



Meeting Minutes

Agricultural Advisory Council Meeting

Held on
Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.
Cal Expo Boardroom, Administration Building

John Chiles, Chair
Chris Zanobini, Vice Chair

Attendees

Council Members

Dorothy Benjamin
Terry Bressler
Michael Campbell
Lesa Eidman
George Gough
Ernest Hodges
Megan Huber
Gail Kautz
Marcia Kimura
Lloyd McCabe
Michelle Leinfelder-Miles

Harry Moos
Rick Nelson
Suzanne Oppedard
Gary Pevey
Len Richardson
Mary Richardson
Lee Ruth
Erica Sanko
Ron Schuler
Walt Shaw

Board, Staff and Volunteers

Rick Pickering, CEO
Tom Martinez, Chief Deputy General Manager
Rachelle Weir, Programs Manager
Jay Carlson, AG Programs Manager
Don Callison
Natalie Minas
Sue O'Brien
Michelle Solorzano

1. **Call to order and Introductions**

Chair Chiles called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Introductions were made around the room.

2. **Chair Report**

Chair Chiles reported that 2016 State Fair was very successful.

3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 18, 2016**

Motion:

It was moved by Councilmember Schuler and seconded by Councilmember Ruth to approve meeting minutes from October 18, 2016 as presented. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

4. **Membership Update**

Chair Chiles reported that there is a new member candidate whose application is being reviewed by the Executive Committee and will be brought to the next meeting for a vote.

5. **Committee Reports**

a. Executive Committee

No report

b. Gala/California's Wine/Agriculturalists of the Year Committee

Harry Moos from Friends of the Fair reported that the 2016 Gala was a great success and everyone had a good time. Councilmember Schuler brought forward some concerns about having too many awards at the Gala and after a lengthy discussion this matter was referred back to the Gala Committee.

c. Farm and Food Committee

The Farm and Food Committee has not had any meetings to report from. Staff member Minas reported that from the first week of April through May 11, 2017 there are 31 schools booked for farm tours and there is still room for more tours. Minas also stated that since 2015 the Farm has donated over 18,000 pounds of food to the Sacramento Food Bank.

d. Ag Heritage Committee

No report other than the breakfast was successful and they had a new sponsor.

e. Equine Program Committee

Committee Chair Oppgard reported that the committee had not held a meeting but would be having meetings in February, April and June. The theme for this year's horse show will be Hollywood. Some of the added shows for 2017 will be Wagons and Buggies, the Gentle Giants along with some non-profit groups. After a discussion about barrel racing and roping it was suggested that the Equine Committee look into the possibility of having a small event at Cal Expo.

f. Livestock and Animal Care Committee

Chair Gough reported that this committee has not had a meeting since April 2016 and there was not a quorum at that meeting. Over all State Fair is well with the livestock and animal care.

g. Youth Development and Recognition Committee

Chair McCabe reported that this committee usually meets in the spring. The scholarship applications information is out and the committee is working on getting that out to the schools. Chair McCabe thanked the Friends of the Fair for increasing the amount of scholarships and the number of scholarships. Sale of Champions last year was very successful and Chair McCabe thanked everyone for their financial support and asked for that support again this year.

6. Cal Expo and 2017 Fair Program Update

CEO Pickering thanked everyone for their support and help in getting fair and horse racing dates. Fair dates this year are July 14 – 30, 2017. Cal Expo competes on a national and international level for fairs and festivals. 3 years ago Cal Expo won the Sweepstake award for the Farm and California Kitchen. Last year Cal Expo won the number 1 award for Outreach, Marketing and Communications. This year Cal Expo won the Sweepstakes award for all fairs and festivals in 8 countries that participate in IAFE. The smaller cup is the top award for all fairs and festivals of our size, ½ million to 1 million in attendance.

7. Agriculturalist of the Year Nomination Process

Applications for Agriculturalist of the year are due January 22, 2017. There are two roll-overs, Tom Nassif and Loren Booth. Chair Chilies requested that the Gala/California's Wine/Agriculturalists of the Year Committee meet prior to the next AAC meeting in February.

8. Nominating Committee Report & Election of Officers

No meeting to report.

9. Adjournment

Chair Chilies asked for a motion to adjourn. It was moved by Councilmember Katz and seconded by Councilmember Ruth. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.