

OCFEC September 24, 2026 Board Meeting

Tanya Bilezikjian All right. We're going to go ahead and get started. Welcome to our first Fair Board meeting after the fair. Very excited to be back here again, and here we go. So, item number one: All matters noted upon this agenda in any category may be considered for action as listed. Any item not so noticed may not be considered. Items listed on this agenda may be considered in order at the discretion of the chairperson. Item number two: The mission of OCFEC is enhancing equitable community access to agriculture, entertainment, cultural, and educational experiences. We will now do the Pledge of Allegiance. Do you have a volunteer to lead, Dimetria? Thank you.

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.

Tanya Bilezikjian Summer, can you do roll call, please?

Summer Angus Chair Bagneris? Vice Chair Ruiz? Director Pham?

Newton Pham Here, just FYI, I couldn't hear the Pledge of Allegiance. I don't know if it was a microphone thing or not, but just wanted to let you know.

Summer Angus It probably was. Most of them are muted in the room still. Director Rubalcava Garcia?

Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia Here.

Summer Angus Director Bilezikjian?

Tanya Bilezikjian Here.

Summer Angus Director Jackson?

Dimetria Jackson Here.

Summer Angus Director Sanchez Canady?

Martha Sanchez Here.

Summer Angus Director Murphy?

James Canfield You're Muted

Summer Angus You're muted, Michelle, Director Murphy.

Tanya Bilezikjian Director Murphy, are you able to unmute?

Dimetria Jackson Just have her raise her hand that she's here. Can we acknowledge that she's here? She's waving. Just if I'm seeing her.

Summer Angus Okay. Yes, and then Director Vakharia?

Priti Here.

Summer Angus Thank You.

Tanya Bilezikjian Thank you, Summer. Okay. So normally, and I think we have a slide for Hispanic Heritage Month. Thank you. So normally our community affairs committee would provide a presentation, but we're going to mix things up a little bit. So our community affairs committee will provide an update on several new initiatives that they're working on during their committee report.

Michelle Murphy Here, sorry.

James Canfield Thank you for coming official. We appreciate it.

Michelle Murphy Yes, sorry.

Tanya Bilezikjian Okay, so next up, we will. I will ask for a motion to approve the minutes and for a second from the last board meeting.

Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia I'll make a motion

Dimetria Jackson And I'll second

Tanya Bilezikjian Thank you, Summer?

Summer Angus Director Pham?

Newton Pham Yes. Or is that...

Summer Angus Director Rubalcava Garcia?

Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia Yes.

Summer Angus Director Bilezikjian?

Tanya Bilezikjian	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director Jackson?
Dimetria Jackson	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director Sanchez Canady?
Martha Sanchez	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director Murphy?
Michelle Murphy	Yes.
Summer Angus	And Director Vakharia?
Priti Vakharia	Yes.
Summer Angus	Thank You.
Tanya Bilezikjian	<p>Thank You. Matters of public comment. So we will now take public comment on general items. Public comment is allowed on issues not on the current agenda. However, no debate by the board shall be permitted on such public comments, and no action will be taken on such public comment items at this time, as law requires formal public notice prior to any action on an agenda item. Speakers are requested to fill out and submit a comment card to the meeting secretary prior to the start of the meeting, and are limited to three minutes. Comments will be accepted on all agenda items at the time each item is listed on the agenda. Speakers wishing to address the board on items on the agenda are requested to fill out and submit a comment card to the meeting secretary prior to the start of the meeting, and identify the agenda items on which you desire to address the board. Speakers are limited to three minutes. And we do have one general comment from Reggie Mundeakis.</p>
Reggie Mundeakis	<p>Hi, I'm Reggie Mundeakis. Introducing myself to the new board members. I've been here since the Schwarzenegger administration, when the fairgrounds was put up for sale. So, with that said, I'm a good resource for you guys as far as like getting questions answered or explaining why certain things happen a certain way. And sometimes a board member will say, "Hey, why don't we do that? And I'm like, "Well, we've already tried that and it didn't work, so we have to try it. We need to do it a different way, or we</p>

realize that that wasn't going to work for these reasons. So you'd have to do maybe that thing, but do it very differently. So, the one piece of advice I'd give to all board members is that we're about community, but we're also about money, because we use the money to serve the community. So, understand how the money flows and how it's used, so you understand the finances at a very gut level, and that could be a little bit tricky because we're a state agency. But staff is really good as far as breaking it down or putting it into ways that's easy to understand. So thank you very much. If you need to get a hold of me, staff has my contact info. Always available to chat on phone or coffee or do a Zoom or whatever. So thanks.

- Tanya Bilezikjian** Thanks Reggie. All right, that was our one public comment. So we'll move on to the consent calendar. So 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 of directors votes on the motion, unless members of board, staff, or public request specific items to be discussed separately and/or removed from this section. Any member of the public who wishes to discuss consent calendar items should notify the chair of the board at the time requested and be recognized by invitation of the chair to address the board. Does anybody have an item to pull? Nope. And staff does not have items to pull. So I'll ask for a motion and a second to approve.
- Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia** I'll make a motion to approve.
- Martha Sanchez** I'll second
- Tanya Bilezikjian** Summer?
- Summer Angus** Director Pham?
- Newton Pham** Yes.
- Summer Angus** Director Rubalcava Garcia?
- Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia** Yes.
- Summer Angus** Director Bilezikjian?

Tanya Bilezikjian	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director Jackson?
Dimetria Jackson	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director Sanchez Canady?
Martha Sanchez	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director Murphy?
Mitchell Murphy	Yes.
Summer Angus	And Director Vakharia?
Priti Vakharia	Yes.
Summer Angus	Thank You.
Tanya Bilezikjian	Thank you, Summer. All right. The board will now go into closed session, and we will be back shortly.
Tanya Bilezikjian	Alright, we are back. We had our discussions, and we have nothing to report. Now move on to agenda item 10: CEOs' verbal operational announcements and updates, James.
James Canfield	Aha! There we go. Thank you, Director, and thanks for thanks for stepping in and taking on the role of the chair at this meeting. I'm going to make my comments really brief this morning. I know sometimes I can take some time, but I want to get on to the most important thing, which is kind of a recap of the fair. So, if you'll recall that my first fair, I started literally the three days after the June board meeting was my official start date. So I was here 16 days before the fair started, and post fair last year, I said, "Wow, that was a lot of stuff. Like you know, drinking from a fire hose. So this year, I wanted to say now I understand. I understand what it's all about. I had an opportunity to spend time with the staff and the team, planning being the most important word, and it and it's already started for next year. It takes you know they joke that it takes a village, it takes a massive village to put on an enterprise like OC Fair. And I know we're going to hear a lot of great detail. So I won't spoil any of that. But again, great team, great passion on our team, and a great experience for me. I think for all of them and for all of our attendees. So some of the highlights that I picked up

this year, as I continued my learning curve, it was hot.

James Canfield

I don't know If you notice, but it was hot, every day. It was hot, and what that meant for us is our evening attendance was much higher than our daytime attendance. I think another thing related to the heat, as we've been talking about layouts and things for next year, more canopies, more umbrellas, more shaded seating areas are the word of the day. So we're working on that. The other thing we learned, and and you know, we've had a cap on the fair for a number of reasons. And this year we worked. We brought in some new technology to give us a better feel for the number of attendees we had on the grounds at any given time, and using that, we're able to kind of better manage the flow of folks. And one of the things that we learned is we can handle more on the fairgrounds beyond kind of the cap. And we'll be talking about working on a presentation for the board as we're working on budget to talk about how we plan to manage that next year. But it did tell us that we've got a lot of work to do on traffic and parking to make sure that things go better. I know our team, including Michael, has already had the first after fair meeting with the city and the parking and traffic folks there to talk about some things. We pulled out the parking and traffic study that was done several years ago, and are going to work to implement a number of those recommendations that just previously weren't done. I'm sure for many good reasons to see if we can do better next year. We will be looking at adding some offsite parking venues back into the mix so we can break that traffic. We'll try to get some parking that's kind of at the edge of where the first concentric circle of traffic is, and then we'll shovel those folks in. So we may have some additional cost related to that, but we'll also be able to drive attendance and make it a better experience for everyone that comes. And the third third highlight for me doesn't change from last year, and that is bacon improves everything. So I wish I would have brought my tray of them because it says Bacon Nation on it.

Michelle Murphy

Can I just add to that?

James Canfield

Yes...

Michelle Murphy

That I hope the new parking ideas aren't into the into College Park neighborhood, Mesa Del Mar neighborhood.

James Canfield

and and that was that was on the agenda with the city yesterday,

Director Murphy, because obviously they're aware of some of those challenges as well, and and I think as we're working to continue to have a strong attendance showing and and get as many folks in to enjoy the fair as want to come, we know we've got a serious responsibility to make sure that we protect the neighborhood and that we make sure everybody has a great experience related to our fair activities. Thank you for that.

Michelle Murphy And I will say it's kind of a became a little bit of a double edged sword in terms of I think I told you the folks that came in and were giving out ways that people could sell their driveways as parking spots.

James Canfield Yes, and again, we heard that the folks, the police officers out on the streets, were getting complaints because they were being told yes, but we paid \$40 to park our car in the driveway at 201 Mockingbird. I don't know the names of the streets, and the police wouldn't let them in to go park their car in the space that they had reserved. So it's some interesting work and partnerships that we have to work with the neighborhoods.

Michelle Murphy It is. So I would just say I don't know if it's exactly we should ban more parking in the neighborhoods. I don't know. It's an interesting conversation, I guess, for sure. I mean, in terms of how to manage all of it.

James Canfield Yeah, absolutely, and that's you know we do invest a significant amount with the Costa Mesa PD, who kind of manages the traffic flow around the grounds, but also manages the traffic flow in and around and through the neighborhoods to kind of prevent that from happening. So it's a double edged sword, as you say. We don't want people working in the neighborhood, unless they're paying us, and so it's kind of but...

Michelle Murphy But people might allow them to park in the neighborhood if they're getting paid.

James Canfield Well, that's just it. Yes.

Michelle Murphy So I don't know. That's a new thing.

James Canfield

Yes. Thank you for those comments, Director Murphy. Just a few other updates. CCA, California Construction Authority. As you know, I am on the board for that organization, and they're the ones that really lead all of the major construction and development projects on all the fairgrounds statewide. One of the things that we that was approved at at our June board meeting was to embed a professional construction manager here on the fairgrounds, and they'll take over the current restroom project, which Michael will update us on it a little bit, as well as work closely with us on the implementation of the rest of our master site plan projects, and and help us get the necessary focus that we need to move these things forward to develop all of the transparency, efficiency, accountability, all the things that we need to have, and surprise, surprise, multiple other fairgrounds and regions are looking to do the same thing once they saw what what we put together. On top of that, we're also looking already to expand that and potentially become the headquarters for kind of a Southern California regional office with some additional folks, and you know, as we're continuing to work on some of the resiliency projects and grant programs and other things, we really feel like we can provide great assistance, especially to the small fairgrounds who might not be able to afford to fund, you know, a full-time person. So we're working with CCA to continue kind of that vision, so we cannot just be leaders in having the biggest and best fair in California, but also be leaders on the grounds to help fairs. Recruitment is underway for that position. They've already got some candidates that applied for other positions, but because we need somebody specific to Southern California, you know, we're working on that to make sure that we can. We all we're also sorry.

**Natalie
Rubalcava-Garcia**

So is that a position that will be employed by CCA and not...

James Canfield

Yes, it will be a CCA position, and we will reimburse 85% of the cost of that position.

**Natalie
Rubalcava-Garcia**

And then, is there an employment contract? But the just how long is that relationship going to be?

James Canfield

It's on an annual basis, but we can opt out when...

Natalie

Okay.

Rubalcava-Garcia

James Canfield And we can ask for a change in the person. I mean, we have full. I mean, it is their employee follows their rules and regulations, etc. But they're working on behalf of the fairgrounds.

Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia And it'll help us expedite the construction projects in a more timely manner? Because I mean, they are the delay in most cases. So if we have somebody here, that'll be better, and it's vetted by our.

James Canfield Yes. And this was this obviously this was work that we did through the...

Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia Infrastructure.

James Canfield Yeah, working on the infrastructure and the overall development of the master side. Okay. So the other the other challenge literally is the level of technical skills and abilities that that they have, and so one of the things that we learned on this building and even with the restrooms is we need a higher level because we're not doing kind of a simple plumbing project for six or \$10,000 with multi-million dollar projects here, and we just need a higher level of project management to do those projects. So this allows that to happen, and instead of kind of a rotation of folks with varying skill levels, we're going to have a person that's the skill level that we need 365 days a year, no matter what. At CCA, we're also working on a number of great partnerships: DGS, CDFA, and some industry consultants on some other grants. Programs that are available. We're working with DGS on an energy program that would bring solar onto the grounds. We there's a third party that's working on another multi-mode power generation project that we think would be great, and CDFA is getting ready to announce another \$30 million in grants for a variety of things. So we'll make sure that we are in the queue for all of those projects. We we've we're already working on two, and we we're we've said we are number one on the list for the the grant program when it comes up. Financial viability for CCA is obviously critical to that organization, and as part of that, we're developing a new staffing model. Historically, that organization has managed projects with full-time employees. One of the challenges with that don't always have the skill sets that we need, and can't always fill their time. And when suddenly there are 47 projects and eight people, no one

there's not enough bandwidth to cover the project, so things lag behind. Administration buildings open a year late; those kinds of things. So, we'll be using more 1099's and other short-term solutions to manage individual projects as direct expense to the project, kind of like how the rest of the world does things. So, and then new project delivery methods that will give us more transparency, efficiency, and accountability.

James Canfield

So, all really great stuff that we're working on, and we have a unique position because we're a board member or part of the foundation of that organization. But we're also one of the top clients of that organization. So, you know, it's fun to be on the inside and not just be somebody complaining, but somebody that can say, "Hey, why don't we try this? So, uh huh. One of the other things I wanted to talk a little bit about community and industry engagement. I'm also on the CERRVF Board of Directors, and that is the California Emergency Response Resiliency Venues and Fairgrounds Organization, and it's a new, relatively new organization, 100% California centric. It was formed really to talk about emergency response and resiliency. But one of the things that we're learning is that all of the fairgrounds in the state of California need to be represented by one voice and one message, and there are a number of other organizations out there, and and don't always aren't always asking for the same things that we are. So we're expanding the membership of that organization to make it more accessible to some of the smaller fairgrounds to bring them in as partners, as well as other folks in the industry, and we're developing a new non-emergency response California Fairs Association. Right now, there is an association, but it's really an offshoot of a different organization, so it does. It's not even able to stand on its own with its own governance, etc. So we'll be working on expanding that organization as well. And that organization has also engaged with a a firm in Sacramento representation firm, and we're working very hard. There have already been some meetings with folks that may be parts of incoming administrations and things. So we're we're working very hard to make sure that the fair industry is represented well, especially as we have transitioned in the governor's office, certainly in you know we know we're going to get a new secretary of food mag because well, and she's also retiring, so and we're likely to get another a new a new deputy secretary.

James Canfield

So we just want to make sure that not just the OC Fair and Events Center serves, but the entire district. I'm also on the board of Travel Costa Mesa, and one of the things we're working on there is the formation of a new T bid. That's a business improvement district. Travel Costa Mesa is funded by an assessment from the hotel businesses, and have been operating under an assessment law that was written in 1989. And there's a new law that is a better one, easier to follow. It's not an annual; it's a 10 year. So there are a number of things, and I was asked to be to be a member of the steering committee to form that. I just because of my experience in doing that in other destinations. So we're working to get that done, hoping that it will allow additional revenues to be used for tourism marketing in Costa Mesa and in Southern California to help improve all of our relationships, you know, with some of the big, the big organizations around Anaheim, Irvine, and something. So, just things that we're working on here, And we're also working hard, and and you know, it it's been difficult because the fair is such a busy time for everybody. But in and around all of that, we we've still been working on moving events forward, and right now we're working with the OC Auto Show that is working to relocate from Anaheim, and we're really just finalizing those details. This has been in the paper, so I'm not giving up any secret information, but we'll be hopefully making an announcement on that very soon. Fuel Fest, which was one of the new events that we did last year, again that moved to us from Pomona. They've requested an agreement to move forward with the second year. Love the fairgrounds. Love the team. They're looking to again continue to expand the program, they want to use ASA and some other areas as we continue to do work there. So they are coming back. Pac Amp during the fair, we spent a lot of time with our entertainment team, and they always do a great job. And with our talent booker, and we already have two confirmed shows for the 2027 season, which is exciting. They're two good ones that we're very excited about, and we're receiving a lot of strong interest in other ones. We have a couple other verbal confirmations. We'll see how those shake out. But again, continuing with our momentum for this year, you know, we really want to get 40 plus shows if we can start the season earlier and extend it after the fair, but not on Labor Day weekend. That didn't go as well as we had hoped. We thought we could provide a great alternative for entertainment, and people just wanted to go to the beach or the lake. So, but we've got dozens of offers out, and again are looking to expand the season.

So, very exciting. We did not have two shows already booked in September of last year, so I think we're getting really good momentum. So that's exciting. I'm going to ask Michael to kind of do a facilities update. I know everybody who drove in saw we've got fences and big machines and things, so that's that's good.

Michael Searle

And so as you drove in the parking lot this morning, you probably saw the green fence, the temporary construction fence that went up early in September. We have started the much anticipated and awaited restroom project for the Midway restroom, \$4.5 million project is underway, started in early September, has been on track as far as schedule goes. We did discover a Edison line that will need to be moved, so we're in the process of working with Edison right now to relocate that line. More to come on on that piece, but the project is anticipated to be completed in in or around April or May. This will be a big improvement for our fair guests and our fair partners, as restrooms with showers on one side can be closed off in the middle, and then we'll provide nice restrooms for our fair guests. So quite an upgrade over our temporary restrooms that we've had for many years. So that's the big project. We've got some smaller projects across the grounds, end of year asphalt projects that that are happening. There's several of those that are getting tucked in in between events that are going on, and. Then the last two restrooms in Pac Amp Building C and D, with the the help of OBG, those restrooms are being refurbished like A and B were before the concert system last year. So when we throw the gates open on Pac Amp this next season, we'll have all refreshed restrooms over there, and we certainly had some comments about those along with others that are forthcoming. A lot of exciting things on capital projects with some great end results.

Michelle Murphy

Can I just ask a quick question; Are you finished?

James Canfield

I am finished.

Tanya Bilezikjian

Yeah. Okay. Yeah, Michelle, go ahead. We were gonna. This is a non-voting item, but we can certainly take comments from the whole board.

Michelle Murphy

And well, I just saw that it the amount had been changed, and it

looked like the project had been scaled back, and why? Why was that? Why did that happen? I just wanted to know because I'm sure a bigger project would have been, you know, people would have approved that you know.

James Canfield

Absolutely, great question, Director Murphy. Yeah, subsequent to the original project, the board did take action to reduce the scope. Originally, there were two restroom facilities envisioned. One of them was out on the midway area of the fairgrounds, and one was in the campground. As the design moved forward, we learned that the Midway Restaurant was not constructible where it was located and designed because of some grading and drainage challenges, as well as a slew of underground utilities, main feeds, and things that come into the grounds in that location. So, and and in working with staff, one of the things we learned was they were looking at it as like a solution, looking for a problem. They really felt like we didn't need a restroom in that location, and that it would be more of a problem because it would take space that we currently use for programming. So the board decided to just change the scope. We've already received the money back for the reduction. I think we got five and a half million dollars or so back from CCA. That money had been in escrow, and that's back in our accounts here.

Michelle Murphy

Okay, thanks.

James Canfield

Absolutely, and I believe that's the end of my report. Like I said, I only took 40 minutes. A record, yeah.

Tanya Bilezikjian

Anyone else want to make any comments on this item? All right, and we'll also have an opportunity for our new folks. We'll also have an opportunity for comments at the end of the whole meeting, so I always keep notes monitoring for awareness. Okay, that takes care of agenda item number 10. We'll move on to 11 governance process. This will be a presentation of our 2025 audit by. Well, this is our financial monitoring and audit committee, but we're actually going to turn it over to Melissa. And this is a voting item.

James Canfield

Melissa, do you want?

Melissa Au-Young

No. Good morning. So the district contracted with Lance Soll & Lunghard to perform a financial audit of the district's finances, and so this is completion of the audit. And I'm proud to say that we there are no deficiencies or significant weaknesses that have been identified. So really, I know for me that tends to be the one

paragraph I always look for, and so that's always good news. But overall, yes, it was a great financial audit. I know Max, Max and his team worked tirelessly on it, and then and then we also have so kind of to provide an overview. We have Adam as a representative from our audit from LSL, and he'll take us through the audit briefly. But and then once he's done, essentially just recommending that the board accept and approve the financial audit. We'll go ahead and finalize it, and then send it over to CDFA as per state requirement. So, Adam, take it away.

Adam Odom

Good morning, everyone. Can you all hear me? Okay. Yes. Okay. I'm assuming so.

Dimetria Jackson

Yes, we can hear you.

Adam Odom

Okay, great, great. So you all have the financial statements in your packet. So I'll go through really briefly, but just wanted to let you know, met with the financial monitoring and audit committee and went over the financials in a little bit more detail, and everything went great. As as Melissa mentioned, if you go to technically it's page one, which is the independent auditor's report. The we had an unmodified opinion where the opinion is that the financial statements were presented fairly in all material respects. That's the best opinion you could have, and I do want to also thank for the finance staff. Everyone was great to work with and really accessible and made made the audit a good successful audit. Also, as as Melissa mentioned in the supplemental letters that we'll send out, there were no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies in controls. So the controls are were really good, and again, just great job to the staff. I will go to the balance sheet real quick on page four of the audit of the financial statements. Your couple things I wanted to point out: one, the current assets. Your current assets are 61 million, almost 62 million, which the vast majority of that is your cash and cash equivalents, whereas your current liabilities are at about almost 6 million, at 5.8 million, and really what that means is it very very healthy. The 32nd DAA is a very healthy Entity, it's really impressive. So I will go on a little bit. Your pension liability did drop from 19 million to 16 million. I do want to mention that that is a very like kind of fluid liability, where it's really a lot of it is dependent on the valuation, and so just a heads up on that, it can increase sometimes, decrease sometimes. It just depends on the valuation. Before I move on, any questions on the the statement of net position? No. All right. I'll go on to.

Tanya Bilezikjian

No questions.

Adam Odom

Okay, great. I'll go on to the statement of revenues, expenses, and changes in net position on page five, you'll notice that your revenue was 58 million this year-a decrease from 65 million. I believe the majority of that was from the amphitheater events. Your operating expenses also did decrease, but something to keep in mind is that in the middle of your operating expense section, the pension and other post-employment benefits again that that number fluctuates from year to year. This year is a positive number, which obviously caused the net position to decrease. So at the end of the day, you still had very positive, good operational income of 4.9 million. So again, really, really good. Even though as a decrease from the prior year is still, in my opinion, a successful year, and then your total change in that position was 7.6 million. Go on to the statement of cash flows. I won't get too detailed in here, but something. So what you'd like to look at is your cash flows, net cash provided used by operating activities. There was a positive cash flow in that, so that means pretty much in your operations and the DAA's operations, the there was nine little over 9 million of positive cash flow, which is really good. That's used to help with improvements to the land, improvements to the buildings, all of that, which you will see on the next section, the investing activities. So you'll see a deep decrease in cash from investing activities. Which is very normal. Again, it's it shows that you guys that the DAA is really putting money into improving the the grounds there. So at the end of the year, at the end of 2025, there is a cash and cash equivalents totaled about \$60 million. So really, really healthy, very liquid entity. I won't get too much into the. Actually, I don't think I'm going to get into the notes at all unless anyone has any questions. I'm very happy to answer any questions. The footnotes really just explain kind of the the explain the numbers a little bit more. So, any questions? Sorry, I went through that really fast.

Tanya Bilezikjian

I don't have any questions, but I do want to echo the appreciation for for the team for the outcome of this audit for being available when everything else is happening. An audit is always something over and above your regular day job. So thank you for that, and really Great job! All right, thank you. And this is a voting item, so the board will vote now on whether or not to accept the audit summary.

Summer Angus	Do we have a motion?
Tanya Bilezikjian	Oh, sorry, I forgot that part.
Newton Pham	Motion to approve the audit as is.
Dimetria Jackson	Second it.
Tanya Bilezikjian	Summer
Summer Angus	Okay. Director Pham?
Newton Pham	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director Rubalcava Garcia?
Natalie Rubalcava-Garcia	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director Bilezikjian?
Tanya Bilezikjian	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director Jackson.
Dimetria Jackson	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director Sanchez Canady.
Martha Sanchez	Yes.
Summer Angus	Director Murphy?
Michelle Murphy	Yes.
Summer Angus	And Director Vakharia?
Priti Vakharia	Yes.
Summer Angus	Thank you.
Tanya Bilezikjian	Thank you, Summer. Okay, we'll now go to Item B: consideration and vote on board governance policy amendment recommendations by the governance committee. So, James, take us, please.
James Canfield	Outstanding. Thank you, Director Bilezikjian. One of the things

that our governance committee did was, and that was Director Kovacevich and Director Sanchez Canady went through our board policies manual. We identified a number of items that ultimately are very simple kind of housekeeping items within the document, and really more clarifications or edits based upon some changes in state law that have happened since the last approval. So I'll run through those very quickly with a recommendation that that we make these changes. The first item is in the introduction area of our board policies, and it simply adds the the name The Ranch community center in parentheses after kind of in in the description of what our venues and facilities are. It lists the Hero's Hall, the Farm, Pacific Amphitheater, and it just says an Equestrian Center, and we put in parentheses the Ranch Community Center because that is the name of our Equestrian Center. So again, just a housekeeping item in the document, the next item is in Section 2.03 under conflicts of interest, and since the the previous policy was adopted, there has been a change in the FPPC guidelines, California Fair Political Practices Commission guidelines related to gifts and compensation, and it it previously was \$500. It but it's adjusted on an annual basis based upon CPI or whatever formulas that FPPC uses, our policy manual had it set at the \$500. The recommendation is that the applicable gift limit will match what is established by the California Fair Political Practices Commission. And I think now it's \$620. So again, not a significant change, but again, making sure that our board policies align with the current state statutes and state law. The next item was in board code of conduct, and it's funny that this is in code of conduct. This particular one, but I know, and and it was very important to Chair Bagneris that all of our board members understand that they're invited to and encouraged to attend all 32nd DAA events and functions, and so the previous language said that they're encouraged to attend, and it just gave three opening day awards presentations and other special events as determined by the board or requested by the CEO, and the. language Very simple language doesn't really change anything other than you're encouraged to participate in all events that happen on the grounds as board members. The last one is in the financial stewardship section, and as we were going through, we noticed that there was a category for reimbursement. Actually, there were there were two issues. One was there was a statement in there related to Assembly Bill 1887, related to travel, prohibited, state-funded travel will be prohibited for to certain states because of discriminatory whatever that whatever

that was, and and no, I'm not trying to offend that statute, but that was repealed via SB 447, and that happened in 2023. So we're recommending that we just strike that reference since it no longer matters in state law. The other item was under transportation reimbursements, and one of the things it it the previous language talked about gratuities for taxis, but it left out rideshare and other commercial transportation services. I don't know about anybody else. I haven't been in a taxi for a very very long time, but I've been in lots of ride shares, so we simply added to the we the the new language is when traveling via taxi services, ride shares, or other commercial transportation services tips will be reimbursed up to 20% of the total transportation costs. So again, no, no substantive change, just kind of some housekeeping within the document, and those are the limit of the changes that were recommended. There were a number of other items that were discussed, but with kind of the changes in the makeup of the committee, we felt that that would be better kind of continued to subsequent meetings for discussion because they make that they'll take more discussion and a real action from the board. But we did want to bring these what I would call housekeeping items up to the board.

Tanya Bilezikjian Very good, thank you, CEO Canfield. We do have a public comment, so Reggie,

Reggie Mundekis I support the item.

Tanya Bilezikjian You did need your full three minutes today. All right. So, any discussion from our board? And if not, I'll take a motion to approve.

Dimetria Jackson I'll make a motion.

**Natalie
Rubalcava-Garcia** I'll second.

Tanya Bilezikjian Thank you, Summer.

Summer Angus Director Pham?

Newton Pham Yes.

Summer Angus Director Rubalcava Garcia?

Natalie Yes.

Rubalcava-Garcia

Summer Angus Director Bilezikjian?

Tanya Bilezikjian Yes.

Summer Angus Director Jackson?

Dimetria Jackson Yes.

Summer Angus Director Sanchez Canady?

Martha Sanchez Yes.

Summer Angus Director Murphy?

Michelle Murphy Yes.

Summer Angus And Director Vakharia,

Priti Vakharia Yes.

Summer Angus Thank you.

Tanya Bilezikjian Thank you, Summer. All right, now on to our 2026 OC Fair wrap up presentation, Michelle.

Michele Capps Welcome, everyone. Go. All right, everybody. Remember, we had a fair. Right. Capital learning put that together. So thank you. That was a great recap. Okay, well thank you for there.

James Canfield We are. Just kidding.

Michele Capps That was everything, and we are again California's top fair, and that is based on our attendance. And I will show you the numbers how we compared to California's other fairs. But by the numbers, as we go through every year, we ended up at approximately 1,000,121, 1,121,000 fairgoers, and our shows 25 of those sold out, and that's combined with Pacific Amphitheater and the hangar and ASA. Of all of the competitions, we had 16,442 entries. That is culinary hobbies and handcrafts, livestock. We had fine arts in there and garden and floral. Of the community stages, over 300 local bands performed.

Michele Capps We had 20,000 visitors over at Hero's Hall, and what's notable over there is that we also had over 30,000. I'm sorry, 30 veterans

that we were able to sign up for their VHA benefits, and so I thought that was quite notable as well. That we're not just having people come through the museum, but we are helping the veterans as well. So, and then over at Rewind, they had some record days as well. They had about 260,000 guests come through again, and they had 18,000 attended. attendee day this year, and everybody had a lot of fun over there in that exhibit. As far as riders, over 2 million over there in the carnival area. 94 semi trucks filled with stuffed plushies were won at the games. And notable this year was that our maintenance crew built those big donation boxes, and over 10,000 stuffed plushies were donated. And with the help of the Lions Club, those will be donated to children's organizations this year. And then 42,000 ears of corn were shucked by county fair corn stars, and 249,693 servings of our five-dollar taste of fair this year. I will be able to show you more numbers right here with that. That's how we. Compared to prior years, with our attendance as well, so 22% of the market share, and also notable, we added an app. Well, on our website was a tool that people could type in on our food finder. They could just type in an ingredient. They didn't have to know the name of the vendor. They didn't have to know the the full item that they were looking for. They could just type in cinnamon, and all of the different vendors that serve something with cinnamon in it would show up. And then there was a GPS tracker in this as well, and we could then see if they actually ended up over at the booth that they were looking for. And then there was a GPS tracker in this as well, and we could then see if they actually ended up over at the booth that they were looking for. So we had...

James Canfield

I did bacon, everything.

Michele Capps

So of this, we know that 339,000 people use the food finder, and we know that Chicken Charlie's was the most favorite vendor that they searched for. Here's how we compared to all of the other California fairs as well. So this is how we were the top fair, and I want you to look over at those prices as well. Parking, most notable. People say they don't like our parking prices. Look at the other parking prices. So, yeah. All right, moving on. Here's how we stack up in media. I think this is the first time that I had to change that M to a B. This was billions of media impressions, and in fact, when I presented it the other day to our employees. I had repeated the slide from last year, and it said millions of media impressions, and I had to revise it. So our friends over at Rocket

Launch helped pull this together, and I had to reread this, recalculate, and yeah, indeed, we've got billions of media impressions, so that is quite notable this year. And there were so many that I couldn't even include everything that we got this year on our media. So here's some of the online coverage, and this was everything that went out in print as well. And then over on the social side, so this is Facebook and Instagram and again as part of that social team. This was 9,339,974 impressions over on that side. So the team did really great, and this was just our Orange County Fair account. So we also have a Pac Amp account. We have a Centennial Farm. So we have a number of accounts, but that was just the Orange County Fair. We have Pacific Amphitheater. Lots to say here, but reminder of what happened over there.

Michele Capps

It was a great season. I know I saw everybody out there, so the guests really loved it too. Everywhere I went, people were talking about what a great lineup we had this year, and with that, it showed our 23 fair shows grossed just under \$8 million this year, and then the pre and post fair gross was 1.3, so the fair shows were up 10% compared to last year, and when you combine both pre, post, and fair, we were actually up 40% compared to last year. So that is quite notable there. Hangar and Action Sports Arena. We had quite a few sellouts over there as well. We were up 19% in gross sales at the hangar, and. We grossed 130,000 at the ASA. That was five additional nights of derbies, so we did great over there as well. And then we move on to those adorable little piglets. 27 piglets this year from three Litters. The livestock auction, \$243,971, and that was for 179 animals that were sold at the junior livestock auction. The funds go directly to the FFA and the 4-H youth who raised these animals, and this year was a record-setting number of entries for the goats, rabbits, and cabbies. The grand champion went to Jose Vermeer. We had a record-setting number of entries, and of the blue ribbons, we had 517 in the E and E department. 517 were let's see, we had 517 in culinary hobbies and handcrafts and fine arts. 236 of those went to just hobbies and handcrafts. 136 to culinary. 118 to visual arts. And then we had 1,149 in garden and floral, and 1,376 in livestock. Rewind through those numbers already, but this year was really a hit with all of the selfie stations. The guests just loved it, and the dwell time over there was longer.

Michelle Capps

And there were times that you had to stand in line to, you know, get your selfie, and the moon goat also was it as well. OCTA, the

therapy. They were just under 22,000 again for their ridership. And asking what the fun run was. Well, look at all those people that show up at eight in the morning to run. Natalie did. Thank you very much for that. So she was there handing out awards that early in the morning, and we had 3,400 participants running the 5k, 365 running the one mile, and that goes through the carnival, and the 5k also does the detours of fun as well, where you can go off and play games and prizes. So that starts off in the the parking lot out front, and it goes down across Fair Drive and through Pacific Amphitheater up the steps on the stage, all around through the fair. I ran it last year. Probably won't ever do it here. So, but I could walk it. Hydration stations. We had six stations this year, and we dispensed 45,652 gallons of water versus last year's 28,994. So we saved 292,100. Let me try that again. 292,172 20-ounce plastic bottles of water from our landfill, so that's notable. That was an increase of 16,658 gallons of water. So that's amazing. And then if you look at the value, over a million dollars of a value to our guests. So and on our chat bot that we had over 9000 people come into our chat bot, that was like the third most popular question was people asking about the water stations and being able to bring in bottles and if we were going to be able to have these stations again, so it is a value to our guests, and they are asking about it. Achievements, something that happens behind the scenes that we do every year. We have service awards, and. These are for our employees that are here, 5,10,15,20,25, 30, you know, and on. And we had, oh, we had 115 years. Okay, 115 service awards happen during this fair, and our HR department goes through with cowbells and bubbles, and they coordinate all of these award ceremonies. And of these service awards, it represented 1070 years of service.

Michele Capps

So that was quite notable this year, and then we also have 33 golden orange awards that were given, and those are for employees that go above and beyond their their jobs here. And our own Summer Angus not only got a service award for 10 years of service, but she also got the Golden Orange Award as well, and she dressed them hard. And I think our HR department went above and beyond trying to schedule those 115 service awards as well.

James Canfield

And literally everybody, every one of the 150, basically gets deluged with bubbles and cowbells. Now some are more in groups, but still, it it it's so much fun. I was fortunate to be able to participate in a number of them and say it that I've missed all of

them. So, but great work, but..

Michele Capps

And then beyond that, highlighting the number of jobs as well, we hired 333 job offers were made on that day that we had the the job fair, and then beyond that, 1,221 offers were made throughout the the season for fair. So that is want to go back because according to the Johnson Economic Impact report that we had received that was \$312.5 million to our community in jobs. And now, what about our guests? We do a survey after Their visit, and this year the number of recipients, the responses, I should say, is down a little bit compared to prior years. But we had 5,491 completions on that, and so you can see here's the makeup of everybody who was in that survey. So we have 35% male, 62% female, and the average fair goer in our collection here, 47 is the age. 13% were first first time fair goers, and see the leading source of awareness they had previously attended. And what did they say as far as value and affordability, they valued the price of admission. They liked the entertainment. So these numbers, I will say, are a little bit down, and that kind of tracks with inflation as well. So what we had done this year, if you remember, we added those family value packages. We added the Smart Start on Wednesdays and Thursdays. RCS had added the Dream Pass. We added those meal packages, and all of those things were very popular. And then also, what again, what was most popular was the \$5 taste affair as well,

James Canfield

Which we extended additionally.

Michele Capps

Exactly, and so this survey actually all of these results just came in this year. The whole complete package we just received it on Monday, so we are just diving into this. So we haven't received the full presentation. We are scheduling that right now, and so this next month we will be diving into this, and that will be the next portion of planning. 2027 is diving into these answers, and then seeing what we can do to bring these scores up and what next year will look like.

Tanya Bilezikjian

Really quick, I think you mentioned we got around five or 6,000 responses out of over a million attendees. Is there anything we can do to increase the number of responses?

Michele Capps

That's that's part of it, and I can tell you that the first three weeks of that there was an email issue, and so we had to unwind the

problem and make sure that we were hitting their inboxes. It seems as though these were going to spam, maybe, and so we had to resend. And we we just feel like we weren't we weren't landing in the right place. So, have we thought about like QR codes at the exits that people can. We actually they were on the the doors of all of our exhibits. They were on the the tables, the picnic tables. We offered prizes. We just awarded the prize this week as well. It was a \$500 gift card, so there was incentives. We did we did everything that we thought we were supposed to do compared to last year, you know, all of the things that we had done in the past that garnered large responses, we did. So we're going to go back and revisit that and see if we can do anything.

James Canfield

Yeah, one of one of our goals will be to bring down the average age, we were all out there. We all know that the average age of people on the grounds was not 47, right? So I mean, I was there. That's my. But yeah, I think we got. You know, it's such a there's social media. All of those things are so dynamic now, and we got to catch ourselves up and talk about that along with our souls to help us get a lot.

Michele Capps

We going back to the old-fashioned, you know, iPads right in front of people instead of waiting for them to fill it out on their own.

James Canfield

Yeah, and we're also looking at kind of streamlining the process, maybe some short, you know, something that's that it's five quick questions as opposed to oh, I have to really take on go through this and really read it?

Dimetria Jackson

Yeah, I think less questions and maybe while people are standing on, yes, be a good opportunity. Yes, it may not be the best if the light has been caught. We might might affect the score.

Michele Capps

Catch them at the end of the line before they've been standing there, or after you get off minutes, but yes. But all all of that being said, we were voted best fair again, and this year we're adding on Parent and OC, who were the Reader's Choice Award for that as well. So we have two publications to add to that list. So pretty happy about that again, and now I want to introduce next year's theme. Sorry, forgot to talk about money. So here's where we landed the important stuff. Let's want to do it right. So here's the revenue. So preliminary numbers coming in. So yeah, go ahead.

Melissa Au-Young

Not in the numbers, unfortunately. Revenue been a fair 52.2

million that came in, which is a little bit higher about more than the previous year. We did have a lot more experience. Labor expenses 6.8 million, and then non-labor, which is all the other expenses to bring everything on site. 24.57 all met process and 20,800,001. difference. So if you look at 2025, landed about the same. Previous year some numbers have been higher around September. We tried to nail them, and as much as possible, so I will see us adjusting this number. Usually starts at 24 million to adjust it, and then we'll make about 44. And so we don't see that this is about 40.8 million. Speak at all to the increase of about \$5 million in labor expenses. Some of that is the headline challenge. So. Last year we did do some show. This year we and then also a little bit higher.

Melissa Au-Young I gotta look at that one. I know we hired last time, so there are some. Still have some long time. There are some efficiencies, and there's maybe over time much better with simple service openings will probably, you know, because that is if you look at 2024, we are a little bit more that one, and so by the my sense is 2025, that 7.7 is a little bit further than not only than what.

Michele Capps Now on to 2027. All right, 2027, where we are forecasting fun. The barnyard animals have taken over the weather desk at OC Fair News, and the Doppler starts going haywire when the forecast is coming up: corn, dogs, and pig races, followed by a strong front of Ferris wheels and funnel cakes. But the good times never stop. More to come as we keep our eye on this developing situation.

James Canfield That was great, and we'll have the weather copter too. I'm sure. Nice catch, WKRP in Cincinnati.

Tanya Bilezikjian Oh, that was a deep pull, you guys. Yeah, impressive.

James Canfield Yes, I grew up there, Cincinnati.

Tanya Bilezikjian Cold. All good. That's it. That's it. All right. Thank you. That was that was a a nice walk down memory lane and a lot of excitement for what's to come. Any comment from the board in the discussion?

Dimetria Jackson Just one quick question. It's a fun run. I saw the recipients. Maybe it was just that photo. We're all first, second, and third were all male. Is there a fastest? I presume that's fastest run for each five days? Were there there are for ginger? Okay. And I was that's my

next question. The kids were taken care of as well. Yeah. Okay. That sounds great. Thank you.

- Michelle Murphy** And then I'm sorry, I have a quick question because it it was hard to hear you a little bit, but what were the increases in the labor costs due to...
- Melissa Au-Young** the decreases, you mean?
- Michelle Murphy** It looked like those were the increases which changed the revenue.
- Melissa Au-Young** So the labor cost decrease overall. The non-labor expenses increased. Some of that is the headliner talent, the additional expanded programming on site, including at ASA, and then also some of the new stages and LED screens, the World Cup watch party. So there's a lot of new programming costs.
- Michelle Murphy** So it was programmatic costs?
- Melissa Au-Young** Yes, the those are all program costs for the most part.
- Michelle Murphy** So are we thinking about your? Because I'm so sorry, it was hard to hear you, and I'm like coughing and and blowing my nose, but so those costs you're planning on for next year as well.
- Melissa Au-Young** Well, we we're just starting our budget process, and actually, I think it's one of the discussions that the board will have of how much to expand, maintain. That'll be up for discussion.
- Michelle Murphy** But the this year's final numbers are basically okay, I guess.
- Melissa Au-Young** Well, these are preliminary numbers at this point, but we might. I anticipate that it's probably not going to adjust much from this because we did account for a lot of those outstanding invoices, and so I've censored this is we're probably going to end up about 20.5 million to 21 million. So it's going to be fairly flat earlier.
- Tanya Bilezikjian** Yeah, and we will see the full fair P&L once that's finished. Once you wrap up those those final September.
- Melissa Au-Young** Yeah, and usually we do try and include it with the budget as well because we are planning for next year's fair P&L.
- Newton Pham** Director Murphy, one one thing to point out: we report gross revenues and gross expenses. We none of that is netted out, so

some of those would be direct expenses against some of the revenue, right? Oh, on an individual show at the Pacific Amphitheater, we sell X number of dollars worth of tickets. We have our ancillary revenues related to that, and then we have the cost to produce that show. So there's obviously more cost as we do more programming and and broaden the scope, but then the offsetting revenue is really up in the top. So that the only place that the net shows up is in that net proceeds number.

Michelle Murphy Okay, but you're feeling comfortable with the net proceeds, it it sounds like that there is no concern.

Melissa Au-Young Yes, that is that is correct, and you know a lot of the things that we did this year were kind of first year in the expansion of some of the programs, so they were calculated that we did, knowing that we would have additional expense, but are continuing to try to build revenue to offset those things. Some of the revenues this year, where where we struggled a little bit, were in the carnival and and a couple other areas where the per caps didn't really keep up with what they have done in the past. I think we're seeing more and more resistance related to the to economic factors. Yeah, you know the the the overall food and beverage purchasing was down, and the rides and games were also down.

Michele Capps Impressive heat. Yeah, yeah. FIFA that first weekend hurt us. Yes, there were several things that were working against us that we have never seen.

Newton Pham Yeah, we had we had millions of people in Southern California had giant watch parties everywhere the first weekend for the World Cup, and even though we had a bunch of screens, it didn't seem to help us. And and we know the weather didn't help us, and you know some of those things are learning opportunities for us, and we'll work to better market against those moving forward, as well as you know making some improvements in the programming, scheduling, and things that we're doing on the grounds.

Michelle Murphy Yeah, but some of those additions were you pretty cool. They were cheap, so I wouldn't want to necessarily see them you know, go away if they weren't as, you know, as lucrative as we thought they would be. But given all the other variables and factors,

Newton Pham I think one of the things that we really learned with our additional

programming in the Pacific Amphitheater is don't do three or four shows over Labor Day weekend. So, because we didn't necessarily get as much offsetting revenue as we had hoped to, because we felt we had good good acts and that they should have sold better. But like I said, everybody was at Lake Havasu or the beach.

**Natalie
Rubalcava-Garcia**

So this is Director Rubalcava Garcia, I just want to say I am impressed with the revenue amount, and I'm glad that the net proceeds are pretty flat year over year, even with the additional expenses. And thank you for the daily updates, where you did really let us know how attendance was soft year over year. So I think that helps. And to your point about the weather having an impact that's out of our control, and then I know we did have a couple of shows that were a disappointment with talent deciding to just not go on stage because they weren't happy with the attendance. So I think thank you to staff for all of your hard work and making sure that we were still able to put on a wonderful fair because everybody out there looked really happy, and hopefully next year we have better weather. But we will definitely have less competition.

James Canfield

Yes, absolutely. Oh yeah, this pretty planning by the way for the Olympic year. Oh yeah. So because we know we're going to have some similar things there, and we'll that will be we'll have some exciting stuff that we'll bring back to the board as we're moving forward, both in the planning phases, and then obviously once we get to those budget presentations for 28, it's because it's two weeks of our fair and the 11 and the other six together.

Michelle Murphy

Oh, Oh dear!

James Canfield

All right, Director Murphy, you're going to need to bring all of your friends in 28

Michelle Murphy

Okay, they will. They will come. If the heat, I know. I mean, is you know, from a personal perspective, I just feel like the heat really was our was the biggest thing that you know that went against us.

James Canfield

Yeah, we've already looked at and and some of the things that we'll be including in our planning for next year will be more what I'll call cooling areas, areas set up with misters, those kinds of things. We're looking at adding some more shaded areas. If you think about what we did in Club OC this year, where we went from just the umbrellas to having kind of the shade cloth above. So those

things are all on the list and and part of the planning for next year.

Michelle Murphy Yeah, and don't get me wrong. I'm certainly not criticizing. I just I just had you know new questions. Is probably it's probably all.

James Canfield Director Murphy. I can vouch for that. I saw you most days at the fair, and you were always smiling. So thank you.

Michelle Murphy I had a great time. Yes, thank you.

Tanya Bilezikjian All right, here we go on to the next item. This is 11D board appointment of chair and vice chair nominating committee. This is an informational item. We will not be doing a vote. So I spoke with Chair Bagneris yesterday, she's on an airplane right now, which is why she couldn't be here today. But she would like to appoint Director Rubalcava Garcia and Director Pham to the nominating committee. Yes, thank you. Okay, is Director Pham, do you accept your nomination to the nominating committee?

Newton Pham Sure, absolutely. Appreciate the vote of confidence from Director Bagneris.

Tanya Bilezikjian Thank you. Okay, very good. All right, moving on to our committee reports, and we will start with the leadership committee. And James, I understand, you're going to take the lead here.

James Canfield I will do the leadership committee report. The leadership committee did meet, went through the agenda, was the main topic of discussion, as well as some of the next things that'll come up, which will be committee assignments, etc. Some of the updates for that, making sure that all of the board members, the new board members, all have committee assignments, and so there there was some restructuring there discussed by the chair and vice chair.

Tanya Bilezikjian Very good, thank you. So, as you mentioned, we'll go ahead and do the report outs using the old committee members, and then and then we'll do the appointments for the new. So, next up is the financial monitoring and audit committee, and I think Newton's

driving. So, I'll go ahead and I'll go ahead and do that report. So, we met yesterday, and we went through the financial reports. We heard a brief preview of the audit. I'm not going to go through most of this since we've already covered a good portion of it. Actually, we've covered all of it. So the the report is here, linked in the agenda, we've heard everything else today, and we will be meeting. Actually, I will not be meeting again because I will not be on this committee anymore. But the committee will meet again on October 19, and then we will move to the facilities committee, which I will also report out on. So the facilities committee committee met on do we meet September 3. We talked about and actually we've we've heard a lot of this already as well from from Michael and and in some of CEO Canfield's reports. So again, we'll kind of skim over some of this, but we talked about currently ongoing. Capex projects for the year: 25 active, 30 completed, four on hold, and seven are with CCA. So still lots and lots of stuff moving forward. We did get the update on the campground restroom and showers, as well as on the midway restroom, which has been put on the back burner. We talked about the pack amp and the upcoming restroom projects. We talked about the CCA update again. Thank you very much. We've had a lot of conversations in those committee meetings about CCA, and I appreciate your advocacy for us and your your leadership on that board. There, we did get an update on the admin building project. So the project has been closed out. We have a final financial settlement with CCA. A couple of things still still in process, specifically on Lego City that was out there for quite a bit longer than we budgeted for. So there was a cost associated with that, so looking forward to the final wrap up on that. And lastly, staff let us know that they met with Fusco, which is an engineering consulting company, to receive information on a potential future kind of a regional stormwater management installation here. This being discussed by the City of Costa Mesa and some other surrounding entities, and that may impact the fairgrounds property. So FUSCO is our consultant, right? Yes, yeah, FUSCO is on our behalf, so they'll keep us informed of any planning meetings so that we can advocate for ourselves on that matter. And the Facilities Committee will meet again on October 1, just next week. All right, and up next, the community affairs committee.

Dimetria Jackson

Sure, we met on September 21, both my Co-chair and I, with our executive director, and we had a really productive meeting. was a

really great brainstorming session. As you may or may not know, to our new committee members, to new directors, excuse me, we give a usually a proclamation out every month. It's based on the State of California Diversity and Inclusion Calendar. So, as you mentioned, that this is Hispanic Heritage Month, but I does. I know it runs from the 15th of this month to the 15th of the following month. So our goal is to give that proclamation out next month. But just to say, it was a. We try to do that monthly, but we want to do more. We want to get more involved in the community. That's our goal and that's objective. In the past, we've done competitions. We've done youth competitions. We did poetry one year. We also did an art comp. It was an art. Yeah, I think it was an art. Yes. So we have talked about what can we do this year. We did something. Presentations were made at the fair to youth. We want to get them involved as well. So we talked about doing youth competitions. Maybe either presenting it at the fair, maybe doing something during Imaginology, maybe even tying in some sort of STEM type program as well. You know, STEM or STEAM, as we call it now, also has an art aspect. But we also want to make sure we look at that. You know, engineering or whatever else there is out there. Everybody excels in different areas, and they want to share that with us. We talked about developing relationships and partnerships with other nonprofits every year. You know, the board is able to give tickets to members of the community to attend the OC Fair, and we try to figure out a way in which we can bring those nonprofits, those recipients, you know, kind of back in. Actually, I was thinking when the presentation was made about despair this year about those stuffed animals. Now, I'm not saying all the organizations we've dealt with are just child focus. A lot of them are families and are the older youth, but that might be a good idea to tie that in. Maybe we can donate some of those stuffed animals in the future to some of the nonprofits who come to our event. Girls Inc. and there's a lot of organizations I'm sure who also love. I mean, there's always a ton of nonprofits out there that we're trying to serve and connect, but that might be a good way to tie them in.

Dimetria Jackson

Let's see. We talked about hosting an annual Hall of Fame reception for recognition for honorees. So during the fair, like one of the dinners we have every year, but we've invited the recipients monthly proclamations to a dinner, and it's been great. But it's a lot

going on. We're all trying to get you know enjoy our dinner, but we're also trying to get to the concert afterwards. And we have all family and guests with us too. So I don't think we have enough time to really connect and interact with those proclamation recipients. So I suggested that maybe we could do something here. We have our town square, so maybe we can do have a reception here and invite the recipients of those proclamations to come. It's like a smaller venue. It's going to be us maybe after a meeting or something of that nature, and we can basically thank and recognize them yet again. For all they do in the community, and also maybe just use the the screen there to kind of put their maybe that picture and what month they were recognized in, something of that nature, so we can have something running. So you can, if they wanted to invite like family and friends, like that's me. You know, I was a recipient of Women's History Month or something of that nature. So it's kind of you know cool and don't just stop at that month. Continues. We're going to talk about working with local youth to develop community murals. One of our recipients last year. I can't remember which month that was, but she does murals with students, local elementary schools in Anaheim, she's done a couple in Irvine. She's actually worked with my co-chair, Director Rubalcava Garcia, and doing a mural for in Anaheim again. And we thought that might be a good since we already know her, connection with her. She might be a great person because she gets the kids involved. She's not just doing the roles for children. She the kids are so they're part. So we thought that might be a good way to involve. Another way we talked about was local food banks. I know we a few years ago, and I think we've done it periodically.

We bring cans of food as an entry ticket, but because we've had days where we have to determine who's coming and buy tickets ahead of time, but like maybe we can just ask folks to bring a candle, correct it. I know there's a lot of big charities out there, but I I know a big veggie Monday district, so that we can share share the food. Get all the people can bring a can of food in. Maybe we'll get you an extra, or maybe a way to play a game, something like that. Close to a conference ticket. Maybe don't bring it. Want to do an extra ride here? I'll give you some rides by bringing a can of food. So we thought about throwing some ideas out there. Maybe we can figure out how to get that work looking for staff. I think the last thing I have here is engaging with other local nonprofits with partnership opportunities for staff or those service projects. So that's something I'll talk about too. Just kind of there may be other

ways in which we can work with the community, and also tending. Talked about that too. There's a lot of chamber events. There's a lot of events we should be attending, not just so co-chair, but just kind of members of our directors and staff to make those connections because sometimes recognition month will come up, so it's always great to attend events, be involved, reach to help staff Potential recipients, and you are all welcome to provide that we know may be interested or maybe doing wonderful things within the community that we should have.

**Natalie
Rubalcava-Garcia**

No, that was perfect.

Dimetria Jackson

So our next meeting will be going to meet the first Monday of each month. So....

Tanya Bilezikjian

very good, thank you, Director Jackson. Okay, so you may notice we have a couple of new board members and a couple of board members that have rolled off, and so Chair Bagneris is going to make some changes to the committees. We have a slide up here. So first change is that up until now we've had a leadership committee and a governance committee. We're going to collapse that into one committee, and the Chair and the Vice Chair will be on that committee. Financial Monitoring and Auditing Committee. The change to that will be Director Pham will continue, and Director Vakharia will take my place. And then on the Facilities Committee, I believe that one remains untouched. We will keep the community affairs committee as is, and we are we're adding and this is exciting. Oh, here we go. New slide. I don't see new slides, so just gonna fly through here. So we're adding a new committee, the Education Programs and Public Affairs Committee, and that will be led by Director Sanchez Kennedy and with Director Murphy as her cohort. And then we are sunsetting the entertainment task force. Yes. Okay. And then so the purpose of the education programming. Programs and Public Affairs Committee. No, go ahead. So the committee provides board-level guidance and recommendations related to education and programming, year-round events, public affairs, and strategic stakeholder relationships, with a focus. And this is something the board has been focusing on: is using this facility year-round instead of just focusing on there, and staff has done an amazing job of that. So this committee will focus on year-round educational initiatives, including Imaginology, which is my favorite, program

development, intergovernmental relations, strategic state. Okay. This is a non-voting item, but anybody want to make any comments? Alrighty. Upcoming events preview, Michelle.

Michele Capps

Two slides on this one. Okay. We're going to start this weekend with the redo vintage redo market, the community gathering uniting vintage fans and local artisans of California. So it's a curated collection of vintage items and an assortment of makers, and this is things like home goods, clothing, and jewelry. So it's really a curated kind of market, and it's actually it's large. It takes over four different buildings over in Main Mall, and it starts on Friday and it's Friday and Saturday, and then we have the bridal fair on September 27, and all of October we have the pumpkin patch going on seasonal adventures out there on the corner of Fairview and Fair, and this year they have a new model. They're charging \$25 for kind of an all inclusive bounce houses and all of their attractions, but you can just go without that shop for the pumpkins and get that fall fun going on. And then we have the off-road expo happening on October 3 and fourth. For over 25 years, the off-road expo has been the can't miss event for off-road world. the The 26 version is set to raise the bar even higher. So come on out for hundreds of manufacturers as they roll on into Costa Mesa, and that's happening from nine to six on Saturday and nine to five on Sunday, and then the gym fair will be here October 9 through 11th, and then we have the OC Fall Home Show the 10th and 11th, and Costa Mesa Speedway they roll back in on October 10. We have the Japan Fair October 16 through the 18th, and that is a celebration of Japanese culture, and it's one of the largest festivals in Southern California, and that is four to 10 on Friday, noon to 10 on Saturday, and 11 to seven on Sunday. And the Fight Club, I see that it comes on my notes. We have the College and Career Fair on the 21st, and that is the Newport Mesa Unified School District for their college fair. And then on Thursday we have the Fight Club coming back, and that starts at 530 over with that that Baja Grill with the happy hour, and the hangar doors open at six, and the fight starts at seven, and we have our own Boo Ha Ha, a zombie homecoming on Saturday, October 24. That is a craft beer, all you can taste. We're going to have bands, and we are going to have lucha libre fighting. Yeah, exactly. So, get your best costume on and watch some Lucili break. Next slide. We have a discovery day over at the farm on September 30th.

Michele Capps

That's going to be the first one of the season, and then we have

walk into it. They have two sessions coming up. October 3rd is going to be their horses and heart connection. They have two sessions on that day, a 9:30 to 11 and 11:30 to one, and then we also have their open house. They call that our space, your community, and that is that's from 5 to 7p.m. Then we have another discovery day. This one over at The Ranch on October 15 as well, and then we have a couple of our garden classes that have been added. Your guide to urban chicken keeping. This is a practical introduction to backyard chicken keeping designed for the Southern California urban and suburban environment. Learn how to select your breed that fits your space and goals, including phantoms, which can be an excellent choice for a smaller yard. So, if you've ever been wanting to raise some chickens, this is the class for you. That's October 10 from 10 to noon, and you'll need to RSVP online, and then we have another class repurposing your pumpkins into succulent planters, because we all face that annual ordeal of what to do with our pumpkins after Halloween, right? So now we can create that eco-friendly solution, and we will be turning those into planters. And so, come on down and on October 17 from 10 to noon, you can learn how to turn your pumpkins into planters. That's a \$45 class, and everything you need to turn your pumpkin.

James Canfield Including the pumpkin right?

Michele Capps Yeah, the moss, the succulents, everything.

James Canfield Don't even have to bring your own pumpkin

Michele Capps No. And every Thursday, including today, the farmers market is out there right now. That concludes your.

Tanya Bilezikjian Thank you, Michelle. That Bobby homecoming looks like. I think I'll I'll be there. Hopefully, I'll see you all there. Why not? Okay. So, board of directors, matters of information. This is an opportunity for all of us to share our thoughts and reflect. So I'll go with. Do we still have Newton and Michelle?

Summer Angus Director Pham had to jump off the meeting.

Tanya Bilezikjian Okay, Director Murphy, anything you want to share?

Michelle Murphy No, I'm here just struggling with some with some coughing and stuffy nose, but wish I was there. Happy to not share that.

Tanya Bilezikjian Yes. Yes. Thank you for thank you for that. All right, Director Vakharia? Director Sanchez Canady.

Martha Sanchez First, I want to congratulate James and Michael, Melissa, Michelle, Summer, and all of the staff on a great fair. I mean, it was impressive and a lot of fun. I know I was here several days, and it was just I felt like I had a lot of time to walk around and talk to people and ask them what they liked, what they didn't like, what we can improve on, and for the most part, I got all positive feedback. You know, and I noticed when we walked in the door, the gate. Everyone said, "Oh, have a great day! Everybody was excited and happy. So it was great. It was a great first year. I also wanted to welcome the two new directors, Murphy and Vakharia. Get that down. Thank you. Welcome, and excited to have you. And I'm excited to chair this new education program and public affairs committee. Really excited to share what we do out there, so more people are aware because it is a great venue for things other than just the fair. I know. I also wanted to talk. Thank Michelle and team for presentation they put together for me. I was asked to speak at the Rotary Club of La Habra due to some of the nonprofit donations that I made on the. Tickets, and they asked what we did here, and so I was able to share the facilities and what we did with this beautiful presentation that Michelle and her team did. So thank you, and I think that's really exciting. I think we have opportunity to go into the community and to share that we have year-round facilities for different events and venues, and educate people on what we really do here. Because I think that we can find a way to host more events year-round.

Tanya Bilezikjian Thank you, Director Jackson.

Dimetria Jackson Well, I wanted to echo with Director Sanchez, that I I agree. We had a we have a wonderful, strong, supportive executive staff, and you know supporting staff. Everyone kind of you know contributed to the fair and the daily operations of this facility. It's evident. I think you made some good points. We're right when we came in through the gates, it's welcome. Now come on in, don't stop unless you. You know we tell you to keep it moving, which was great. I mean, it's great that we can get the people getting into the fair quickly. But the response and the interaction from everybody that I received working there, the staff was amazing. Staff's amazing at Pacific Amphitheater. Everyone's friendly. They're engaging. They're you know it's nice to you connect with

them again if you haven't been to an event in a couple of days. It's like oh great to see you. So I really do think you guys have done amazing job with the hiring. So I want to thank you all. You know, Summer's just been amazing every year. I still don't know how she does it. I can't even coordinate my friends, but Summer does an amazing job with all of us. You know our needs, the concerns, and she kind of just makes it seem very seamless.

Dimetria Jackson

So I just want to applaud you yet again for all you do and how you tolerate us and without a smile on your face. So I do appreciate that. I want to welcome our new board members. Forward to working with you all. It's really exciting to have you here. I also miss our former board members. Great working with everybody. Yeah. So they were here when we arrived. So it's it's it's always going to be someone you know you want to stay in contact. I'm sure they will stay in contact. Let's see. I just wanted to say thank you for all of you because I know this is a tough job, and you've jumped in and now you've joined civil boards. It's like oh, there's three now. Okay, so but the good thing about it is that you have the fair, the OC fair, kind of you know, in the community. You're in connection and contact with so many people who may or may not know of all we do. But I think that's really a great step. I'm sure there's a lot of balls you have in the air all the time juggling to maintain all these board meetings, what have you? But you're bringing back information to us, which is very helpful, and also you're sharing what we're doing, great things we're doing in community with others. So it's just kind of a win-win. So I appreciate the fact that you're doing all that. Anything? I think I touched upon points. I don't want to not thank anybody. Oh, some great things about the fair. I wanted to ask. Thank you for extending the \$5 taste of fair. I love that. It's one of my favorite things, especially when you have kids coming to the fair. Like, if it's not on the \$5 taste, we're not doing it. So, especially if we're here before, if we get here later, that's one thing. But if we're here before 5o'clock, that's where we're going. So, I love that. Wanted to know how that kids' food corner does? We had a new kiosk that was tailored to youth this year, so I just know how it worked. Didn't know that they didn't have any vegan food, so I didn't go back. But I did go, and I thought it was really convenient because it's so close to the hangar, so it'd be a great place to grab food and just run into the hangar. So I just wanted to see if it was popular, effective, and if they could put some vegan options in there.

James Canfield

It did well, you know, because it was the first year. There was a learning curve with it, and we got some improvements that we're planning on implementing for next year, and we'll make sure that we do kind of problematic as well. So thank you.

Dimetria Jackson

Sure, and thank you for that shade for the Club of Sea. It was you mentioned earlier. It was said it was hot, hot, hot. It was very warm. It was still warm with the shade, but it wasn't direct sunlight, and it also made it look feel a little homier. And I love that. It was like a whole different place we walked into. So thank you for that. The esthetic was definitely wonderful. So I had a great time at the fair. Loved the concerts. I got a chance to meet Patti LaBelle. So I'm very happy. You know, I saw Diana Ross. She was very hot too during that concert, but it was nice to see the light. You know, so thank you for bringing all those offerings to us, and had a great time. I think my kids and family members and guests did as well.

Tanya Bilezikjian

Thank you, Director Rubalcava Garcia.

**Natalie
Rubalcava-Garcia**

Thank you. I just wanted to ask a couple things or mention. First, I was going to ask if we could bring in or recognize Sharon Quirk Silva, Assembly Member, who has served our state and has really been a friend of the fair for quite some time, and she is finishing out her term. She's termed out. I wish she would have run for something else, but she has chosen to live her life in peace. So I would like if if the fair could, and one of our committees, maybe it's public affairs, could recognize the assembly member because she is probably one of the fiercest, most hardworking members of our assembly in California. So I think that that would be something to recommend. I also, from the community affairs perspective, we will be bringing back somebody for Hispanic Heritage Month, and I also want to thank Summer because we were able to bring Dolores Huerta over to the fair, which was a really nice surprise. As you know, the Hispanic community has been something that's been instrumental to agriculture, which is something that the fair really does represent in the state. So having her at 92 was just really great. I think. I mean she checks a lot of boxes. I think it was Hispanic Heritage, but women labor, so it was just an awesome experience. So thank you, Summer, for making that happen, and to everybody else who helped on that with that.

Natalie

If we could get it because we didn't bring somebody for Hispanic

Rubalcava-Garcia

Heritage this meeting, if we can get our social media team to provide everybody here with a slide for Hispanic Heritage Month, and then also the individuals who've been honored in the past. Carla Roque, the artist that you mentioned, was Hispanic Heritage Month as well. So if we could just bring maybe have something that we can all share on social media, that would be helpful to really help reinforce some of the community representation that we've been Acknowledging and our very own Reggie, sorry, was also somebody that we recognized through this committee as well, and she really has been instrumental to the fair. I know our new committee members, Reggie did come up and introduce herself, and I highly recommend taking her up on that offer because she does know the fair very well. She probably knows the budget better than some of us, and has been around to see things that have worked and have not. So, thank you, Reggie, for your dedication. And I know I missed the meeting that we gave you the recognition. I wasn't here in person, but thank you for your service to the county and to the state. And then the only other thing I was going to say is I am very grateful for the 5K. It was a great event, and I know Gary and his team do a lot of work in our community, and it really is a way to bring people to the fair. There were kids, and they were so excited, and it's a healthy just way to promote the fair. And I think the partnership that we have with Gary and his team is great, and I hope that we continue to expand that moving forward. And that's all I have.

Tanya Bilezikjian

Thank you. Right. One more time, another welcome to our new board members. I'm looking forward to working with you both and continuing to do the good work that this board has been doing since Dimetria and I joined three years ago. A huge thank you to all of the staff and leadership of the fair. This is an undertaking, and you guys pull it off lawlessly every single year. So thank you for the planning and the execution and the follow up and everything. A couple of notes, you know, just conversations that we have throughout the fair. You know, I'm really excited to learn about this traffic study and the parking study and what we can do there. Very excited about the continued embrace of technology, being able to count people that are on site, and now hopefully in the future, being able to count cars that come on and leave the sites that we can do better with parking. You know, I I got stuck in some of that pre-concert traffic a couple times, and for every hour that you're sitting there trying to get to the parking lot, that's an hour

that you're not spending money at the fair, and then multiply that by all of those people that are in those lines, you know, where where we can we can we can learn how we can do better. So appreciate that that exists and we're learning from it. I assume on the facilities committee.

Tanya Bilezikjian Let's see, love the \$5 taste affair. I think it's a great idea. Pulls people. It kind of flattens out the attendance piece, right? It pulls people earlier, and I think that's fantastic. I'm glad that the Olympics came up. I think we should be planning for that because it's going to be a huge hit for the first two weeks of the 2028 fair. So I can't wait to see what the ideas are and how we're all. We're gonna watch the Olympics up there, right? I want to warn you all: don't get your caricature done at the Yellow Gate because they are brutal. They ask you, "Do you want it to be funny or cute? I said, "Funny, of course. Boy, did they go for it! It's fun. I'll bring it next month. It's brutal. Oh, I'll show you. I'm not afraid. Humbled. Pack am more shows, more llamas, more fun. It was amazing. Thank you for bringing Nitty out to the Rebelution show. That was so much fun. I know how much everybody loves her. So yeah, just great job all around Summer. Congratulations on your Golden Orange Award. So yeah, just just thank you to everybody, and here we go. Next year is upon us.

James Canfield I could add, and you mentioned Nitty coming out with Rebelution, and certainly that was their specific request, and they were so excited to make sure that we were able to do that, and our team, livestock team, etc. We're able to make that happen. In addition, they actually had a special T-shirt made that said "Rebel Llama" with with a picture of her on it, and they sold those on their website as a fundraiser for Centennial Farm and Michelle. What was the number?

Tanya Bilezikjian Oh my goodness! Wow.

Newton Pham So that went right to the Farm Foundation.

Tanya Bilezikjian That's love it. All right, we have our next board meeting is on october 22, and with that, we are done.