, and interaction with other venues to again, better understand what we're doing and what, what she'll find is that the Honda Center is there, and the staples, well, it's not staples, whatever. Oh no, yeah, is there there, right? All of

the all of our competitors are there, and all of the promoters and and artist representatives are there. They all have offices in the Nashville area, which is why it's there. And again, it's an annual conference. So think there'll be great value. And again, part of the vision of the board, as we're looking to, you know, continue to grow and improve our levels of talent, the diversity of Acts and things that we're bringing in, I think this will be a very, a very good thing for us.

Nick Kovacevich

And the reason it's on the agenda is because it wasn't in the budget?

James Canfield

That's correct. Thank you. Part of the requirement is that all out of state travel is approved by the Board of Directors, historically, that is done as part of the budgeting process. This is an opportunity that we identified after the budget was approved and in place, and this is the first meeting that we've had with the board in order to get it approved.

**Natalie
Rubalcava-Garcia**

Okay, go ahead. It's one of the states that the state of California does not allow travel to?

Nick Kovacevich

That went away. Yeah, that went away. Okay, let's do the public comment, and then we could do some board discussion, and we have Reggie Mundekis.

Reggie Mundekis

Hi, I'm Reggie Mundekis. I support this item. I think it's important that we start to broaden out our entertainment offerings, especially during the fair. There's a number of markets that we're just not hitting like, k pop, J pop. There's also Christian music. My neighbor down the block, I go the farmers markets with her and her girlfriends, would love to go to some Christian music events at this place. There's also country events that sell well, and there's no good venues for those in here in this county. You know certain comedy acts, not all of them, but some comedy acts could also be good fits. We we also need to look at using the hanger more. The hanger was designed as a music venue, and that's kind of gotten lost in the shuffle over many years. And the good thing about the hanger is that you can go in there, you set up your stage, you close the doors, and you could turn it up as loud as you want, and nobody knows you're in there. That's one of the reasons that Green Day used the hanger to practice for their latest tour, because they were able to go in there, set up their stage like they would on tour, and turn it up and practice. So I support this item and look forward to the new entertainment that's coming our way.

Nick Kovacevich	Thanks. Okay, thank you. Wish I would have known Great Day was in there.
Newton Pham	I was thinking the same thing Nick. Green Day is, like my favorite band, so it's, I wish I knew.
Nick Kovacevich	Next, Next time, we'll be prepared. Okay, any board discussion on this?
Doug La Belle	No, let's get the motion on the floor first, I'll make the motion to approve the staff recommendation.
Barbara Bagneris	Second.
Nick Kovacevich	And I'll just make a comment that, you know, I know this is just, you know, one out of state travel request, which I certainly support, but it's, I think, the bigger theme of what we're trying to do here at the fairgrounds, kind of take a new approach to year round entertainment, also revisit, you know, our general entertainment. I think, you know, in today's ever digital world, the big differentiation is going to be those live events. And, you know, I think the approach that management is taking to to broaden that out and to lean into that, that specific area, and not even specifically, just the fair, but looking year round, I think it's, it's a great direction that we're going. So those are my comments. We do have a motion a second. If no one has any other comments.
Barbara Bagneris	You read my mind on your comment.
Nick Kovacevich	Great, Thank you. Summer.
Summer Angus	Chair Kovacevich?
Nick Kovacevich	Yes.
Summer Angus	Vice Chair Bagneris?
Barbara Bagneris	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director Pham?
Newton Pham	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director La Belle?
Doug La Belle	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director Rubalcava-Garcia?
Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia	Yes.

Summer Angus	Director Bilezikjian?
Tanya Bilezikjian	Yes.
Summer Angus	And Director Jackson?
Dimetria Jackson	Yes.
Nick Kovacevich	Okay, great. Now, moving on. To item number 10D, this is a consideration of and a vote on whether or not to approve establishment of a credit card convenience fee to offset credit card processing fees for this action item. I'll turn it over to Melissa, and we do have one public comment on this item as well that we'll take before the board discussion. But first, Melissa.
Melissa Au-Young	I'll just go through this item very briefly. So we host over 125 events here of varying varying sizes, and we currently allow for payment of fees for those rental agreements by check or credit card. However, historically, the district, we've absorbed the cost of the credit card transactions. So in 2024 alone, we paid about 86,000 in fees. And then year to date, for this year, we paid about 44,000 and so in looking at look, in looking at this to mitigate the growing costs, we're recommending that the credit card processing fees be passed through to the end user and a percentage based service fee be added to future credit card transactions to offset that. So we did originally present this item to the Finance Committee back in June, and we requested more time before bringing it to the board in June to get additional information and analyze it a little further. So we took that time to analyze our historical credit card usage and the processing fees we paid as a result. And so we are coming back and recommending a 3.8% convenience fee be added to credit card transactions. So if there will be some folks that don't want to pay that, of course, and so we will, we still have the option of payment by check, so folks can drop those of for their rental fees, and they will avoid incurring those costs. But this is essentially for those that want the convenience of paying for credit card fees at this point. And so I did want to note one final thing, that this is not going to affect our fair admission tickets. So we've historically decided to absorb the cost of those credit card processing fees as a way of supporting our advanced online ticket model. And so at this time, we're still recommending that we continue doing that to to push those advanced ticket sales. But other than that, that's, that's my report, I can answer.
Nick Kovacevich	So, this only affects vendors business.
Melissa Au-Young	So affects rental agreement, but it's not going to affect, for example, the credit card processing for fair tickets themselves. We are pulling that out and not including this as part of that item.
Nick Kovacevich	So a regular consumer that comes on grounds that wants to buy food or whatever. This is not subjecting them to additional fees.

Melissa Au-Young No, it's not for those. This is essentially for rental agreements. So for, you know, we have, we have, we hold all the events we allow folks to pay for their first payment, for example, for their event, to hold their spot by credit card. So we've had a couple transactions. We're looking at \$200,000 by credit card that we're observing the cost on. And so then we see \$20,000 in credit card fees that we've taken on. And so this essentially is for pulling those rental agreements specifically out and charging that for payment by credit card for those but not for things like where folks want to buy their tickets or pay for parking or any of that we're not including that as part...

Nick Kovacevich And they have pay by check. They have ACH or wire?

Melissa Au-Young We can do that. We do, we do we can do that. We still, you can come on site and still pay with check. And so there are ways that we have to avoid those fees. Okay,

Nick Kovacevich Great. Let's do the public comment, and then we can take board discussion on this. Reggie Mundekis.

Reggie Mundekis I support the item.

Barbara Bagneris Thank you because my only because I'd like for us to get the motion on the floor, but I think that was a unique this pullout, is what she said. It's only for rental agreements. Because when I first heard this, I thought it meant everybody is credit card was going to get this fee. So I think we make sure that that motion does not make it seem like everybody has to pay that fee, because they don't just the rental agreements. So is that the best way to say it rental agreements?

Melissa Au-Young Yeah, it's for including a convenience fee for the payment of fees related to rental agreements.

Barbara Bagneris Really okay? So I move that we approve the establishment of a credit card convenience fees opposite credit card processing fees for our rental agreements.

Tanya Bilezikjian I'll second.

Nick Kovacevich We have a motion and a second any further comment?

Doug La Belle Chair Kovacevic, if I might.

Nick Kovacevich Director La Belle.

Doug La Belle Kind of ambivalent on this. Obviously, we all experience this with our own personal situations, one of the things that some entities do they they provide a discount for cash payments. Obviously, if you write a check, we got the money immediately, and they'll allow maybe a 1% deduct for that. I don't know if that is something that has been looked looked at. I would support the motion. The thing I would like to suggest is we get a recap six or eight months down the road and see what the.

The overall impact has been, have we discouraged some people? Has there been any really negative impacts as a result of that? Obviously, 50,000 a year, whatever the case may be. You know, those are dollars that benefit the programs we do, our our challenges, not the \$1,000 fees or challenges the million dollar fees that we need to get to implement the overall master plan. But I would support the motion, but I would with concurrence of the motion maker, and second, ask that we get a report back from staff six or eight months down the road as to the impact of this, if, in fact, the motion carries. Those are my thoughts.

Barbara Bagneris

I'm okay with that.

Dimetria Jackson

Question is a 3.8% kind of the market rate, and will it cover all of the fees that we currently are dealing with? And secondly, is there any other option besides check, maybe even a wire to cover those fees? Is that going to be made available? I mean, I know there's a cost to send a wire, but depending on how much your rental fees are, it may be more cost, more able to to pay that with the check, sorry, with a credit card, then to send a wire.

Melissa Au-Young

So we do, we do have the option for wire, and folks can reach out to our accounting department to get that information. So that is an option, okay, as is, of course, cash if they want to come in or check as well. As far as your other question. So we don't pay a flat rate. It's variable, and it kind of depends on a number of you know. So for example, what card is being used. So Visa, MasterCard, they have lower rates than AmEx, for example. And then also, there's, you pay a higher rate when you hit when you charge a certain amount. So if it's under 10,000 the rates are lower, for example, if you start getting, you know, so they tier it. And so 100,000 plus, it's a much higher rate. And so what we're seeing is, so for example, with American Express, the cost is actually more like 4.9% and so, you know, and you get into MasterCard and some of those. And so we those are as low as 2.7 so it's really looking at our entire usage and then all the fees that are charged and kind of historically going back. And so the 3.8% it is, you know, there will be some where it'll be higher and some lower, but it covers our cost overall of the actual credit card processing piece based on our total usage over the past several years, and so that's variable rate. And so that's the one essentially, thank you that that would essentially ensure that it does cover our credit card processing.

Dimetria Jackson

Okay, thank you for that clarification.

**Natalie
Rubalcava-Garcia**

I just have a copy. I know there was a motion on the floor, and I support the recommendation. The only thing I would say is we probably should be more proactive at communicating this stuff to the public, because we want to manage, you know, the message, and make sure that people are aware that it does not impact the general public, it impacts the business side. So I think that would be great if we could work and make sure that we're communicating that externally.

Nick Kovacevich Yeah, I was, I was gonna say the same thing. I think when we roll this out, as long as we give people ample options. I mean, I recently spent some money with, you know, state agencies, and they, you know, say, hey, look, you have to pay the fee if you use a credit card, but just put your banking info and you do an ACH, you avoid the fee. And if it's small, I just take the fee, you know, because I want the points, but it's, you know, it's, it's these businesses that have these big expenses. And, you know, I used to do it when we used to rack up a million points a month, you know, and it's great, but somebody's paying that right on the back end. So I think, I think it's fair. I think it's market. I also would like to instruct the Finance Committee to to, you know, continue to monitor the development of stable coins, because this is a big thing coming out of the genius act that was recently passed. And a lot of the big organizations, you know, Walmarts and Amazons of the world, are talking about creating their own stable coins. I don't know you know how viable that is, but that essentially takes your transaction fees down to almost zero, right? And this could be something that gets rolled out, you know, for something like the fair so I don't think it's anything that's immediate, but I think it's something to keep on our radar if people start to figure out models that work much more efficiently using stable coins, that could be something that we could consider down the road. So I just asked the Finance Committee to monitor that.

Nick Kovacevich So we've called the roll call. No other comment.

Summer Angus Just a couple of things, housekeeping and director Pham has left the meeting for the record and director La Belle, if you can put your camera on, you're supposed to be on camera for the Zoom please. I'll take the roll call vote. Chair Kovacevich?

Nick Kovacevich Yes.

Summer Angus Vice Chair Bagneris?

Barbara Bagneris Yes.

Summer Angus Director La Belle? might be figuring out the camera. Director Rubalcava-Garcia?

**Natalie
Rubalcava-Garcia** Yes

Summer Angus Director Bilezikjian?

Tanya Bilezikjian Yes.

Summer Angus Director Jackson?

Dimetria Jackson Yes.

Summer Angus And I'll circle back to Director La Belle for your roll call vote,

Doug La Belle	Yes. Thank you. Am I on camera now Summer?
Summer Angus	No, you're not. Yes, you are.
James Canfield	All right, we like to see your smiling face.
Doug La Belle	Okay? All right, good, thank you.
Nick Kovacevich	Okay, great. So motion passes there item number 10D, we're going to move on to item number 10E. And this is the 2025, OC fair wrap up presentation. And again, I'll turn this over to James, as we have no public comment on this.
James Canfield	Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So we, we had this thing. It's called a fair, right? It was pretty incredible. Michelle and her communications team have done a great job in pulling together a presentation for us that will provide lots of highlights Melissa will give. We'll go through some of the financial details and results. So I'm going to get up, walk over, hand this remote control to Michelle, and she's going to walk us through the fair update.
Michele Capps	So like James said, we had a little fair everybody find they're happy, Yeah. So let's start off with the stats, by the numbers. See this, we're going backwards. There we go, by the numbers, 1.1 6 million fair goers, eight, sold out days. 19, sold out shows over our three venues, a Pacific amphitheater, the hangar and action sports arena, over 15,000 entries in our competitions. 345 local bands performed at our community stages. Over 20,000 people saw the heroes Hall exhibit, 270,000 saw the rewind exhibit, 2.3 million people rode rides on RCS attractions, and over 400,000 plushies were won at RCS games. 50,000 ears of corn were shucked by county fair, corn stars and over 41,000 glasses of wine were poured by the Wine Society volunteers in the courtyard, and we hit almost our goal of 200,000 servings of the \$5 taste of fair, and we had millions and millions of media impressions. Those are eyeballs. So our communications team dominated the airwaves with 114 broadcast hits, 224 online stories, for a 7.6 increase over prior year. This is free publicity that our team works very hard to secure, but if we had to pay for it, the value would be somewhere in the ballpark of about 150 100 point 5 million. I'm sorry, \$1.5 million by today's valuation standards, with the number of streaming services and online news outlets available to consumers. And the social media side, our numbers were up again in reach impressions, again, that's number of eyeballs seeing it and engagement, which is the number of comments, saves, likes, shares. That was up 232% over last year, the team completely knocked it out of the park, posting multiple times a day, experimenting with trends and following up with the best performing posts. Speaking of best performing posts, they're up there. Those were food related and the gamification of Raising Canes, which was a sponsorship. It was hidden in plain sight. Also noteworthy. Noteworthy were all of the influencers that were visiting. There were too many to report here, but they had millions and millions of followers. Then there were the concerts. Sorry concerts, oopsie. There

concerts make us happy. There we go. Concerts make us very happy. Yeah, you too. I'm hitting it too hard there. Okay, the news is that Pacific amphitheater ranked number two in the world for the month of August. No. Panel, we were just behind Red Rocks, and that is music to our ears. This is based on the gross ticket sales for the 14 shows for just the month of August. Gross total for the 23 shows, total was just over 7 million, and that's an average of 150,000 net per show, which is about 8% increase over last year. And a Q and A time. Anybody want to guess what the best performing shows were?

Nick Kovacevich

We got some inside info.

Michele Capps

Anybody T-Pain 505,000 gross on that show alone. The other notable one was blues travelers with gin blossom and spin doctor. Those were both sold out all right. And as you know, Pacific amphitheater isn't our only ticketed venue. Over at the hangar, we sold out. We sold an average of one 1111 tickets per show, with a total revenue of 643,000 and at the action sports arena, an average of 1300 tickets per show, with a record \$709,000 in gross ticket revenue. Our most popular shows continue to be the demolition derby and the monster truck events. And I hope you had a chance to make it over to Centennial farm to see those piglets. We had 15 piglets from two separate litters during the fair and the livestock auction total was over \$311,000 for the 165 animals sold. These funds go directly to the FFA and 4h youth who raised the animals this year. And we saw records, record setting number of entries for goats, rabbits and cavies, which are little guinea pigs. They are cute. The Grand Champion for market beef received 11,200 while the grand champion hog was at 3500 and both of those animals were raised through the La Habra, high FF eight FFA group.

James Canfield

Which is your alma mater.

Michele Capps

It is, thank goodness. And we surveyed the guests the day after they attended the fair, and we invited them on various marketing materials throughout the fair to fill out a survey. And the survey said food and beverage category was the most enjoyed by 25% of the visitors, and the most successful program was the \$5 taste affair, with just under 200,000 servings being dished up the top stands for the \$5 taste for JPS, old Old West cinnamon rolls, gino's Pizza, Brander funnel cakes and Cathy's cookies. And the rewind exhibit was a huge success, with 270,000 attendees flowing through their doors, and 18,000 of those on the last day alone, guests found their way through that 90s blockbuster rental store, they marveled at towering one of a kind poster art. Watch live painters recreate the golden age of movie art, immerse themselves in the cinematic sets. Found a Moulin Rouge speakeasy and bar, and it became more than we had ever planned for and it was very well received. And look at all those blue ribbons. There were over 15,000 entries for culinary Fine Arts, hobbies, collectibles, livestock, garden and floral and how many blue ribbons were awarded? Any guesses there we had 557 in culinary, hobbies, handcrafts and Fine Arts. 260 in hobbies and handcrafts alone. 183 in culinary, 114 in visual arts, over

1000 in garden and floral and over 1300 in livestock. That's a lot, and we had over 30 new vendors join us in commercial and concessions program this year, from trains and handbags, ice cream slime to real ice cream and cream puffs, cookware and even Colombian shapewear. Over 10,000 people alone found they're happy on that little train.

Michele Capps

It is, thank goodness. And we surveyed the guests the day after they attended the fair, and we invited them on various marketing materials throughout the fair to fill out a survey. And the survey said food and beverage category was the most enjoyed by 25% of the visitors, and the most successful program was the \$5 taste affair, with just under 200,000 servings being dished up the top stands for the \$5 taste for JPS, old Old West cinnamon rolls, gino's Pizza, Brander funnel cakes and Cathy's cookies. And the rewind exhibit was a huge success, with 270,000 attendees flowing through their doors, and 18,000 of those on the last day alone, guests found their way through that 90s blockbuster rental store, they marveled at towering one of a kind poster art. Watch live painters recreate the golden age of movie art, immerse themselves in the cinematic sets. Found a Moulin Rouge speakeasy and bar, and it became more than we had ever planned for and it was very well received. And look at all those blue ribbons. There were over 15,000 entries for culinary Fine Arts, hobbies, collectibles, livestock, garden and floral and how many blue ribbons were awarded? Any guesses there we had 557 in culinary, hobbies, handcrafts and Fine Arts. 260 in hobbies and handcrafts alone. 183 in culinary, 114 in visual arts, over 1000 in garden and floral and over 1300 in livestock. That's a lot, and we had over 30 new vendors join us in commercial and concessions program this year, from trains and handbags, ice cream slime to real ice cream and cream puffs, cookware and even Colombian shapewear. Over 10,000 people alone found they're happy on that little train.

Michele Capps

And OC fair Express returned. We had 22,888 riders that hopped aboard the fair express this year, 30% up from prior year. And new this year we are. See a cultural celebration. The one day event in Pacifica Plaza featured several performing groups, bands and community associations. The Blue Ribbon winners of the poetry contest were on hand to recite their winning entries after being introduced by the Community Affairs Committee members, Director Jackson and director Rubel Garcia. There was a lot of activity, and it was a fun time for all over there. I hope you had a chance to go over there. And then, as you saw earlier, Gary was here to present that check the OC fair 5k run was here on Sunday, August 10. I was honored to run that 5k I mostly walked it honestly and knew this year was that 1.1 mile course through the carnival area. It was perfect for families with little ones and those not quite up for the 5k and I pledge that I will be there next year. The annual 5k run is a joint effort between OC fair and the OC marathon, we provide the venue, and the marathon provides all of the logistics, the volunteers and the prizes, and we also share that revenue. And as you saw, he presented us with \$28,000 of our share.

Michele Capps

Seems like a natural place now to talk about water, we added two stations this year. 28,994 gallons was dispensed this year with our six stations, versus the 16,000 gallons last year with only four station and so that is a value of \$35,802 more in value this year, based on the 20 ounce bottles that we sell compared to last year, not to mention the 185 plus plastic bottles that we saved from the landfill, so that's we're doing a great job there. And then board members from ribbon cutting at the Oh fair OC fair letters to the national anthem at the hangar, to the best to the final Best of Show award ceremony on closing day, we saw board members throughout the fair at various events. It was so nice to see you bringing your children, your parents, your siblings, your sorority sisters. Thank you so much for your participation with your family and friends. We found our family. We found our happy being able to offer the community lots of great summer jobs during the annual OC fair, we offered 385 job offers in just a few hours on that high hiring at the hiring fair event, and then recruiting continued over the next six weeks with a final count of over 1200 hired for this year's fair alone. And that doesn't even count for all the hiring that our merchants, the carnival and the concessionaires, did for the next few weeks.

Michele Capps

We had an amazing, safe year without major incidents. The evolved system allows us to bring guests in with minimal delays and maximum peace of mind, and then our partnership with the OC sheriff's their presence, they're quick to react to anything that happens on site. And going back to the survey I mentioned earlier, animals and agriculture ranked number two most enjoyed. And these are some of the where the guests can write in their comments. I picked out a few and just put those up there. And I wanted to remind everybody what our mission is, enhancing equitable community access to agriculture, entertainment, cultural and educational experiences. And if you read what they wrote, mission accomplished, I think we absolutely knocked it out of the park with what our mission is and what our guests have to say about us. And again, survey results said rides were number three, most enjoyed, and from that first slide with the numbers, RCS counted ridership at 2.3 million riders. Quite an accomplishment. And when it came to affordability and value, for the second year in a row, every category scored higher than the prior year. We maintained the admission price and single carnival ticket prices and continued the afford the aforementioned \$5 food promotion, and the guests liked it. They liked it so much that they voted us best fair in Orange County registered annual People's Choice. Award...

Melissa Au-Young

Yep. So taking everything into account that Michelle went through, I guess the big question is, how did we do? And here we go. So for our

2025 fair, based on our preliminary numbers, our net proceeds are currently at 24.5 million, which is amazing. I did want to give the caveat that we are still, there still a number of outstanding Billings and invoices that we're receiving. So this number will probably come under, a little bit under 24 million. But that's still that's a huge feat for this time period. We are down, as you'll see a little bit from actuals for 2024 and much of that is largely due to we held 35 concerts during fair time, what we consider fair time last year, and then 25 this year. And so that did affect our bottom line, ultimately, but considering the number of concerts that we held in overall, gets pretty incredible at 24.5 million. So I think sorry. So it was a fantastic fair overall, well received by the community, and allows us to continue to pour funds back into our educational community program, Centennial farm request, The Ranch, Imaginology,

Michele Capps

celebrate its 250th birthday on July 4, 2026 we're developing a campaign with the warm, nostalgic spirit, spirit of a classic hometown fair, leaning in on the Americana look and feel. And this is just a preliminary sketch. We'll be weaving a vintage feeling with OC favorites. The OC fair is a once a year reunion taking place over 23 days, a tradition where families and friends come together. Maybe they are experiencing together, maybe on separate days, but either way, we provide a sense of community, togetherness, celebration built on joy, a connection and a shared adventure. Your adventure awaits July, 17, August, 16, 2026, we will all be there.

Nick Kovacevich

Very good. Thank you, and I'm excited about that theme for for next year. That's great. I had a couple comments on that. One is, I think I've mentioned this before, but it'd be great to get especially with what we're doing on the water front, to get those, like aluminum refillable bottles for sale, as opposed to the plastic. And if we could get those that have our branding on it, yeah, like something like that, with our branding on it, people would probably pay a little bit more for that while they're at the fair, and then they get to refill. So we're hopefully moving profits up while helping the environment more. Win, win. The other thing I'd say is that was really interesting survey on the price and value. Prices did not move up between last year and this year. They stayed the same, but the value obviously moved up, or, you know, because of inflation, us not adjusting the prices was seen as actually a price decrease. I know there were some articles that were written that were negative on the pricing, and so maybe it'd be good opportunity to reach out to those publications. Maybe they'd want to do an update story in the event that prices actually didn't move up and value actually increased and that showed up in surveys. So maybe they'd want to take a different approach if they were to write an article about the recap of the fair. So hopefully they're open to that, because love to love to see more accurate

reporting out there these days. If it's possible, maybe the board chair could write an editorial. You know, if they would publish me, I'd be happy to do it. But overall, thank you for that update and tremendous job, even with a little bit of a short staff executive team, for what you guys did. So great job.

James Canfield

Thank you, Mr. Chair. And again, I can't say enough about the incredible team that we have here. And you know, we didn't have enough room to bring all of them in. And again, I think you saw, you know, the hiring numbers we the OC fair alone, brought in almost 1300 seasonal employees. When you add the food and beverage, the concession vendors, what RCS does, and all of the other subcontractors, it's well in the 2000s and these end up being full time jobs for. Those folks for the you know, four to six weeks of the fair, we have such an incredible, passionate team of professionals on our permanent staff here that, you know, live and breathe this, this incredible organism that's a fair so, you know, all of the credit, all of the kudos, go to them. And you know, it's really rewarding to be able to see the work that they do and to be a part of the team.

Nick Kovacevich

So great. Well, I think a big round of applause to the whole staff. Yes. Might be glad. Okay, awesome. Already thinking about next year's is great. Let's move on to speaking of change. Let's move on to Agenda Item Number 10F, we have a board appointment for a Chair and Vice chair of the nominating committee. So this is a committee that will be in charge of nominating the leadership positions, which may be set to change for next meeting. So really only about a month's worth of effort, but very important to make sure we have the right folks in leadership here to continue the positive momentum. So for this committee, I would like to select as chair, Director Rubalcava-Garcia, if you are open to it.

**Natalie
Rubalcava-Garcia**

Thank you.

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you. And also to join you, because you guys have such a great dynamic and in your teamwork, I would ask if Director Jackson would be interested in joining the committee as well?

Dimetria Jackson

yes, I'd be happy to serve.

Nick Kovacevich

Okay, great. So I'll let the record reflect we now have a nominating committee formed that we'll get right to work and we'll hear from them next meeting. Thank you. All right, moving on to Agenda Item Number 10G, and this will be our committee reports. We'll start with the leadership committee. We do have a report, I'll go ahead and pull that up. So committee report for leadership committee, the leadership committee. Do we have a date? Oh, yeah. Met on September 23 and this was, I think, I think we've actually met earlier than that. Yeah, okay. Oh, down there. Okay, there it is. I see. So the Committee met on the 10th to plan the agenda for the board of directors meeting. We plan

to meet again on October 8. So not much to report there. Moving on, we've got the financial monitoring and Audit Committee. It looks like we have Director Bilezikjian left from that committee. If you'd like to go over the report.

Tanya Bilezikjian Happy to you. So we met, actually, we met separately. I met with Melissa yesterday. Newton met on Monday. Melissa took care of reporting some of the top line numbers for the fair so I won't go into full detail on that, but yeah, just just keep in mind that the number that was reported is anticipated to go down by a bit as those trailing invoices come in, we are still favorable to budget year to date by \$1.4 million so it's important to keep that in mind, and then cash and cash investments as of the End of August are at \$70.1 million let's see. And then I just want to jump down. We talked about the credit card processing fees. We voted yes on that with the request by director Labelle that we get the chance to report out in six to eight months. And then I also wanted to mention there was a grant that was provided to the fair in 2021 during covid, the shuttered venues, operators. Grant, there has been a notification sent to us that that grant might be clawed back. So we're pushing back on that, a request for reconsideration. So more information on that. How much was that grant? Four point something, million. 4.18 so we'll be meeting again in October, and we'll provide more updates.

Nick Kovacevich Did they give a reason why?

Melissa Au-Young They indicated we were ineligible, ineligible to receive it, even though we'd submitted, we actually closed the project out and submitted final audits, and that had been accepted. So yeah, we submitted a request for reconsideration, and are currently waiting to hear back.

Nick Kovacevich Okay, great. Well, good, good luck with that. That's going to be very crucial if we can, yeah, material, that's what I meant to say. Okay. Great. Any questions for the Finance Committee report from any directors? Okay, we'll move on to the Facilities Committee report, and again, with Director Ruiz on the road. I'll ask if Director Bilezikjian would update us doing double duty today.

Tanya Bilezikjian Yes, absolutely. So we met on September 16. We got an update on the capex projects. They're moving through the system for the year, and they appear to be on track. 36 are complete for the year, and there are 14 more active as of the time that we met for the Master Site Plan. Obviously we're making great progress on the administrative building. Administration building with a with the hopes of fully, fully being permitted to operate in here in the near future, I can see them outside. They're still measuring. We've got contractors on site, so still some work to do. And then the move in as well. Phase two of the Master Site Plan that midway restroom and showers. I think that we're near the end of design and looking to go out to bid for construction in the near term. And you know, just kind of, if I can editorialize a tiny bit, the CERRVF

membership is going to be very well partnered with so many of the Master Site Plan projects. You know, this midway restroom with additional restrooms and shower facilities are going to be a perfect opportunity for if this site is ever used as an evacuation center. So very happy that you know that that is out together, and we'll be meeting again next week as a committee.

Nick Kovacevich Okay, great, yeah. And I think with the this building getting certified here very soon, and kind of us, you know, going through transition, bringing James on and hopefully a new COO. I don't know when the timing is, but I think at some point it might make sense to read, to look at the Master Site Plan again as a full board, and I'll leave it to the committee to work with James and kind of determine when that's appropriate and how you want to bring that. Yeah, we'd like to do that. Okay, just let me know if it wants to be done next meeting or subsequent meeting. Whenever you guys feel ready.

Tanya Bilezikjian Yeah, I think waiting for the new COO, because that's going to be the person implementing it. So giving that person some time, so maybe the December meeting.

Nick Kovacevich Affairs Committee, who we already heard from at the beginning of the meeting, but director Jackson, if you'll go ahead.

Dimetria Jackson Sure, Director Rubalcava-Garcia and I met multiple times via email, back and forth, considering a few candidates for the National for Hispanic Heritage Month, looking at their their resumes, kind of the work that they're doing in the community. Looked at several the murals, all the artwork, and, you know, depending on who we were looking at the time, and we decided to go with Carla oak, who you all met today, the illustrator, mural artist, here in Orange County. And I think it was a great opportunity to share the work that she's doing in the community, and, you know, she was happy to receive the recognition. And I love the fact that her work. I watched some of the videos with the kids. I kind of watched a lot of videos, and I the reaction, and I guess the impact that she has on the children, because you heard from their words. If you take a look at her, her sights, and one little girl said, you know, this is something that I was able to do. And years from now, when I come back and see this, this is always going to be here, and I had a hand in creating this project for my school, you know. So I just love the fact that the kids were and I didn't know that we're kind of after school programming, whatever. But I just love that that she involves them in the work that she does for the community. So we're happy to we were happy to present that. I'm glad she was well received. And me, next meeting will be determined, and we're looking to bring some money forth that hopefully has an impact in the community as

well. So thank you. And I, once again, this is a something I enjoy doing. I love the work, and I love the fact that we can bring new people into the fair.

Nick Kovacevich

Tremendous, thank you. All right, next we'll, we'll do the upcoming events preview Agenda Item Number 11, I'll turn this over to Michelle Capps.

Michele Capps

So we're going to start with this weekend we have OC pride is coming back, and they will have a free parade out in the parking lot, and then their ticketed, ticketed event is inside with live, live music across multiple stages, family friendly activities and cultural showcases. And this brings together 1000s of people across Orange County and beyond, and it has food entertainment exhibitors also happening on Saturday night is Speedway, and it's the knobby night Invitational. On the 30th, we have a the first discovery day over at the farm. It's the first one of the season. One. And of course, it sold out and not sold out, but the reservations went immediately. I think most of the ones of the season have already been filled. And then the pumpkin patch seasonal adventures comes back on October 2 through Halloween. It's free for families, and parking is free Monday through Thursday, and then \$12 on the weekends, and they have games and Kitty rides, petting zoo, a little train. It's a lot of fun out there. And then the fourth and fifth of October Off Road Expo is back, and that is an all grounds event like James was talking about, lots of hundreds of manufacturers will be here for the off road enthusiasts gem fair, October 10 through the 12th, the largest jewelry and beach show in Southern California. And then Speedway is back for the 55th US national Speedway championships on October 11, also on October 11 and 12th, the OC Home and Garden Show and the discovery, discover, sorry, The Ranch community center. Discovery Day is coming back October 16. And if you remember, we had our first inaugural one last May. And so this is where school kids can experience an educational adventure all about horses and agriculture. The ranch will come alive with horses, livestock, interactive demonstrations, creating a memorable a memorable day for visitors of all ages. And then we have the OC Japan fair that is going to be on October 17 through the 19th you can It's a celebration of Japanese culture at one of the largest festivals in Southern California and Newport Mesa, Unified School District is holding their College and Career Fair on October 22 six to 8pm and there was one that I couldn't fit well, we have boo ha ha coming up on October 25 we will have another board meeting before then. But plan ahead, get your tickets, because they are going fast, and that is a Craft Beer Fest, and the very first demolition derby, because it was so popular. But this one features hearses, haunted hearses

James Canfield Being driven by skeletons. Apparently, I don't know, yeah,

Michele Capps Make sure you get your ticket for that one. But there was, and I do want to bring up, of course, we have farmers market, and the goodwill truck is out here for the very last time. Today, they have opened up their new facility just at Merrimack and harbor, huge, brand new, beautiful facility just a block away. They no longer need to bring their trailer here. So today is the last day of that, and then on October 2, a slide that I couldn't, I could not fit the image on this slide, the Oscar Meyer wiener mobile is coming on October 2. It will be here in front of heroes Hall and Centennial farm, just because, so come on down. Get your selfies just because, you know, just because, okay, yep, one of our employees nominated us as a venue, and we got selected, and so we are going to use it to publicize the pumpkin patch our fall decor happening over at the centennial farm, the Vietnam exhibit at heroes Hall. We're going to use it to our advantage to just talk about everything we have going on here at the property. So come on down and get for selfies. And yeah, see the winner. And then also...

Doug La Belle Hey, Michelle. This is, this is Doug, the Wiener Mobile. They used to give out those little whistles when they would go through town. Are they going to be doing that on the second of October?

Michele Capps I'll have to report back to you, Doug. I don't know, alrighty, I will find out, because I will definitely be out there checking out.

Barbara Bagneris Insist on it.

Michele Capps And then, I don't know if you guys were here during the fair Casey and the Sunshine Band nights, you might have remembered that there was some filming happening. Oh God, and it's coming to your television screen on October 8, golden bachelor was here filming on location, and that was actually a paid gig for us. So during the fair portion of golden bachelor was filmed. The Bachelor Mel Owens, a former rams player. He lives in Orange County. He loves the fair. He loves. Casey and the sunshine ban. So he asked his date to come to the fair and October 8, you know, tune in and see what that episode ends up looking like. So we benefit from the exposure. We benefit from the rental fees that we received from that and it also puts us on the map for other film crews that see we are a location so awesome. It was a business decision, and it can be a lucrative one at that.

Nick Kovacevich Well, let's hope he finds true love and it has a happy ending. All right. Is that it? Michelle, thank you very excited. October 2 is going to be there. All right. That brings us to Agenda Item Number 12, which is Board of Directors, matters of information. And we'll go around the what's left of the table, but we'll start with the virtual table to it's great

to have our longest standing director, I would also say probably the most knowledgeable director, director Labelle back in the board meeting, so we turn it to you, Doug.

Doug La Belle

Can everybody hear me? Yes. Oh, perfect. It's been a challenging six months for for Bonnie and I, and I want to thank all of my fellow directors and staff for all of your kind thoughts during the course of a rather challenging, physical time, actually, for both Bonnie and I, and Bonnie's been my my rock, and I'm just happy to be where I'm at right now, and I want to thank you for all of your kind thoughts during my recovery process. I was not getting back to any emails or texts or anything else for some period of time, but hopefully I'm back at a point now where I'm going to go forward, hope to be at the next meeting, and hopefully we've got all of this behind us. We were looking forward to 2026, in terms of a better year. Let me leave it on a couple of positive notes. My my grandkids gave me weekly, periodic reports on the fair, and I was fully briefed on what was happening there. As you know, both Evan and Elle, and Evan had many, many reports that he had to share with me in terms of everything happening at the fair. Barbara and Robert have been around almost as long as I have, and they know that my grandson, Matthew, they would see him running around at the fair when he was, I don't know, seven, eight years old. I'm happy to report that he graduated from the University of Oklahoma in May with a degree in communications. He now lives in Fort Worth Texas, and is been hired by the Texas Rangers as a part of their their marketing team. So for all of you baseball fans, you may have to not necessarily root for the Rangers, but when they play anybody but the angels or the Dodgers, keep them in your thoughts. So we're very pleased with with that. And again, my thanks to to all of you for your your support and your patience.

Barbara Bagneris We love you, Doug. **Doug**

La Belle Thank you. Thank you. **Nick**

Kovacevich All right. Director Jackson.

Dimetria Jackson Thank you. I'm very happy that, Doug, you're feeling better and that you'll be able to see you soon at the next meeting. So it's really good to see you online, but I can't wait to see in person. I think that it was a really good fair. I enjoyed it. I think my family enjoyed it. It's always a joy to see the directors out and about at fairs. And you know, as we're enjoying concerts together, I love the energy, and I'm looking forward to what is it? My adventure waits next year. So I know we've got a long time, but it seems to come pretty quickly. So I'm really happy about that. Welcome, James, once again, you're in that seat now, that hot seat, but you're surrounded by a wonderful, supportive, knowledgeable staff.

Off, which is great to have, you know, your team, and you know, summer and everyone else here has just been really amazing. And I just have to want to just say thank you to summer, because she has to go through a lot and put up with the board members and our tickets and changes and things of that nature. So I just want to say kudos to you, because you do a lot of work, and I'm not sure people recognize how much you're doing, but I always available. That's also, you know, she's there, whether you're texting her, calling her, she's like, I'll get back to you. I can handle it. Can make it work. So I just wanted to say, like, one of the good again, shout outs to summer, because I'm she needs to be recognized for all the work that she does as well as everyone else. But she's just basically for the board. She's there for us at all times. So yes, appreciate you. So think that's all I have.

Nick Kovacevich

Thank you. Director Bilezikjian.

Tanya Bilezikjian

Yeah, I echo everything that director Jackson said. Doug, welcome back. It's great to see you and to have your continued guidance and experience summer. Seriously, thank you all the stuff amazing. I just want to reflect on, you know, every every group, every agency, we go through phases or eras, and I feel like this fair was kind of a turning point, because, you know, before that, Michelle was here, and now we have a new CEO and some new faces, and we're about to get another new face and a COO that's going to join and I'm so excited. It's so much of what was talked about today, you know, some some new approaches and new ways of getting attention for the fair and really leveraging this venue that we have and that we get to be the stewards. And I feel so lucky to get to be here and to be working with this amazing team of people. And I just, I want to recognize, you know, you for jumping in, and both of you for stepping up, and then all of the people that are here working, whether they're a manager, a supervisor or a line staff, it takes a lot, and I appreciate every single thing that everybody does. So that's it.

Nick Kovacevich

Great. I totally agree with you all right. Director Bagneris.

Barbara Bagneris

Yes, ditto to everything I've already heard. It's great to see you, Doug. I'm glad that God has blessed you to come through your deal and you look great, and tell Bonnie. We said, Hello, also, welcome again to James. So, so glad that was a lengthy process for us to have to go through. But I think we did a we did a good job. And just welcome again to you. And we can have more water stations. I love them. So if you want to add two more next year, or however many, I think that's a good idea. As we look at the redesign of this room, I don't care for this setup, but I loved how we used to be able to look out and see everybody. And you could actually have more people in here because

of this U shape. So I'm going to put it put in my vote to go back to the original setup that we had before

Nick Kovacevich 2.0 Barbara, we're not even 2.1 yet.

Barbara Bagneris So that's my vote to do that. I do want to, oh, any ranch updates that we can get in the future. I'm just pleased to know that we have our next ranch day. What do we call it? Discovery, Discovery day, and the Oscar Meyer Weiner mobile. Oh my gosh. When I was a little girl, when that thing came through the city, we just, we would almost want to follow it. We just whoever that mobile was. So I'm going to come take my pictures when it is here and but ask about those whistles, because that was the real thing. We wanted those little whistles.

Summer Angus Chair Bagneris, I got a message from our E&E director saying that they will be handing out whistles.

Barbara Bagneris Yay. Thank you for that. And RJ, good to see you. I know you missed us and the golden bachelor that was, that was kind of interesting, but I'm I like the business decision on that and what it the doors it could open. So this fairgrounds is definitely on the move and doing great things. And other than that, I want to thank our board chair. I really admire him greatly, and thanking him that he's brought us through another season, and seeing everybody at the fair, having more and more board members to come that were there at the same time, it's just, it's just a pleasure seeing your families, your mother, different family members. My daughter picky picking those shows that she will pay to get on a plane to come and visit so my grandkids could be here. So I just really, really enjoyed the fair, and I'm looking forward to what adventures we're going to have next year. And with that, I will go back to the Chair.

Nick Kovacevich Thank you Vice Chair, and thank you all during. Directors for your comments. I echo a lot of them. I think that, you know, my big thing I've been thinking about is just, and I mentioned earlier, right? The it's the people, it's the connections. I know that's what you guys have been talking about, shouting out some of the very important people that make this fair happen. I mean, you know, some of our partners, like ovg and RCS. I mean, you know, I had a tremendous experience this year with the food, with the rides, in addition to the entertainment. And, you know, as Director Jackson mentioned, you know, that energy of bringing people together, you know, I started this board the year of covid, of no fair, where it was all virtual. And I feel like, you know, now more than ever, we're seeing that people coming together is so important for society. We have, you know, a lot of tension, you know, when it comes to some of the macro stuff and the political stuff, and a lot of that, I think, is driven by people being on the internet and not

actually having to talk to people face to face or interact. It's amazing that despite all the videos you see online, you know, we can do over a million people here in person without really any incidents, right? Because people coming together at a local level, I think you're able to get a different type of interaction. So we need to understand what we have to offer the community and maximize that, and I think that's exactly what we're doing. So I'm very proud of this board and the management team and the direction that we're going, as I said earlier. So I'm just very excited about the future. It's the America's 250th anniversary next year, and we get to put on our portion of that shortly after July 4. So I'm honored that we get to do that, and look forward to seeing you guys next month. So thank you. And with that, next board meeting will be October 23 meeting adjourned.