

**MINUTES OF OCFEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
HELD MARCH 26, 2026**

The following Minutes are a summary of Board action and proceedings. For a full transcript please click on the link below or visit the ocfair.com website.

https://s3.us-west-1.amazonaws.com/ocfair.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/16154907/26_03_March_Transcript.pdf

Before the meeting began, Glenn Johnson, Centennial Farm Foundation President, invited the Board to the Centennial Farm Foundation annual Raahauge's Charity Shoot and Barbeque on April 24.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Bagneris, called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m.

2. MISSION STATEMENT

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by Director Sanchez Cannady. Roll call was taken by meeting secretary, Summer Angus.

4. DIRECTORS PRESENT:

Chair Bagneris, Vice Chair Ruiz, Director Kovacevich, Director Pham (via Zoom), Director La Belle (via Zoom), Director Rubalcava-Garcia (via Zoom), Director Jackson and Director Sanchez Cannady.

Director Rubalcava-Garcia joined the meeting at 9:48 a.m. after roll call.

DIRECTORS ABSENT/EXCUSED: Director Bilezikjian.

OTHERS PRESENT:

James Canfield, OCFEC Chief Executive Officer; Melissa Au-Yeung, OCFEC Chief Administrative Officer; Michele Capps, OCFEC Chief Business Development Officer; Michael Searle, OCFEC Chief Operating Officer; Jason Jacobsen, OCFEC Production & Planning Director; Summer Angus, OCFEC Executive Assistant; Mathew Willmann, OCFEC Design & Décor Supervisor, Samantha Morris, OCFEC Exhibits & Education Coordinator; Kimberly Millet, OCFEC Exhibits & Education Department; Josh Caplan, Office of the Attorney General; Reginald Joseph, transcriptionist; Tammy Tumbling; Reggie Mundekis

5. PRESENTATIONS:

A. Presentation of Women's History Month Proclamation by Community Affairs Committee

Information Item

Director Jackson, on behalf of Community Affairs Committee, presented the Women's History Month proclamation honoring Tammy Tumbling, President Orange County Community Foundation.

Tammy Tumbling expressed sincere appreciation for the recognition, noting that it is meaningful to have the work of the Orange County Community Foundation

acknowledged. She highlighted the Foundation's impact in distributing approximately \$100 million annually back into the community and shared its Vision 2030 priorities, including amplified giving, community impact, donor engagement, and operational excellence. She affirmed the organization's ongoing commitment to supporting and strengthening the Orange County community.

6. MINUTES:

A. Board meeting held February 26, 2026

Action Item

ACTION: Director La Belle motioned and Vice Chair Ruiz seconded to approve the Minutes from Board meeting held February 26, 2026. **MOTION CARRIED.**

AYES: Chair Bagneris, Vice Chair Ruiz, Director Kovacevich, Director Pham, Director La Belle, Director Jackson and Director Sanchez Cannady.

NAYES: None. **ABSTENTIONS:** Director Rubalcava-Garcia None.

7. MATTERS OF PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Standard Agreements: SA-235-25FTYR; SA-082-26GE; SA-083-26GE; SA-084-26AS; SA-086-26AS; SA-087-26GE; SA-088-26HB; SA-089-26PA; SA-090-26PA; SA-091-26PA; SA-092-26PA; SA-093-26PA; SA-095-26GE; SA-096-26GE; SA-097-26GE; SA-098-26GE; SA-099-26GE; SA-100-26FTYR; SA-102-26SP; SA-103-26SP; SA-104-26SP; SA-105-26SP; SA-106-26SP; SA-107-26SP; SA-108-26SP; SA-109-26SP

i. Standard Agreement Amendments: SA-235-25FTYR (Amend. #1); SA-065-26GE (Amend. #1)

ii. Standard Agreement Amendments (Exercise Option): SA-046-22FT (Amend. #7)

B. Rental Agreements: 26 IO-FE 01; 26 IO-FE 02; 26 IO-FE 03; 26 IO-FE 04; 26 IO-FE 05; 26 IO-FE 06; 26 IO-FE 07; 26 IO-FE 08; 26 IO-FE 09; 26 IO-FE 10; 26 IO-FE 11; 26 IO-FE 12; 26 IO-FE 13; 26 IO-FE 14; 26 IO-FE 15; 26 IO-FE 16; 26 IO-FE 17; 26 IO-FE 18; 26 IO-FE 19; 26 IO-FE 20; 26 IO-FE 21; 26 IO-FE 22; 26 IO-FE 23; 26 IO-FE 24; 26 IO-FE 25; 26 IO-FE 26; 26 IO-FE 27; 26 IO-FE 28; 26 IO-FE 29; 26 IO-FE 30; 26 IO-FE 31; 26 IO-FE 32; 26 IO-FE 33; 26 IO-FE 34; 26 IO-FE 35; 26 IO-FE 36; 26 IO-FE 37; 26 IO-FE 38; 26 IO-FE 39; 26 IO-FE 40; 26 IO-FE 41; 26 IO-FE 42; 26 IO-FE 43; 26 IO-FE 44; 26 IO-FE 45; 26 IO-FE 46; 26 IO-FE 47; 26 IO-FE 48; 26 IO-FE 49; 26 IO-FE 50; 26 IO-FE 51; 26 IO-FE 52; 26 IO-FE 53; 26 IO-FE 54; 26 IO-FE 55; 26 IO-FE 56; 26 IO-FE 57; RA-EQC015-26; R-033-26; R-035-26; R-036-26; R-037-26; R-078-26; R-082-26; R-083-26

i. Rental Agreement Amendments: R-027-26 (Amend. #1); R-030-26 (Revised #2); R-044-26 (Amend. #1)

C. Commercial Rental Agreements: IMCOM-01-26; IMCOM-02-26; IMCOM-03-26; IMCOM-04-26; IMCOM-05-26; IMCOM-06-26; IMCOM-07-26; 26001; 26002; 26003; 26004; 26005; 26006; 26008; 26009; 26010; 26011; 26012; 26088; 26015; 26016; 26017; 26018; 26019; 26020; 26023; 26024; 26025; 26027; 26028; 26029; 26030; 26031; 26032; 26033; 26035; 26037; 26038; 26039; 26040; 26041; 26042; 26043; 26044; 26045; 26046; 26047; 26048; 26049; 26050; 26051; 26052; 26053; 26055; 26057; 26059; 26060

D. Concession Rental Agreements: IMFO-01-26; IMFO-02-26; IMFO-03-26; IMFO-04-26; IMFO-05-26; IMFO-06-26; IMFO-07-26; IMFO-08-26; IMFO-09-26; 26501; 26502; 26503; 26504; 26505; 26506; 26507; 26508; 26509; 26510; 26511; 26579; 26514; 26522; 26523; 26524; 26525; 26526; 26527; 26528; 26529; 26530; 26531; 26532; 26533; 26534; 26535; 26536; 26537; 26538; 26539; 26540; 26541; 26542; 26543; 26544; 26545

E. Independent Amusement Rental Agreements: IMIA-01-26; IMIA-02-26

F. Platinum Rental Agreements: 26704; 26707; 26710; 26711; 26712; 26714; 26716

G. Active Joint Powers Authority Agreement Amendments: 032-25-888576 (Amend. #1)

H. Judging Agreements: 26 IO-JA 01; 26 IO-JA 02; 26 IO-JA 03

I. Correspondence:

Communications to the Board from members of the public related to OCFEC business are identified below and included with the Board materials (available on the OCFEC website). Note that this agenda item includes only those communication(s) that were sent to the entire Board and CEO before the publication of this month's agenda. The deadline for correspondence to be included on the April agenda is April 10, 2026.

i. None.

J. CDFA Correspondence:

Communications to the Board from the California Department of Food & Agriculture Division of Fairs & Expositions regarding relevant topics at Fairs and Expositions.

i. None.

– End of Consent Calendar –

ACTION: Vice Chair Ruiz motioned and Director Jackson seconded to approve the Consent Calendar. **MOTION CARRIED. AYES: Chair Bagneris, Vice**

Chair Ruiz, Director Kovacevich, Director Pham, Director La Belle, Director Rubalcava-Garcia, Director Jackson and Director Sanchez Cannady.
NAYES: None. ABSTENTIONS: None.

Director Rubalcava-Garcia left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

9. CLOSED SESSION (Closed to the Public)

None.

10. CEO'S OPERATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

CEO Canfield reported the following:

- Master Site Plan updates underway, including Pacific Amphitheatre improvements, parking lot repaving (on schedule), and campground restroom project delayed until post-fair (completion early 2027).
- Exploration of a multi-level parking structure through potential public-private partnership remains in progress.
- New entertainment acts and expanded programming announced for the Pacific Amphitheatre, Hangar, and Action Sports Arena, including an added demolition derby weekend.
- Continued leadership role with CCA, focusing on strategic planning, service delivery improvements, project funding models, and potential grant-writing support.
- New partnership with the City of Costa Mesa to support small food businesses through an incubator-style program, with potential opportunities at the fair.
- Ongoing efforts to expand year-round entertainment, including increased use of the Hangar and exploration of a fall, grounds-wide music festival.

Chair Bagneris welcomed OCFEC's new COO Michael Searle.

11. GOVERNANCE PROCESS

A. Review Past Due Amounts and Vote on Whether or Not to Write-Off

Action Item

Melissa Au-Yeung, OCFEC Chief Administrative Officer presented the staff report, with the recommendation to write-off the following:

Name	Event	Due Date	Invoice No.	Amount
City of Costa Mesa	Hay bay rentals	11/29/2019	Inv-10804	\$ 65.00

Director Kovacevich asked about other larger outstanding debt items.

CAO Au-Yeung explained other outstanding debt balances that the organization has and their status.

Board discussion ensued regarding staff's delegated authority to automatically write off outstanding balances at a potential increased threshold, resulting in direction for the matter to be agendized for further discussion at the next Board meeting.

ACTION: Director La Belle motioned and Director Jackson seconded to approve to write-off all past due amounts listed in the table above. **MOTION CARRIED.**
AYES: Chair Bagneris, Vice Chair Ruiz, Director Kovacevich, Director Pham, Director La Belle, Director Jackson and Director Sanchez Cannady.
NAYES: None. **ABSTENTIONS:** None.

B. Preview of 2026 Imaginology

Information Item

Michele Capps, OCFC Chief Business Development Officer, presented a preview of Imaginology 2026.

Exhibits & Education staff demonstrated one of the activities at Imaginology using cardboard and a chomp saw to make animal and dinosaur cut outs.

C. Committee / Ad Hoc Committee / Liaison Report

Information Item

To assure compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, Committee reports are only for the purpose of the Committee chair, Ad Hoc Committee members or Liaison to provide a verbal update. Should 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.

- i. **Leadership Committee** (Chair Bagneris, Committee Chair; Vice Chair Ruiz)
- ii. **Financial Monitoring and Audit Committee** (Director Pham, Committee Chair; Director Bilezikjian)
- iii. **Facilities Committee** (Director Bilezikjian, Committee Chair; Director Kovacevich)
- iv. **Community Affairs Committee** (Director Rubalcava-Garcia & Director Jackson, Committee Co-Chairs)
- v. **Governance Committee** (Director Kovacevich; Director Sanchez Cannady)
- vi. **Entertainment Task Force** (Director La Belle, Committee Chair; Director Jackson)

Chair Bagneris, on behalf of the Leadership Committee, reported:

- Committee met on March 11 to plan the March agenda
- Next meeting is scheduled for April 8

Director Pham, on behalf of the Financial Monitoring and Audit Committee, reported:

- The Committee met on March 23 and discussed:
 - The February financial reports (financial reports presented)
 - The Committee reviewed the outstanding receivables and discussed recommendations for write-off of bad debt scheduled for Board approval
 - Next meeting is scheduled for April 20

Director Kovacevich, on behalf of the Facilities Committee, reported:

- Committee met on March 4
 - CapX projects: 50 active; 8 completed one on hold
 - Master Site Plan Phase Two (Campground restrooms/showers): Committee was updated on the bids – moving forward with the project as bid
 - Construction to commence in September 2026
 - Staff provided an update on paving projects; project amended to include more repairs
 - The committee was provided with a brief update of ongoing maintenance and repairs taking place at the Pacific Amphitheatre
 - Next meeting scheduled for April 6

Director Jackson, on behalf of the Community Affairs Committee, reported:

- The Committee met via text and email to determine the Women's History Month proclamation recipient.
- Requested input for Arab American Heritage Month

Board discussion ensued on new and upcoming grounds wide events (cultural events and possible music festival).

Director La Belle and Director Jackson, on behalf of the Entertainment Task Force, reported:

- The Committee met on March 16
- Committee reaffirmed its charge to expand entertainment offerings at existing venues while also exploring opportunities for year-round programming.
- Ongoing evaluation of a potential 12–15 acre, year-round entertainment and education complex; staff directed to analyze potential revenue and operating costs.
- Emphasis on maximizing use of existing facilities, including exploring additional programming during non-fair periods.
- Plans to engage corporate partners and stakeholders for input on future concepts and opportunities.
- Exploration of expanded sponsorship opportunities, which may require legislative changes.
- Committee continues to gather information and is not yet prepared to make a formal recommendation; additional analysis expected prior to the May Board meeting.

Chair Bagneris clarified the purpose of the committee as providing advisory input on programming categories, genres, themes, options and objectives for the entertainment programming at all district entertainment venues.

Reggie Mundekis expressed concern that the committee's focus appears to be shifting toward proposing new buildings rather than maximizing use of existing facilities. She encouraged the Board to evaluate how convention centers utilize their spaces to identify gaps and opportunities for increased programming, particularly during underutilized periods. She spoke in support of improvements to existing infrastructure but urged a more strategic, data-driven approach before pursuing additional development.

12. UPCOMING EVENTS PREVIEW

Michele Capps, Chief Business Development Officer, gave an update on upcoming events at OCFEC.

13. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MATTERS OF INFORMATION

Board members made concluding comments:

- Board members welcomed the new COO and expressed appreciation for staff efforts and a well-run meeting.
- Positive feedback was given on Imaginology and its community impact, particularly for youth and educational programming.
- Directors expressed enthusiasm for upcoming events, including the fair and entertainment lineup.
- Appreciation noted for community partnerships and outreach opportunities.
- General goodwill remarks included birthday wishes, holiday greetings, and acknowledgment of staff and public participation.

14. NEXT BOARD MEETING: MARCH 26, 2026

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Barbara Bagneris, Board Chair

James Canfield, Chief Executive Officer