

# **CALIFORNIA EXPOSITION & STATE FAIR**

Minutes of the Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Held Pursuant to Due Notice  
April 28, 2017

California Exposition & State Fair  
Administration Building Boardroom  
1600 Exposition Boulevard  
Sacramento, CA 95815

### **Directors Present**

Director Mark Nelson, Chair  
Director Rima Barkett, Vice Chair  
Director Sonney Chong  
Director Rina DiMare  
Director Jess Durfee  
Director Corny Gallagher  
Director Rex Hime  
Director David Mallel  
Director Tony Ortiz

### **Staff Present**

Rick Pickering, Chief Executive Officer (CEO)  
Tom Martinez, Chief Deputy General Manager (CDGM)  
Samantha Brown, Deputy General Manager Administration (DGM)  
Margaret Mohr, Deputy General Manager Business Development & Marketing (DGM)  
Rachelle Weir, Programs Manager  
Marcia Shell, Assistant General Manager, Expo Events (AGM)  
Jay Carlson, AG Programs Manager  
Sue O'Brien, Recording Secretary

### **Others Present**

Brian Honebein, Event Partnership  
Jen Koga, Staff  
Jay Carlson, Ag Program Manager  
Nancy Koch, Grants Analyst  
Sabrina Rodriguez, Media Department  
Suzanne Oppegard, AAC, Equine Committee  
Stan Oppegard  
Lee Ruth, AAC, Equine Committee  
Sara Riggs, un/common  
Harry Moos, Friends of the California State Fair  
Kim Majetich, Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Alliance.  
Pat O'Brien  
Jim Tong  
Stacey Roberts  
Amber Williams, un/common  
Brantley Payne, un/common  
Siobhann Mansour, un/common

\*May not include all others present in the room or arriving late.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Nelson at 1:14 p.m.  
Chair Nelson read the Mission Statement and Policy Statement into the record.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLGIANCE**

Chair Nelson asked Director DiMare to lead the Board and Staff in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken by CEO Pickering and a quorum was present.

**4. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS & STAFF**

Introduction of Guests and Staff were made around the room.

**5. PRESENTATION**

- a. Presentation to Pat O'Brien for his services on the Cal Expo & State Fair Board of Directors 2013-2017.  
Director O'Brien was presented with a Golden Bear in appreciation of his service on the Cal Expo & State Fair Board of Directors.

Friends of the California State Fair accepted a grant from Sierra Sacramento Valley Medical Society Alliance.

- b. Adverting Campaign Presentation  
Un/common gave a pre-view of the ad campaign for the 2017 California State Fair.

**6. MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

- a. Accept Cultural Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2017, as presented.
- b. Accept Agricultural Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2016 as presented.
- c. Accept Agricultural Advisory Council Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2017, as presented.

**Motion:**

It was moved by Director Hime and seconded by Director Chong to approve items 6a-6c. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

- d. Approve Board Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2017, as presented.

**Motion:**

It was moved by Director Durfee and seconded by Director Mallel to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2017, as presented. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

- e. Approve Board Committee Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2017, as presented.

**Motion:**

It was moved by Director Durfee and seconded by Director DiMare to approve the Board Committee Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2017, as presented. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

**7. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS**

**a. Annual State Fair – Vice Chair Barkett**

Committee Chair Barkett commented that the committee had a good meeting.

CEO Pickering introduced Suzanne Opegard, Chair of the Equine Committee of the Agricultural Advisory Council and Lee Ruth, member of the Equine Committee of the Agricultural Advisory Council. Mrs. Opegard presented her facts and reasons to bring back the rodeo to the State Fair. Mr. Ruth stated his reasons to bring the rodeo back to the State Fair. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided to bring this item back to the June 2, 2017, Board Meeting with more information and documentation.

Programs Manager Weir reviewed the program updates with the Board and AG Programs Manger Carlson reviewed the agricultural program updates. AGM Shell reported that Commercial Space was full with a waiting list and Concessions were moving forward with reviewing menus and discussing \$2 Taste of the Fair on Wednesdays and Thursdays. DGM Mohr gave a re-cap of un/common's presentation and discussed Community events that would be attended by staff to promote the 2017 Ca. State Fair. CEO Pickering gave an update on the Time Capsule project.

**b. Horse Racing Committee – Director Mallel**

Committee Chair Mallel gave an update on harness racing, on the status of Cal Expo's horse racing application and vanning and stabling.

**Motion:**

A motion was made by Director Hime and seconded by Director DiMare to advance the cause for staff to go ahead and look at the options we have with partnerships in the Mini Satellite Wagering Facilities. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

**c. Innovation, Education, Agricultural, Food & Technology Committee – Director Durfee**

Committee Chair Durfee asked CDGM Martinez to give an update on the Governor's Executive Orders on Sustainability.

**Motion:**

On behalf of this committee, Committee Chair Durfee moved that this body approves the recommendation of the committee to direct staff to continue to pursue implementation of our portion of the Governor's Sustainability program. Moved by Director Barkett and seconded by Director Mallel. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

Committee Chair Durfee reported on updates of the Farm Tours, requesting that if possible during the fall Board Retreat that the Board is

part of a tour. Committee Chair Durfee also reported an updated on the Farm dinners.

- d. Finance Committee – Director Gallagher  
Committee Chair Gallagher reviewed the Financial Reports.

**Motion:**

Committee Chair Gallagher asked for and recommends approval of all financial reports as presented. Moved by Director Durfee and seconded by Director Mallel. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

**8. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- a. Profit & Loss Statement for March 2017
- b. Balance Sheet for March 2017
- c. Accounts Receivable Report
- d. Contracts/Purchases Requiring Board Notification/Approval

**Motion:**

It was moved by Director Hime and seconded by Director Durfee to approve the 2 items on page FA 12. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Review for approval Staff's recommendation of the 2017 Golden Bear Award Recipient
- b. Review for approval Staff's recommendation of the 2017 Agricultural Progress Award Recipient

CEO Pickering reported that the Annual State Fair Committee unanimously recommended approval of Mr. Pete Leesha from DBI to be the Golden Bear Award Recipient and of Mr. Chris Zanobini to be the recipient of the 2017 Agricultural Progress Award.

**Motion:**

It was moved by Director Gallagher and seconded by Director Durfee to approve the Annual State Fair Committee's recommendation to approve Mr. Pete Leesha from DBI to be the Golden Bear Award Recipient and Mr. Chris Zanobini to be the recipient of the 2017 Agricultural Progress Award.

**12. MATTERS OF INFORMATION**

- a. Public Comment on Matters not on the Agenda

- b. CEO Comments  
CEO Pickering reported that the Board update sent out last week was still current. CEO Pickering also reported that he had just returned from the IAFE Mangers Conference in Spokane WA. and is very excited about the State Fair Magazine being ready to hand out at State Fair.
- c. Directors Comments/Agenda Items for Future Meetings  
All Directors thanked staff for all of their hard work.
- d. Next Board Meeting - **June 2, 2017**
- e. Other, if any

### **13. CLOSED SESSION**

Pursuant to Government Code section 11126(e)(1), the Board will meet in closed session. The purpose of the closed session is to confer with and receive legal advice from counsel regarding pending litigation to which California Exposition and State Fair is a party. *Humane Arme, et al. v. California Exposition and State Fair, et al.*, Alameda County Superior Court, Case Number: RG 17849737.

The Board will convene in closed session as authorized by Government Code Section 11126(e)(2)(B) to confer with legal counsel regarding a matter that presents a significant exposure to litigation against California Exposition & State Fair, based on the facts and circumstances."

For purposes of discussing matters of 1) pending litigation, 2) real property negotiations, and 3) personnel matters related to the General Manager under Government Code Section §11126. The Board will meet in Closed Session to confer with and/or receive legal advice from counsel or the represented delegate.

### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

#### **Motion:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Director DiMare and seconded by Director Chong to adjourn into Closed Session. **All in favor, motion carried unanimously.**

The Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.