

## OCFEC Board Meeting Feb 26, 2026

- Barbara Bagneris** Call the meeting to order all matters noticed 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. Going to ask our good Director, La Belle, if he will lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Doug La Belle** Hand over your heart. Ready, begin.
- 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.
- Barbara Bagneris** Thank you so much. Happy Black History Month, and we'll get Roll Call
- Summer Angus** Chair Bagneris?
- Barbara Bagneris** Here.
- Summer Angus** Vice-Chair Ruiz?
- Robert Ruiz** Here.
- Summer Angus** Director Kovacevich?
- Nick Kovacevich** Here.
- Summer Angus** Director Pham? Director La Belle?
- Doug La Belle** Here.
- Summer Angus** Director Rubalcava-Garcia? Director Bilezikjian?
- Tanya Bilezikjian** Here.
- Summer Angus** Director Jackson? And Director Sanchez Cannady?
- Martha Sanchez** Here.
- Summer Angus** Thank you.
- Barbara Bagneris** Thank you very much. We're going to now pause to have our presentation for Black History Month proclamation by the Community Affairs Committee, and since neither one of them are in the room, I'm going to stand in for them and I'm going to go stand where they normally

stand.

**Nick Kovacevich** She does it all.

**Barbara Bagneris** I'm going to read the proclamation, and then we're going to watch a video from our honoree this month is Charlene Reynolds. I had the opportunity to meet her, and so I'm really happy about this presentation. Proclamation and resolution of the Board of Directors of 32nd District Agriculture Association regarding Black History Month, whereas the 32nd District agriculture associations, the district 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 recognizes the importance of honoring the month of February as Black History Month. And whereas the district recognizes the black community and its achievements in agriculture, the arts, literature, sciences, medicine, military service, businesses, entrepreneurship and whereas the district celebrates the black community's contribution to the rich, diverse culture and heritage of Orange County. And further resolve, OC Fair and Event Center reinforces the principles of diversity, equity, inclusion and nondiscrimination as core institutional values, and that safety is the underlying element to making any person, any one person or community, feel welcome in nearly any setting. Further resolve it is the position of OC fair and event center board of directors 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 proclaims the month of February as Black History Month at the OC fair and Event Center.

**Barbara Bagneris** In recognition of Black History Month 2026, the 32nd District agriculture Association honors Charlene Reynolds, who is as director of John Wayne Airport, is one of the only Four black women to lead a major US airport. She has broken barriers while championing innovation, equity and community centered leadership in Orange County's most visible transportation gateway. Her commitment to empowering women in leadership, her decades of service in major aviation systems across the country, and her dedication to fostering inclusive, forward thinking public institutions make her an inspiration, inspiring leader whose achievements reflect the spirit and significance of Black History month. We celebrate, and proudly honor her integrity leadership and enduring contributions to Orange County. Signed by Barbara Bonar chair, 32nd, DAA Board Chair. Natalie McReynolds, I'm sorry. Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia, 32nd DAA board member, Community Affairs Co-chair and Demetria Jackson, 32nd DAA board

member, Community Affairs Co-chair. And even though she could not be here, she did send a video, so we're going to roll the video at this time.

**Charlene Reynolds**

Hi, I'm Charlene Reynolds, airport Director here at John Wayne Airport. So I just want to say a special thank you to the nominating committee and the Orange County Fair and Event Center for recognizing me for my contributions to Orange County and to the community at large. I am extremely proud to receive this recognition, especially during Black History Month. What many of you may not know, out of 500 plus commercial airports in the United States, there are only four African American females serving as an airport director. And so being an airport director is a passion of mine, I come to work every day loving what I do here. I have the opportunity to open new concessions currently in the terminal right now celebrating a new concessions program. But one of the things that I am proudest of is ensuring the safety of the 11.8 million passengers that come in and out of the airport every day, and so they don't realize what it takes to keep this airport safe, and they should not know it's myself and a lot of great partners who make sure that happens every single day. The airport is a dynamic community partner and an economic engine here in Orange County. And once again, thank you so much to the Orange County Fair and Event Center for recognizing me during Black History Month. Much appreciated. Thank you.

**Barbara Bagneris**

You know, as a black woman, I'm extremely proud of this moment, and I'm glad I was able to read the proclamation. And I would like the board to now we can come up to that picture, we're going to take a picture with the board.

**Summer Angus**

Chair Bagneris, I just want to announce for the record that Director Pham has joined us via Zoom.

**Barbara Bagneris**

Thank you so much. It's good to see you, Director, Pham, and you got in the picture, whether you know it or not, good. Okay? And I want to also thank staff. I know the Community Affairs Committee, you know, selects and does all those great things, but the staff puts together the proclamations and make sure that the conversation continues outside. And make sure that the black history, the Pan African flag, is flown for the 28 days of Black History Month. So we appreciate that. So next we are going to go to the minutes. I'm going to ask for a motion to approve the minutes.

**Doug La Belle**

Motion.

**Robert Ruiz**

Second.

**Barbara Bagneris**

Take a second, and Summer, Roll Call.

**Summer Angus** Chair Bagnaris?

**Barbara Bagneris** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Vice Chair Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Pham?

**Newton Pham** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director La Belle.

**Doug La Belle** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Yes.

**Summer Angus** and Director Sanchez Cannady.

**Martha Sanchez** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Thank you.

**Barbara Bagneris** And for the record, that was the January 29 board meeting, we're now going to take matters of public comment. Public comment is allowed on issues not on the current agenda. However, no debate by the Board should be permitted on such public comments, and no action will be taken on such public comment items at this time. This law requires formal public notice prior to any action on an agenda item. Speakers are requested to fill out and submit the 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 fill out and submit a comment card 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 I don't see any public comment. Is there anything on Zoom?

**Summer Angus** None on Zoom.

**Barbara Bagneris** Okay, so we will move to the next item, which is a consent calendar. And all matters listed under 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 directed votes on the motion, unless members of the board, staff Republic request specific items to be discussed separately and are removed from this section. Any member of the public who wishes to discuss Consent Calendar items should notify the chair the board at the time. Requested it be recognized by invitation of the chair to address the board. They're all listed there. We don't have any from staff to be pooled. So if anybody have anything that needs to be seeing and hearing none, I will accept a motion.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Motion.

**Robert Ruiz** Director Ruiz, I second that motion.

**Barbara Bagneris** Okay, it's been moved and seconded. Summer will take the roll.

**Summer Angus** Chair Bagneris?

**Barbara Bagneris** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Vice-Chair Ruiz?

**Robert Ruiz** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Kovacevich?

**Nick Kovacevich** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Pham?

**Newton Pham** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director La Belle?

**Doug La Belle** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Director Bilezikjian?

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Yes.

**Summer Angus** And Director Sanchez Cannady.

**Martha Sanchez** Yes.

**Summer Angus** Thank you.

**Barbara Bagneris** Very good. We'll move to the next item, a closed session, but there is none, so we're going to skip that. We're not going to get to sit back with you. Okay, so we're going to move on to CEO's verbal operational announcements and updates, and I'll turn it over to James.

**James Canfield** Thank you Chair Bagneris. It gives me incredibly great pleasure to announce that we, after a long and exhaustive search, we have identified the next COO, Chief Operating Officer of the OC band Event Center as Michael Searle. Michael will be starting with us on March tonight. He's here today. His smiling face is up on on the screen as well. Michael comes to us with 20 plus years fair experience, most recently for the last 10 years as the Deputy Director of the Arizona State Fair. Another kind of mega fair in our industry. He is also owned, and operated a fairground consultancy where he has worked with multiple fairs across Arizona and California, including doing stints as COO's and CEOs and other positions at those fairs to help them either regroup or reestablish or just continue to grow. Michael has a very strong operational and administrative background. He'll be joining us, as I said, on the ninth and will immediately assume responsibility for the events, department, facilities, security and planning and production. And for those that don't know, we're already deep into the fair planning for this year's 2026 fair making sure that everyone knows that their adventure awaits and very excited to have Michael join us and know that he'll be able to jump right in to that role and bring a lot of value to it. I will ask Michael to come up to the lectern, but while he does that, I do want to recognize and thank Melissa and Michele. They have been instrumental in our success since Ken left. You know, Ken left right after the opening of the fair, and really appreciated them staying and getting us up and up and running. But ultimately, Melissa and Michele jumped in and supported the team and me with, you know, taking on some of the day to day responsibilities of those departments, and it's been A huge help for me, and it's really kept us amazing. Yeah, Michael, please, if you, if you wanted to say a few words.

**Barbara Bagneris** Next month, we're going to have you at the table.

**James Canfield** Yes, all right.

**Michael Searle** Thank you. Chair, members of the board. James, Melissa, Michele, thank you very much. Uh, for welcoming, welcoming me. So with such open arms, I've had the joy of being in this industry since 1988. I started as a clown, I still clown around a little bit. I like to share that, because great icebreaker, right? And I think it's indicative of what we do as a Event Center and as a Fair, is make sure that people have fun. And so I appreciate my roots, and I appreciate your roots too. Since 1988 I've been to the OC fair most years, and have always admired the success

you have created here, but the influence you've had on the industry through WFA, through IAFE. And when I've come since I've been in management affairs, when I've come to the OC fair, my lens has been to look at what you do so very, very well, and then try and emulate it in the locations that I was serving. It's really a career moment for me to stand here in your boardroom and be on the doorway of starting my career here. And I truly appreciate the opportunity, James, I have enjoyed getting to know you, and I'm looking forward to being a part of the team and continuing the great success through engineering fair. So thank you for welcoming me.

**James Canfield**

Well, welcome aboard. All right, it's hard to top that news, but, but I'll give it a shot. Couple other quick announcements, some updates on our entertainment work that we're doing. Michele and the team doing a great job. We've added a few shows in the Pacific amphitheater, Lauren Daigle, Sugar Ray, the English Beat and Smash Mouth. So I know that that one of those three are going to appeal to it. Nile Rogers and it's not chick, it's Chic, by the way. So, so, you know...

**Barbara Bagneris**

Say it, right.

**James Canfield**

I know it absolutely. In the hangar we've added. And again, a lot of these are familiar. And everyone knows that The Hangar is primarily the tribute bands, which are extremely popular. A dead man's party, which is the Oingo Boingo. And I had to put these up for myself, so I know what they were, Yachty by Nature. And that's just Yacht Rock. Breakdown, which, of course, is Tom Petty and DSB, which stands for, Don't Stop Believing, by the way, which I was like DSB, what I anyway is that anyway, doesn't that Three Dog Night anyway? That's Journey. So very excited to continue to make these announcements. We also have Joe Russ almost dead. For those of you that are dead heads. You'll recognize this. We lost Bob Weir this year, and that show is going to be wildly popular. It's Brittany B. I don't need to explain that. Mariachi Del Sol and then Jimmy's Buffet, which is a fascinating thing for me. But, and then we do have some upcoming announcements for the ASA. We're doing some expansion of programs in there. You know, we've had some great success with some of those events and and we're looking to continue to build that and have those shows.

**Barbara Bagneris**

Is there a reason that Nelly and Too \$hort aren't on that list?

**James Canfield**

Only because I've already announced them. Yeah, so I just highlighted the new ones so.

**Barbara Bagneris**

I didn't remember then, but all my friends have texted me on it. Nelly and Too \$hort,

**Doug La Belle**

Yeah, and I missed my opportunity to see ZZ Top.

**James Canfield**

You did. You did. And we'll go closer, and we've tried to get them back and they're not available for us, unfortunately. So by the way, some of these announcements are also time to when they're actually confirmed and announced that are going on sale, so to make sure that we don't get ahead of ourselves. So if there's something that you've heard about that we haven't talked about. Kind of continuing from an industry engagement standpoint, the CERRFV group, which is the California merch I'm sorry, emergency response and resiliency venues and fairgrounds, sorry, we had legislative meetings in Sacramento and met with a number of elected officials talking about the importance of fairgrounds, the role that we play in the emergency response and resiliency. One of the very interesting things that we shared with them was that of. The fairgrounds in the state, more days are used for emergency response on the fairgrounds than actually fair days. So by the way, a lot of these folks didn't even know that we're enterprise funds that we pay our own. I mean, it's really much more educational than anything else, certainly the need for sustainable infrastructure funding, increasing our eligibility for grant funding for some of the work that we need to do, and also talking about how we can better manage projects and move some forward. We also, I also attended the CCA board meeting, which you know in right now we're in the midst of some reorganization and modification of processes and procedures in that organization and working on some strategic planning. And I was also honored to be appointed as the vice chair of that. So it's very exciting time for that group. So I've had one meeting as the Vice Chair, so we'll see if we continue to get that program what it needs to be to serve our fair. We also hosted an event here on the grounds called Maintenance Mania, which Jerry Eldridge is is a key part of that. This is a CDFR effort, and it's about bringing fairs together on a regional basis and just talking about best practices and helping with training, certifications, all kinds of things and and obviously, one of the things that I, that I put up there, is learning from the best, and again, kind of as as Michael shared, we are recognized as as a fair it's not only very successful, but does things the right way. So I wanted to thank Jerry. We had what Jerry's over 70 attendees from our regional fairs there. So thanks.

**James Canfield**

We also, and I'm going to actually turn this one over to Michele. Michele's team put together a number of entries at the WFA Western Fairs Association, and we had some great success there in the judging. So Michele, can you?

**Michele Capps**

Yeah, we actually won 22 awards there. And we actually won 22 awards, and 11 of those were first place awards in the photography category, including entertainment, Carnival, first responders, exhibits, animal and

people affair. Other. Top honors were for community outreach, for OC fairs. We are OC , a cultural celebration, the aquacultural programming, volunteerism and sponsorship. And we also won first place for the television commercial, for our radio commercial, OC fair radio, also Tiktok owners, and just so many more. So we are so happy that we were able to bring home so many first places in one second place.

**James Canfield**

and again, another opportunity for the industry to recognize the great team that we have here, the great work that they will do. And the reason why I keep saying My job is to stay out of the way and let the good people do what they do. The one other thing I really wanted to share today is as we, and I know we talked about this previously, but as we've come together as an organization in this new building and brought people in from all of the the individual office spaces throughout the grounds, and now have the majority of our team all in one building. One of the things that we wanted to do was kind of have a new, fresh start, and make sure that we're all together in this and working together as a team, improving engagement, improving collaboration, teamwork, communication, all of those things. And we really saw that the new building being a great reason to start this off. And you've heard me talk about we're better together, and that really comes from our sign that we have up in our E&E Department. And I walked in, they were the first department to move in, and I walked in there, and on the wall, it's a neon sign that says better together. And I thought, Wow, I can't think of a better way to describe this great opportunity. So we've done a number of things. We've engaged with a facilitator, they've done an employee engagement survey. They've done a predictive index, which is kind of the very typical kind of personality, communication, style, strengths, weaknesses, those kinds of things. We're working to encourage collaboration, improve communication, eliminate silos, etc. Our first facilitated session with them, the entire team, is going to be this afternoon, and the second will be tomorrow in the morning. And one of the reasons that Michael's here is he wanted to be part of that so he can really join with the team and be part of our growth and kind of as we move forward. But you know, we we asked the questions, we got some information, we learned some things. We learned what we're not doing as well as we need to do, and what some of our opportunities are, and the whole goal is to continue to work to that. So, and we're continuing to look at some other developmental options for us, and we'll talk about some of those later when we get into the Strategic plan. Speaking of the strategic...

**Barbara Bagneris**

But before you go, yes, absolutely, I didn't forget about the public comment for 11 a okay, just fine. I just want to let you know I didn't forget. All right,

**James Canfield** So, yeah...

**Barbara Bagneris** Yeah, oh, yes, absolutely.

**Evy Young** We're speaking on behalf of Max, who wishes he could be here. However, this is their kidding season, and we are housing some of their animals, and a few does are giving birth to more kid goats this morning. In fact, we're counting three, so it's loading target. But he did prepare a statement that I read on his behalf. Max wanted to share that Hana fields, operated by Tanaka Farms, would like to thank The Ranch Community Center staff and the OC Fair & Events Center for allowing us to board animals during the last few rainstorms, we appreciate the support in keeping our animals safe as we were able to house over 100 animals in total over the last two rain events. We currently have over 80 animals on site, mainly goats and sheep. As we continue to repair our facility after the recent rains, we also have enjoyed participating in The Ranch discovery days, and look forward to collaborating with The Ranch team on future programs and events. And the cutie we brought with us this morning was born on Sunday. This goat is a La Mancha son and mix, which is a dairy breed, so which is great. The Ranch kids, when they're there, they've been able to enjoy the animals. They allow us to go in and eat with the animals and have some time with them. So Teresa will take a quick little lap, if anyone you want to take a picture pet the animal, and I do have some sanitizer in case you want some. But thank you so much for allowing me to read this. On behalf of Max and Tanaka Farms, ton of fields.

**Barbara Bagneris** I thank you so much.

**James Canfield** Will the baby give us a quote? Is the only question I was gonna say.

**Unknown Speaker** It's actually a welcome gift that we're gonna hand over to Michael.

**Barbara Bagneris** He said, Behh...

**James Canfield** Well, he is a fair guy, so he'll know what he

**Michael Searle** Can't check it on the plane.

**James Canfield** No, I think he grew fortunately so...

**Barbara Bagneris** Newton, could you see okay? If okay, we're going to move on with the agenda. We're going to go into the governance process. 11 A is the 2025, 2029 strategic plan. Update. I'm going to turn that over to James, and then we'll take public comment.

**James Canfield** Thank you, Chair Bagneris. Before I got here, there was a very detailed amount of work done, working on a strategic plan. I know there was

significant engagement with the community, seven, 8000 comments that came in that were all considered by the board and the staff. And in March of 25, the five year strategic plan was adopted. And I got here in July, and unfortunately had like a fair and just some other fun stuff, and figuring out where my office was, which is the second one. So we figured we better crack this thing open and make sure that we're making some progress and and I'm really excited to say that a lot of the progress that we'll talk about today has actually been organic and kind of our normal, just looking at things and working through processes. So very quickly, I'm not going to go through the whole plan. I'm going to focus on the action items that were in there and just give a quick update on where we are within each of those. The first was technology infrastructure to support the growth of the organization on ours and new technology to the maximum benefit operations. And included an internal rEvyw and an assessment of what we can do, how we can do it, and then development, and we've done a lot of that work, have identified a number of opportunities. One being integrated software for event and venue management, and, you know, looking for an opportunity to fully integrate the booking, contracting, planning, delivery of events, event settlement, accounting, General Ledger, purchasing, etc. We're fortunate that we already use a product called momentous, which is a product specifically for for the facility management and event industry, and we're using it right now for all our booking, scheduling, etc. But there are also other modules that allow it to perform a lot of these other functions. And one of the last things I did before I left, my last job was sign a contract with them to do a complete integration of all of our event operations as well as finances and all of those components. So Melissa and the team are working on bringing them in to do some demos and have some discussions, but also looking at some other options for different software packages that we may be able to use. From an operational technology standpoint, we're looking at replacing some of our kind of standalone systems so for parking as a for instance, yes, we have a credit card processing system. We have, in the simplest terms, more of a cash register program and hardware that we use there. But it's not really parking management. So we can't, at any point in time say, Oh, we have 852 spaces left, right? So it doesn't really track all the things. We don't have the gates, we don't have some of the exiting technology. So it's really hard for us to kind of manage some of those things, and they have to do everything manually. A grounds wide POS system. We're looking at the CMMS system, which is our project management and maintenance and work order system. You know, there those systems have come a long way, and then Administrative Technology as well. HRIS payroll. A secure VPN for remote access. Right now we use kind of the old technology where you leave your computer on and log in. So these are all things we're just kind of working our way through one step at a time to try to make those improvements and really follow along.

**James Canfield**

For the next item was understanding community and guest preferences in order to offer new and innovative programs. And you know, the team did a great job during the fair. We had significant survey data that we collected from the fair, and from that, we made some modifications to our entertainment programming priorities with some of the diversity you know, we learned from our patrons. Hey, what about this? What about that? What about Kpop? What about EDM? What about some of the other entertainment opportunities? Hey, everybody loves the demolition derby. Why do you only do it two weekends, you know? And so we've, we've included a lot of those changes in our programming as we exhibit programming was another one as a for instance, this this year, we're bringing back the home group competition, which is something that was done in the past. And again, people reached out to, Geez, that was one of the things I really loved was coming and tasting the period. So we wanted to bring that back. Attraction programming. We got a lot of folks, and I mentioned the demolition derby, but, you know, a lot of folks asked about Equestrian, right? So we have a great livestock program, but we haven't really driven the equestrian piece of it, so we're working on, for this year, not only bringing some equestrian into the existing fair, but as we move forward, Ranch community center the equestrian program in the Fair. So right now, it's kind of behind. So on the hospitality side, expanding the \$5 case that they're adding value meal fit meal components, which we're doing. On the ticketing side, folks asked for more packages. They asked for the ability to, you know, have have parking, have ride wristbands, have a variety of other things, including food and beverage in that ticket purchase. So they could do that all at once. And we've added that in. Information flow. We learned a lot. And you know, for anybody that was at the fair, we we not only have signage everywhere, but we have the information kiosks and but there were still things that people said, Boy, it'd be great if there was a map that showed the locations of all the \$5 taste affairs and what those items were. Or where the you know, where all the exhibits were. So we're working on those things as part. And then I think the other piece of that is learning how to better target some of our marketing right and and we knew that we did some shows that we didn't necessarily get to the right audience to sell those tickets, and we did hear back, man, I wish I would have known, and you're like, well, but we told everybody, and then we, as we drilled down and Michele worked with the team, realized that well we did and we got this group, but we missed some of these other avenues that we did that...

**James Canfield**

The next one's a big one, obviously, and that's the ensure facilities meet the growing needs of the organization, particularly related to parking, storage and expansion of public programs. And everyone will remember we we spent two meetings kind of going back through the Master Site Plan. One of the things that the plan, the strategic plan, asked for was a

through review of the Master Site Plan annually, which we've done as part of the plan, making adjustments to the financing and ensuring funding, and come back with, how do we stop? So we did. The board did review the plan. There were some priorities and projects that were realigned as part of that our teams are working on. You know, more plans to kind of move some of those projects forward. You know, we've talked about. Getting away from some of the major projects and doing more of them as smaller projects as part of our annual capital plan. So we're pulling that stuff together. We're also looking at procurement methods that we can use, whether we can use C mass for some of these things, or, you know, how creative we can be, mainly for for time and money to make everything more efficient. We got some preliminary plans that we're working through to improve our on site storage, which was another one of the key components and needs that have been identified right now. It's got the map up, but we have an island, kind of in the middle of grounds where we got all of our static operate, operating, storage, food and beverage storage, etc, and it separates the rest of the grounds from The Ranch community center. So we're looking for some opportunities, a combination, potentially off site, but even on the grounds, just just a better facilitate. We've also brought the potential for some kind of a parking deck component back to the forefront that we're taking a look at, obviously expensive, but I think maybe a great opportunity for a public, private partnership that we can talk about and figure out how to do something that's multi use, multi purpose, that allows us to use some of the land that we have, but not lose the parking that's associated with it.

**James Canfield**

So, the next one was creating new revenue streams through greater control of the visitor experience. And, you know, it talks about increase the number of events on the grounds and the year round components, and a lot of the things that we know have been a focus for us. The budget actually reflected a significant amount of additional year round event activity here. I'm excited, and I can't tell you what all of them are, because they're they're not signed, but we do have three new grounds wide special events that we're doing. One is a music festival. One is fuel fest, which is an event that we stole from, not we didn't steal, sorry, that relocated here from, and it had to do with time of year and weather more than anything else, but we're excited to have that. We also have an event called the MENA Festival, which say Middle Eastern, North African event and and so it'll be a festival on the grounds, plus a couple nights of concerts. So you really see kind of the domain for that. We're working with all of those folks on, you know, more of a partnership based model, and we talked about that as part of the budget process. And how can we be better partners for folks that come in, everyone wins when we do a successful event, as opposed to the grounds being dark, so we're excited about that. Michele and the team with tandem are looking at some new

branding and sponsorship opportunities, how we can name gates and other special things on the grounds, how to bring in some more, you know, and whether it's, I know, a ride and drive, as, for instance, during the fair, etc, that will be of great financial benefit. We're also looking at some additional commercial space. We've, we've recaptured some space over near the farm as we relocated the Wine Society over to the old range building. So that'll be some space that we can add to the program and hopefully create some additional promotion space.

**James Canfield**

And then really the last thing here was exploring fundraising opportunities, and both our Centennial Farm foundation and our Hero's Hall foundation do great work and and support us. But what what we're looking at is, how can we better support them? How can we help facilitate, potentially, some events that will bring a fundraising component for them, and potentially even tied in with the Wine Society, which is also, you know, a nonprofit that does fundraising so, and you know whether that looks like an event that we host or A number of smaller events, whatever it might be, we're going to work to try to strengthen. Create an environment that supports making it easier to do business with, and results in process improvements and operational excellence, one of my favorite ones. It's a mouthful. You know, the first one of the first steps of that really, is our employee engagement and collaboration training, making sure that everyone is aligned, that we're all on the same page and that we're moving together, moving forward together with the shared goals. You know, we've got some incredibly passionate folks that within their areas do incredible work, very customer service focused, etc, but we want that to flow through the entire organization, and part of that is getting us down to the why and how. You know, what are the real processes and procedures? What are the real responsibilities? Who needs to drive this stuff? I know, you know, Michael sat in in a session with us yesterday, and we talked about how we can strive to do that as the executive team through the rest. Certainly, the technology use is a very important part of this. And you know, there's a weird balance between the personal interaction when you see a smiling face and you know, you hand something across the counter, as opposed to going to the kiosk or doing whatever. So, you know, we've got to make sure that we balance the two, the personal connection, along with the convenience, and making sure that we speak. And then the other thing that we're going to be working on is, you know, a program called zero negative customer service and and that will really be part of, kind of the next level of training that, and that's looking at every potential interaction and kind of walking through those transactions and saying, how do we make this so our patron, the people that we're dealing with, walk away from that with no negatives, right? How do you eliminate the negatives out of all these transactions? And sometimes it's just how you present it. Sometimes it's what the sign says. Sometimes it's you just

eliminate the problem by changing policy, the procedure. So that will be a big part of kind of our future proofing organization, as as we look for something to help us with, with our continuing organizational growth.

**James Canfield**

Promoting responsible stewardship of the state's assets for future generations, including agriculture, property, heritage and financials. And you know, first and foremost, taking a data driven approach for our event analysis, the P and L responsibility, the responsive, making sure we're responsive to the demands of of our patrons and the communities that we serve, tracking attendance, as for instance, at those to make sure we're doing programs and developing them in a way that people want to attend, you know. Building on some of the things that we have. And, you know, I know Barbara was, was here with me for the Veterans Day event, and we talked about what we can, what we can do to improve that and build on that. And do we bring in, you know, can we get a flyover? Can we get the National Guard to come and do a demonstration? And, you know, can we do firework Well, whatever it might be, or a drone show, whatever those things, but that, that's just one of the things. And I know, working with Evy and the team were talking about what else we can do to expand the livestock and agriculture programs, build our partnerships and strengthen our partnerships with our education partners in the community, as well as our other. We did go through a detailed budget exercise this year, and a big part of that, and you know, the board was very clear, and wanting to make sure that we were acting as good stewards, and that we were maintaining not only the you. Services, the programs, all the other things that we need to do, but also to make sure that we're being financially responsible continuing to build our reserve funds so we can continue. So you know that that was a process that I think went really well. Melissa and her team, as well as all our departments, do an incredible job down to the nickel time of what we're going to spend. And really it's an incredible process, if you ever want to sit in and look through 53 departments and spreadsheets with every role in toilet paper. We've also updated the Master Site Plan, which, again, is another this we've talked about, supported, dedicated capital funding maintenance on an regular basis, we're working with the state and some consultants on other grant funding that we can get for resilient, for either resiliency or emergency response, and how we can utilize that, but also other grants and funding opportunities, and whether it's for waste management, whether it's for solar power, whether it's for energy efficiency, whatever that might be, you know, we're going to kick over all those rocks and try to identify all of the funding sources that we, that we have available to us. One of the programs that that we're looking at as a for instance, see it at all the schools where they have the, I'll call it a cardboard that the shelter over The parking spaces that are also, well, look around couple acres of land that where people would love to have shaded parking, and potentially we could reduce our utility costs and

support, you know, some of the state's efforts to reduce...

**James Canfield**

Oh, my God, that's it. Sorry. And again, I know I went through a ton of stuff, but it was really my intention to just kind of give a quick update. I don't have an action item related to this, but we'll certainly continue to work through this. We'll make sure that, as appropriate, we're also engaging with the individual committees to make sure that we're including discussion of the five year strategic plan, and certainly at the board's direction. Can bring this back for further discussion or modification.

**Barbara Bagneris**

Thank you so much. CEO Canfield, great presentation. We're going to take public comment. They will bring it back. Everybody has a question. So Reggie Mundekis, if you like, to speak on the strategic plan.

**Reggie Mundekis**

Hi. Good morning. I just have two comments. I agree with the need for parking management software to make better use of our existing parking resources. I've been here at the beginning day of the fair where it's really easy to see what's available for parking, because it's the lot that hasn't been open yet, but later on the day, in the afternoon, after people have been here and they're leaving, you don't know what those gaps are. There can be quite a few gaps. They're just not in large enough groups to be obvious to the parking people and where to route people. So I agree with the need to make better use of existing resource. I also support the idea of ticket bundling, where you can buy your fair ticket and your parking and then add, I'm going to call them coupons for food and beverage, maybe carnival ride wristbands and other cells. I want it to be on the consumer side, seen as optional, that you can do this. This is for your convenience, and maybe there's some sort of slight discount involved in some of these purchases. Not one will call forced choice, where, if you buy this, oh, did you know you're also buying that thing that, like you may or may not need? So just it's a matter of how it's presented and what the choices are to the consumer. So thank you.

**Barbara Bagneris**

Thank you so much. Reggie, appreciate those comments. So board. Anybody. Any questions? I'll start off just by making this comment. I saw a lot of things in there that I really loved, and when we really think about it, we have since covid. We have a newer set of board, we have newer executive officers, and we have new ones coming in, and I'm starting to see and hear things I haven't heard before, and I'm loving that to make us more efficient, more effective, parking management. Yes, hallelujah. So all of those things I'm excited about, and I appreciate you bringing this information to us, if anybody else on the board, anybody else in the board has any comments or questions of our CEO?

**Tanya Bilezikjian**

Yeah, just briefly on the Master Site Plan. I really enjoyed the discussion that we had at our last board meeting January. I thought we made some

really smart adjustments. I'm excited to see the next iteration. And then just a congratulations on being appointed as Vice Chair of CCA. Thank you for the effort you're making to improve our relationship with them and their overall operations and use of our hard money funds. I really appreciate the progress and look forward to seeing what else you do with them.

**Barbara Bagneris** Thank you. Director, anyone else? Director Kovacevich.

**Nick Kovacevich** Yeah, just like the comment that I'm impressed to see how quickly we're implementing our strategy of building out more year round events, sounds like we've got some great events on the horizon. And so just to kind of that to be a focus of the board's discussion last year and then already this year. You know, seeing that show up is really exciting for me, and I believe we're just getting going. So thank you for the efforts there.

**Barbara Bagneris** Absolutely anybody else.

**Doug La Belle** Chair Bagneris Like if I could take this opportunity to do our committee report, you appointed Director Jackson and myself to work with staff on a entertainment Task Force, in addition to and in addition to Pack Amp and the hangar and action sports arena, part of your charge was to look at other entertainment opportunities out there, and we have Been in the process of doing that, in the next 60 to 90 days, we will probably have some very specific recommendations for board to consider. One of the things we're looking at would be a 10 to 15 acre site somewhere on the grounds that would be, for lack of a better term, an entertainment complex. Director Jackson suggested, and this was before the women's and men's team won the gold medal, so She was thinking well ahead of an indoor ice rink. It would be year round. It could be used for, obviously, Youth Sports, education, creating and other things. One of the things that we have taught, and we're kind of at the 30,000 foot level, but let me just throw this out for for everybody to kind of begin noodling and thinking about. In 1939 the Pioneer Baseball League was founded, and for the first 50 plus years, they were a rookie series of teams that provided rookie Baseball. In 2021 that relationship changed, and principally northwest Montana, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, 2021 relationship changed and now partners with Major League Baseball, and Major League Baseball provides things like abs, balls and strikes, automatic system. They they have a knockout rule for the 12 teams that are in the league, when you get to the ninth inning, and if you're tied one to one, you don't go to extra innings, you go to knockout and each team gets one hitter, and they get five shots at home runs, and whoever gets the most home runs wins the game. And if that doesn't work, then they go to the second one and the third one, they provide scouting and a variety of

other things. But anyway, this is a partnership that they have, so one of the things that we want to do is a task force under Barbara's charge is to begin having some conversations with the Pioneer League, just see if there are any franchise options there. We would bring something to the table that nobody else brings. The entire attendance for the Pioneer baseball teams for a year is a little over a million. We generate a million in one month.

**Doug La Belle**

The season runs from mid May to early September. There are 96 games. Each team has a fixed roster of 25 players. There's just a little bit of background. You can only watch so much history channel so stuff on Google. For example, there are pioneer league players who Major League Baseball thing, Pedro Martinez, the Kansas City Royals. What? George Brett, I guess. And there are a number of players, but that doesn't exist anymore because it's not affiliated teams. The most significant thing to us as we look to the future is they began an expansion program into California in 2021. There are now four teams in California, franchise teams in California that finally, there's the open bowlers, there's the Yuba Sutter Free Birds, there's the Long Beach Coast regulators, and there's the Modesto roasters. The Roadsters and the Coast team their first season will be this year. The other two teams began their season several years ago. When we look at what we do here, we already have a general manager, and that's James, and he has three assistants, Michele, Melissa and now Mike. We have a marketing program, bar none. We market our facility year round. We market everything we do. I've been around long enough in this process here to know that we do not just a good job, we do an outstanding job. So we would bring something to the table in this discussion with the Pioneer baseball league that no one else would bring to the table. Now, how that will would evolve, and what it would mean, dollar and settlements. But first we need to have that discussion. Secondly, sponsorships. We have all kinds of sponsors. For example, Charlie's chickens or Pink's hot dogs. Could get a logo in the back of a jersey for the whole team for a year for \$3,000 Well, that's probably something they might want to do to market their business. There's all kinds of other marketing opportunities there. The teams in the league are very affordable. You can get a season ticket to the Ogden Raptors for four to \$400-\$500 a ticket. All of these teams do very similar things to to what we do at the fair in terms of discounts for food and discounts for attendance and all that sort of so that's something that we would we would explore. We have a number of partners already out there, RCS, ovations, maybe they would have an interest in being partners with us.

**Doug La Belle**

I've already taken the liberty of suggesting the team name, The Orange County Midways ties into the fair, etc. So anyway, I'm almost through, but I got one more point to make. We will continue to look at between

Director Jackson, myself and staff will continue to look at these options and hopefully bring back some very specific recommendations in the next 30, to 60, to 90 days. Now let me go back to the Yuba Sutter fireplace. They had their inaugural season two years ago. They play in Bryant field in Marysville, California. And Lou Gehrig, Babe Ruth played at Bryant field in Marysville in 1927 that was a very significant event. Jackie Robinson, right there. They've had minor league teams for decades. In 1972 the Marysville City Council appointed their peer city administrator, a guy by the name of Doug Lebel. So some knowledge of that. Anyway, I'll just leave you with all of those thoughts. I'd be happy to answer any questions. Again, we're doing some research, and it would not only be baseball franchise, ice rink to be a whole variety of different entertainment options that will kind of expand, as Director Kovacevich has said, you know, we've got the one month of the year down pretty good. It's the other 11 months that we want to expand. And that facility we ultimately end up with something like. 1000, you know, occupy about four months. The one thing that we don't have that we would have to do is we have to get a field manager and coaches. To give you an example, the manager of the Long Beach Coast is Troy crucible, and his bench coach is the individual forget his name that played third base for all those years. Manager of the Modesto Roadsters is JT, snow. So there's all of this affiliation. I just throw that out. Give you some thoughts and some things that we're looking at. We'll see where it goes.

**Barbara Bagneris** So just to let you know, he's given his committee report in that segment, so we won't come back to it during committee reports, but it does tie into the strategic plan, and so I'm sure that CEO Canfield is taking note.

**Nick Kovacevich** Yes, quick question, when was that season Doug in the four months?

**Doug La Belle** From May and goes to the first week in September that would be doing during fair, yeah, one of the over over laps would be, obviously, there would be visiting teams here. Each team has, what, 48 home game schedule. You know, you could, we could market if you live in Boise, Idaho, and the Boise hawks are going to play the Orange County Midways mid July. Why? Maybe there's a fan group would like to come down and enjoy the fair as well as the baseball. And the rest of the year, obviously have to look at programming opportunities for other things, and that's part of what that's.

**Barbara Bagneris** So thank you for bringing those ideas to us. Director La Belle, you've been on this board longer than I have. So we always appreciate your comments and things, ideas that you bring.

**Robert Ruiz** Yeah, yes, yeah, that, you know, that's a great thing to throw out there, Doug. But as far as sponsorship, you mentioned putting the name on back of the jersey, Chicken Charlies for 3000 that's fairly cheap. The

reason I say that we just put our name on the back of the Orange County soccer club at \$330,000 for three years.

**James Canfield**

Surprisingly, Doug, you have your first sponsor. Yeah.

**Robert Ruiz**

Yeah, yes. So, yeah, that's that. That would be great. But anyway, how getting back to the strategic plan, like Director Bilezikjian said, we identified the important priorities in this. And I think it's we should also go back and look at the multi use parking structure. I know About 10 years ago, we tried doing that, and there was a lot of pushback from the neighborhood, and maybe we can revisit that, because that's definitely needed here on our footprint, here is parking. But then, you know, you got to look back and, I mean, you got to look forward. And you know, Are people really going to be driving to the fair in 10 years from now with all these taxis you know that people are going to take, and maybe not everybody's going to be driven into the fair. So we have to look at that. And James, I just had a question. I know you brought up the the identify all these revenue sources, which is good, because we have to think, you know, what if some of these, what if revenue doesn't add up to what we think it's going to add up, or what if it dries up? You know, what backups do we have if that that is the case? So, yeah, this is, this is this is great. I really like this. And again, we should really revisit the parking structure that's focused on moving forward and just making sure that we stick to our core mission, and we're good to go. Thank you.

**Barbara Bagneris**

Thank you everyone for your comments. Anyone else? We're going to move on to our next agenda item, The Ranch community center update. Turn it over to CEO Canfield.

**James Canfield**

And I'm going to turn it over to a combination of Evy and Michele.

**Evy Young**

I'm going to have Michele please go ahead slides for me. And I don't have too many slides to share this morning, but again, my name is Evy young, Director of ag programs. I'm happy to be here this morning to provide some updates on the Ranch community center. Michele actually did a great job previewing all of the accomplishments at the December Board meeting. So I'm basically here to provide an update of what else has happened since then. But before we go into The Ranch. You know, obviously Centennial farm is one of our other agricultural education assets here at the farm. And in fact, we have a wonderful, robust discovery day taking place right now. And we typically share our impact report with our Centennial Farm Foundation Board. And I appreciate that Michele has been also sharing with the board every month. So this is our January report, and you could see that we were able to impact 4,769 people in the month of January, with over 700 volunteer hours provided for our programs at Centennial Farm. On to the next slide, I thought I'd start off with providing our current boarding report and

status, and I'm pleased to share our trainer list here so you can see we've grown. We recently added another trainer, Johnny Six Stables, and they're located in El barn. And we're very happy with the diverse offerings through all of the trainers, and that they're able to provide the following disciplines, equitation, Hunter, jumper, western saddle seat, gated and Equine Assisted psychotherapy. And in addition to that, all of these trainers we actually had very in depth conversations with. So prior to them coming to our facility to board, we really shared with them the vision that the board presented to staff to move forward with the community programs. Have the private boarding and they are all aligned with that vision. So we're, we're very pleased to report that out. And currently, we do have 23 horses boarded. And apologize. I apologize for my math. It should be 14 on the private boarding side and nine on the committee side, with walk into it.

### **Evy Young**

We have eight tap rooms being rented, as well as a three trailers stored and one locker. And currently, what we've invoiced for the month of February for all our borders, adds up to a little over \$20,000 and in comparison to January 2025, this represents a 137% increase year over year. Deferred maintenance does continue to happen at The Ranch community center, and again, at the last December board meeting, Michele reported that approximately 60% of our deferred maintenance on the private boarding site is was completed. We're now at 70% so our goal really is to achieve all the updates and repairs by June, as we continue to get interest in our facility for private boarding. Next slide. And I did also want to share, by the way, I just want to thank the board because we were able to have a full time maintenance worker approved for The Ranch community center for operations team and will William Ventura is his name, and he'll be very important in bridging the gap between our administration office side with our contractor, LWI, to continue to push with that forward momentum we have going on. So going into our monthly report, I wanted to also share some of the statistics and data. The top portion is what we track, and the bottom portion is from Walk into it our community partner. So as you all know, we are we have a contract with county as a large animal evacuation site. Thankfully, there have hasn't been any major occurrences natural disasters in our area. So we have not been activated this year. The last time we were activated, we actually did get activated one time in 2025 due to some rains, but we we didn't happen to have any large animals in at the time. However, unofficially, as mentioned earlier, Hana fields, Tanaka Farms has had reached out to us in a few of the rain events, and currently, right now, that 79 number is probably going to jump to maybe 90 once all the does are done, kidding. So over 100 animals with animal intake. Our ranch discovery day, we recently held our third ranch discovery day earlier this month, and that one, we had over 300 attendees. We actually had eight over 800 signed up. But because it had

rained that evening and it was forecasted to rain the date of our discovery day, we saw a lot of people cancel the day of but I'm happy to report that our next discovery day, which is scheduled for May, we are at capacity. So it is fully booked at 800 with 80 on the wait list currently.

**Evy Young**

And for that ranch discovery day, we also had seven of our centennial farm volunteers help us provide some activities, as well as 13 partner organizations participate. We also have our ranch after school program taking place. We offer that program a twice a year. We have two sessions, one offered in the fall, winter, and then the one currently in the fall. It runs for approximately 10 weeks, and we have 18 students enrolled at this time. So we work specifically with the Newport Mesa Unified School District, and we have Davis and College Park students, fourth and fifth graders that participate in that program. And then we also host some special training. Meetings, core shows and clinics. The one that happened in January was through Cal guard. They like to do their trainings on site. They love our arenas. They like our facility, and they do participate in our ranch discovery days. So they're familiar with our facility, and we are planning on hopefully hosting some Porsche shows. Michele had mentioned that at the December meeting, but due to the rain in February, Citrus Hill Farms decided to postpone the February Horse Show, and right now we're just waiting for a signature on the rental agreement, and we're hoping that they'll get enough interest to be able to host that horse show this month. So going on to the walk into it statistics, a number of client sessions they were able to host, 260 in January. They also held five events with a total of 46 participants. They had 180 volunteer shifts with 19 volunteers. And their volunteers primarily assist in, excuse me, caring for the horses, feeding the horses, cleaning their area up. They also have a chicken Playhouse, as well as some garden areas and walk into it also has been a great partner for us in that they participate in our Centennial Farm discovery days, our ranch discovery days. They help educate our children, our ranch after school program, kids in equine education. They will be participating at imaginology. And As Jay mentioned, James mentioned, we're hoping to, you know again, continue to include our boarders and trainers with our fair programming. So walk into it did participate in the 2025 OC fair. They are excited to come back for the 2026 OC fair, as is Z Equestrian and our our new trainer, Johnny Six Stables. And then just a note the walk into it.

**Evy Young**

Number Michele reported at the December Board meeting that they had hosted approximately 1,761 sessions on site. So those client sessions can have anywhere from one to one to 10 people participating. So with that 260 number, that's already an increase from their December numbers. And if you were to apply that number, if that becomes their average for the whole year, that'll represent a potential 70% increase from what they

achieved in 2025. So keep in mind, they'd move their horses from their other boarding facility at the end of the year. And anecdotally, they've shared with us that they have seen an uptick in participation. They love the just the ease of access at our facility, and just the cleanliness, all of all of those good things. So we're very excited about their just the increase in their participation as well. And by the way, walk into it does provide us with data, typically the first week of the next month. Excuse me, next month, so we share that with Michele, once we get that data. Any questions so far?

**Barbara Bagneris**

I have a comment, okay, Michael, you don't know this. This is a long time a vision that the board had, we struggled to get here. Change is always hard, but we cannot thank Evy and her team for managing through it. We can't thank our immediate past chair, Director Kovacevich, for having a steady hand to get us through those times, because now we are seeing the fruit of our labor. And I am so excited. We should continue to get these reports periodically, absolutely, because this is really been a big deal. And thank you. Evy.

**Evy Young**

Well, it's not all me, So Theresa Dayton, Rebecca, we've got a bunch of other staff, LWI staff, they all have been very integral in reaching these numbers, and we have so much more to achieve that we're looking forward to. In fact, I do have a couple more slides to share with the board this morning. Since I am calling out the walk into it. Stats. Next slide please, Michele, I wanted to share the type of programs that they do have so you're aware of the type of programming they've been offering at our site, so you can see they have a great variety of programming. Some of their free programs include open house, which they host once a month, gratitude and connection and holiday pause with horses. Those are free events that are offered seasonally. You can also see a variety of monthly, quarterly events, as well as group series. Many of their offerings, they do take insurance as well as they have sliding scale fees based on an individual's income for many of their programs. In fact, per their website, walk into it reported over 127,000 worth of scholarship and reduced fee services were provided in 2024 and as a nonprofit, they hold a candid platinum seal of transparency, which is the highest level of recognition awarded by candid indicating that their nonprofit shares comprehensive public facing data on its goals, strategies, metrics and Demographics. Which this this really signifies elite transparency with less than 1% of organizations able to achieve deaf status. And as a comparable, if you will, the shade therapeutic Center in San Juan Capistrano also holds that designation. So we're very honored to be able to work with this group with us.

**James Canfield**

I want to call special attention to the chicken play that that's the one I'm I've definitely signing up.

**Evy Young**

We also have our own chickens at The Ranch in area James. So we've got multiple chicken Playhouse opportunities for you. And then the next slide, please, Michele. I know not everyone has had the opportunity to come join us for our Ranch Discovery day, but I thought I'd share this map. This is kind of the layout of how we kind of spread everyone out. You can see a lot of the wonderful partners that we've worked with listed on there the highlighted area, which is in yellow, that is our private boarding side. So many of our private boarders and trainers actually are invited to participate, and they do participate. So when we do have a discovery day, we actually pull them and we house our horses on the community side, so the horses on that portion of the grounds do not get disturbed. So in fact, that map does not showcase all of our arenas and our turnout and round pens. But for Michael and Martha, since I know we have a new board member here, the Ranch community center occupies approximately seven acres on the east end of our property, so it's great because we do activate arena one. At our first discovery day, citrus Hill Farms was able to share a jumping showcase, so they were riding around in the arena with their horse, which the public definitely loves. So you can see, we added just, you know, a suggested route for folks. And then if you can turn to the next slide please. That showcases all of the partners as well as kind of gives a little bit of showcase what they're sharing when they're there for the discovery day, as well as some wonderful pictures that we took from the last discovery day. The rain did throw a little loop for us, but we knew that it would be hard to reschedule. You know, we don't have as many discovery days at The Ranch as we'd like to Centennial Farm typically hosts about one to two a month. However, we are very cognizant of the trainers on the private boarding you know, whenever we host these, we do recognize that it impacts their lessons. So again, we've been able to host these two to three times a year, which also fits in their schedule, and that they're able to participate as well as many of our partners you see there on the screen. Our next one, as I mentioned, will be on May 13, and is currently full. And through our last three discovery days, we've hosted, we've hosted over 1100 participants. So yeah. So that is the end of my report. Happy to answer any questions about the Ranch community center or the Ag Agriculture Department in general. Anyone has any questions? Thank you.

**Barbara Bagneris**

Outstanding. That's all.

**James Canfield**

Earlier I talked about the passion, and you know, and it goes without saying, the expertise, but, but the real passion for the programs that we have here. I don't know if you notice, but the fire in her eyes and life when she's going through this stuff, and you can tell that, that we've got great, passionate people who believe in the programs. And you know, you can't train that, you can't that, that that comes from within. So thank

you so much.

**Evy Young** Appreciate it. Thank you so much.

**Doug La Belle** Chair Bagneris, I do have a question if I can.

**Barbara Bagneris** Director La Belle.

**Doug La Belle** As we went through the process to get to this point, you said it very well. It was a rather long and at times, very arduous. One of the things that I recall that came out of the discussion somewhere there is on the county of Orange's master plan, pardon me, a multipurpose trail system. That if that were to be implemented, it would certainly enhance the kinds of things that we do here, certainly expanding the avoiding opportunities if you have somewhere to ride your horse, so on and so forth. My recollection is it's never been, never been funded, although we did contact the county, and I think it would require some modification to the city of Costa Mesa's ordinances to get there, but if we could continue to look into that and then report back whatever your findings might be. But I think that's a and again, it sort of goes back to the long-term strategy, anything we can do to expand the educational opportunities and uses is going to be good for our programming, those that we serve.

**James Canfield** And director Bell, I did meet with some folks about the trail system, and got a lot of that information.

**Barbara Bagneris** Thank you for your comments. Anybody else? Okay? We're going to move on to our committee reports to assure compliance with the Bagley Keene Open Meeting act committee reports, and only for the purpose of the committee chair ad hoc committee members liaison to provide a verbal update. Did the Board want to discuss any committee work item not already on the agenda? Those would need to be agendized for a future board meeting. So we're going to start with the leadership committee. I'm we did meet. We did meet on February 11 to plan the agenda for this meeting, and our next meeting will be on March 11. Any questions for the leadership committee? Okay, move on to the financial monitoring audit committee, Director Pham, this committee Chair and Director Bilezikjian.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** So we met on February 23, and went through the financial reports for January. So quick summary here, revenue for the month came in favorable budget by almost \$100,000 total expenses for the month of January were to 2.1 million and favorable to budget by a little over \$800,000 this is primarily vacancies on the chart and the timing budgeted expenditures. So we're not gonna stay ahead for that. We might stay. For the period ending January 31st, net proceeds are favorable to budget by \$917,000 cash and cash investments as of the end of January

are a shade under \$60 million Excellent work, you guys. And then we also talked about the 2025 audit process, which is getting started. We will be using the same auditing firm as we've used in the past, which is great. We'll be meeting again on March 23rd. Okay.

**Barbara Bagneris** Okay, Thank you very much. Any questions for the financial monitoring audit committee? Seeing that Facilities Committee Directed Bilezikjian And is the Chair and Director Kovacevich.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** So the Facilities Committee met on February 4, and we talked about Capex projects, construction projects, on the Master Site Plan and other items. So complete Capex 45 projects currently active. Six of them are completed. One on hold, and we're, I like, I like the way that we're using these the cabinets projects for the Master Site Plan projects phase one, which is the building that we're sitting in right now, working through a couple of closeout items, and we'll be able to, you know, put a seal on it and call it done. Phase two, which is the restrooms and showers in the campground and eventually the Midway looks like we're going to probably take a different tactic on this, pursue some lower cost opportunities, and we will report back when, when we have an update on that we did go through the Master Site Plan, and we'll be looking forward to an updated version of the Master Site as we discussed in general.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Work. There is some paving going on in several of the big parking lots. Obviously, paving doesn't work very well during rain events, so there were some delays. How's that going?

**James Canfield** We are still working hard to to continue the process, you know, we we had rain which, which slowed us down, caused work to stop fish can't do the asphalt work in rain. And now we have the added excitement of hosting events on the grounds where we need our cars all of those lots. So we're continuing to work as we can around the event activity without adding additional cost to the project. And Jerry and the team are doing a great job of kind of managing through the challenges related to that. We will get it done. I We promise. Right.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Jerry, right. Jerry, okay, thanks for the update there. And we are looks like we're getting a new capital projects manager position, which will continue to allow flexibility in in our internal ability to move projects forward, which is fantastic, and we will meet again in early March.

**Barbara Bagneris** Thank you so much. Any questions? Yes?

**Doug La Belle** Chair Bagneris, if I could Yes. Director La Belle, question of the Facilities Committee. To the extent as the entertainment Task Force kind of trundles down the road, obviously at some point in time, if we do anything, it's going to go through that process, if the Facilities

Committee with staff could kind of look at things that we are planning to do anyway, in terms of The Master Site Plan that might be incorporated into an entertainment complex, the tied into the fair and other things. You know, obviously we want to avoid spending the money twice, but that might be something that would be a good discussion for a Nick and Tanya to have along with staff. Just throw that out as a comment.

**Barbara Bagneris**

Okay, thank you. Anything else? We have two board members that have double duty, so thank you for your work. Community Affairs Committee. Neither one of our directors are here to speak on that, but you heard earlier, we did recognize. We did do our regular Community Affairs recognition for Black History Month. So we want to thank those directors for the work that they continue to do in that area. The Governance Committee will not have a report, but at the last board meeting, Director Sanchez Hannity said, Hey, where's my committee assignment? So in the meantime, she got what we put her on the Governance Committee with chair Kovacevich, so I came off of that, and I feel like that was a good place for you to start, because you get to read all the documents, find out our policies. You'll get a good head start being on the board. So thank you, and we look forward to your report. Next one, the Entertainment Committee we heard from in that we allow them to speak during the strategic plan, and any tie in that CEO Canfield may need for as they look through the strategic plan. So we don't have anything else, but we do have a public comment from Reggie Mundekis on this item, so we'll take that at this time.

**Reggie Mundekis**

Hi, I was unaware that we were considering sports facilities for this property, because that's an entirely different business segment and usage segment in the way that it impacts neighborhoods. These are some quick notes on this. There will be more. Um, sports facilities are always a concern of mine, because they can easily turn into a money pit. An example is Cal Expo, which has a soccer stadium which is less than a decade old, which now has no tenant, and they also have also have a horse track which now has no use, because Fair time horse racing has ended in California. So some of these stadiums and sports facilities for teams can have a very short lifespan, at which time you're left with a facility that you just spent bucks on and no tenant. I'm concerned about the mass and scaling of things like a baseball stadium next to a one story residential neighborhood. Even a team like the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes, their baseball stadium is like three or four stadiums, Three or four stories high, and that would be next to the single story homes next to us. So I'm very concerned about that. I would also like to see what is the actual demand for an ice rink in this area, because there's very few, and I'm surprised if there was that much of it. Someone hasn't built one already, and what's the actual demand for a less than pro baseball team Stadium in this area?

**Reggie Mundekis** I would also want to see if we're talking about sports facilities of that level, Costa Mesa, both the city and the residents neighboring this property, be brought into the loop immediately, because these kind of facilities dramatically change the use of the property around bringing more traffic, light, pollution, noise and different kind of customer potentially that will impact their homes. So we would have to start talking with them immediately about what are their concerns and how would we offset them? And then parking garage. I support a parking garage. We can put it in the corner, behind the billboard. You can do four to six stories. Nobody's going to care. We can put storage on the bottom. We can, you know, make it look like, either like a big red barn or like a giant fruit kit, like a giant fruit packing crate, and put LED signs on the side, and put ads on the side, either for us or like whoever won blue ribbons at the fair, or paid advertising. But we can put in that corner where the triangle is, which no one likes to use, because it just sucks to park there, because you get there and you get there and you don't know what way to go. And quite frankly, that's the junk drawer of the facility where, when you have something that you need to move out of the way, you just go and you just dump it in that corner.

**Barbara Bagneris** Thank you, Reggie. Love those comments. Having said that the CEO is going to take the comments that he heard, and if he wants to bring that back to us at another time, we can do that, and we can agendaize that whole issue so it could be discussed fully. So just informational purposes, only a part of the strategic plan.

**Doug La Belle** Okay, Chair Bagneris, if I could.

**Barbara Bagneris** Yes, Director La Belle.

**Doug La Belle** Reggie, I appreciate your comments, and these are all things that the entertainment task force that staff would look into and and fully evaluate. I think you know you know me well enough, and you know us well enough that we're going to do our homework and we're going to come back with not only the pros doing something like this, but the cons as well, and what the what the constraints would be. So everything you've raised are questions that I have as well, and I'm sure Director Jackson has, and we'll make sure that that gets evaluated as we continue our looking into it and bring it back to the board.

**Barbara Bagneris** Okay, so we'll move on to our next agenda item, which is upcoming events preview. And I'm going to turn it over to Michele Capps, did we get a clock in the back of the room? We used to have a clock in the back on the wall, didn't we? Yeah, keep track of the time.

**Michele Capps** Alright, upcoming events. we have upcoming this weekend. In fact, tomorrow is the Sugar Plum Festival. It's the biggest family owned arts

and crafts festival in Southern California, with 1000s of homemade crafts and more than 175 artisans. That is tomorrow, from 10 to seven, and then this weekend, Saturday and Sunday, from 10 to five. And then on Saturday and Sunday, we have the Brazilian Jiu Jitsu matches, and that will be 8am to 7pm and those are free. On Saturday we have California bridal and wedding expo, and that features an amazing selection of wedding professionals. And that one is 11 to five, Saturday only, and then March 5 through eighth, the Pacific post sport fishing show. So that one is huge. It's taking up several of the buildings. And that one is Thursday through Friday, Noon to seven, and then Saturday, seven to 10, I'm sorry, 10 to seven. And on Sunday, from 10 to five. So that one is a huge event. And then the following weekend, all grounds event, the overland Expo, that is the premier overlanding event series in the world for adventure travel enthusiasts. You can even camp here over the weekend, and there will be all kinds of interactive roundtable discussions, live demonstrations, and you can discover cutting edge gear. That one is Saturday, March, 14, nine to five. Sunday, nine to four, and. Weekend passes are \$40 and then finally, on March 20 and 21st the redo vintage and makers market, and that is March 20. 21st opens, Friday from four to nine, and Saturday, 9am to four.

**Barbara Bagneris** Michele, that Expo, go back one that Overland Expo. Is that our first time adding that?

**Michele Capps** No we've had that.

**Barbara Bagneris** Is this first time it's been all grounds, or it's always been on grounds?

**Michele Capps** It's all grounds. Okay, And then over at Centennial farm, we have another workshop, homegrown tomatoes, and you can discover the secrets to growing delicious, nutrient packed tomatoes in your own backyard. That is this weekend, and that one was \$7 and includes handouts, and I believe the seeds as well. Today we have a discovery day over at the farm. And then we have another one. March 6, another one. The 24th Evy talked about walk into it has their free event as well. So they have an open house. And then on the 21st First, we have another event. Scraps to soil, build your own compost pile or bin, and you'll get your own worms for that. If you're interested in learning how to build your own compost bin. And over at heroes Hall, we will have another speaker, Speaker serial from demolition dive to seal commander. This one. Here it is. Join us for let's see veteran Captain Thomas D Weaver. He will share his experience of serving in the US Navy's premier special operations force as a member of the seals, providing unique insight into the origin of Navy SEAL's. Team Weaver will discuss his path from underwater demolition team to becoming becoming a Navy SEAL. This spans over 30 years before he retired as a Special Warfare Officer with

eight commands within a Special Warfare community. So I've been lucky enough to attend a few of these and the stories are always riveting, and I have such respect for these veterans. So if you haven't gone, I suggest you get over there before the end of the year and this exhibit goes away.

**Barbara Bagneris** Thank you. Any questions? Okay with that, we're going to go to our board of directors matters of information, and I'm going to Director Pham still on? Okay, so we'll start with Director Labelle and then come back.

**Doug La Belle** I again, I want to thank the board for your kind thoughts for Bonnie and I, as we kind of struggled from one dilemma to the next, hopefully we're heading in the right direction. We we had a New Year's resolution, no Hogan in 2026 we didn't quite make that, but we're going to continue to try to do the right things and keep moving ahead and again, I just want to thank all of the board members for your kind thoughts and wishes that we handled our challenges. And again, great meeting. Appreciate the update from James, and I think it was a very good discussion. Thanks to everyone.

**Barbara Bagneris** And I just have to say this is a special meeting, because we haven't seen you in this room in a while, and it's it's so much better when you're here. So we hope that your health and all your situations and dealing with keep you coming back. We'll go with you. Director Bilezikjian.

**Tanya Bilezikjian** Thank you. Chair Bagneris, All right, great meeting everyone. First of all, thank you for the map, appreciate that be able to point to things about where they really are. Want to say, welcome. Looking forward to working with you, and you know, getting to know you, and then how we do stuff and learning again, a huge thank you for your leadership. Over the past nine months, double duty and really doing a good brain I have seen a single. Thank you very much, I know that's a lot work. I. And I just want to you know, I've been reflecting a lot today. The pride comes with being on this board and working with this facility and meditation and public hearing on a Sunday, our amazing prayer and our amazing staff and all of the programs that we get to put together and all of the awards I just am so thrilled to be here with all of you, with everybody here. So thank you, any staff that are watching. I know that we don't get to see you as often and see everybody else, but truly appreciate everything you do to make this place amazing.

**Barbara Bagneris** Thank you for those comments. We're glad you're here. Director Cannady, please.

**Martha Sanchez** Well, first of all, welcome to the new CEO. We're excited to have you here. Super excited to be here and to start to learn more about exactly

what this facility can do. It seems very exciting, like you guys are just starting to see some of the fruits of your labor from past work. So I'm super excited to be here, and looking forward to learning about the events and coming to some of those, if possible, to kind of see you know what is going on here. And they all sound so exciting to me, and so just happy to be here.

**Barbara Bagneris** Director Kovacevich, thank you.

**Nicholas Kovacevich** Thank you. And echo the comments from Director Bilezikjian about the great work our staff has done, especially understaffed roles, and great to see that filled. Welcome aboard Michael and you know, like I said earlier, it's really great to see things that we've been focused on talking about coming to fruition, and definitely takes a team effort. So it was actually really also excited to see the development that you're putting in place. CEO Canfield, with your entire organization, I know that's going to pay dividends. So thank you for taking the time to invest there, and the people are what make the magic happen here. We've got great people. We're going to get better at working together. We're all lining well under the vision. So nothing but nothing, but bright future ahead, from my perspective, especially with this leadership committee.

**Barbara Bagneris** Thank you Director Kovacevich. Vice-Chair Ruiz.

**Robert Ruiz** Yeah, I'll just keep it short again. I'm going to echo the comments of my fellow directors, James and staff, great job. And everything you were doing, you know, The Ranch, what an amazing presentation. You know, when we first started, we were like, Oh, God, is this going to work out? But, you know, we kept on moving forward, and now it's coming to fruition, and it's amazing. Great job. And Michael, welcome, welcome. And just really quick, we have the OC marathon coming up in May. We can put a team together of the Directors that would be great.

**Barbara Bagneris** I'll be here to watch.

**Robert Ruiz** I plan on running it again this year, but we'll see how it goes. Thank you.

**Barbara Bagneris** I'll be there to watch you. Thank you. Vice Chair. Ruiz, again, welcome Michael. We're so glad to have you and next month to be at the table, be in the action. So we appreciate you coming out to participate in the activity this afternoon. As you get started, I also want to thank summer, RJ, Jason and all the staff that come and sit through our meetings. If I didn't call you, charge it to my head, not my heart. But we really do appreciate you guys, because we know you put in some long hours to make this, just this meeting happened, amongst all the other things that you do, I learned a lot about James at the last board meeting when he when the discussion came up about possibly changing the surface of the

action sports arena. We did a good job, because he has ideas and things that we've never even thought about, that he's able to bring to the table. And now we're going to have Michael doing the same thing. We've got Michele Capps, who's and Melissa, who are just, just primo at what they do. So we are, we do have a bright future. It is nothing but up from here, right? One time on this board and Director La Belle, you know it we were a sinking ship. We had to right the ship, then it sunk again, but I think we righted it, and we're on our way. So appreciate everybody. And as we end Black History Month, Black history is ingrained in American history. History. Black history is history, and we're going to never forget that. And I appreciate the fact that this board and this body continues to celebrate everybody, because we're all important in God's eyes. So I appreciate that. And as we end, it's only 28 days. It's the shortest month of the year. But as we end it, just keep in mind that there are great things that happen, that come out of the black community, but they're all ingrained in what we do in American culture. So I appreciate that. And with that, our next meeting is March 26 and we will see you then meeting adjourned you.