

Minutes of: 25th District Agricultural Association

Meeting Held on: Tuesday, October 19, 2004

Directors Present: Myrna Abramowicz, Don Carr, Dave Dickson, Paul Dohring, Hope Lugo, Peggy O’Kelly and Greg Rodeno

Directors Absent
And Excused: Paul Battisti and Jim Cathcart

Staff Present: Joseph Anderson and Denise Davis

Others Present: Muriel Fagiani, Jack Hussey and John Salmon

ROLL CALL AND QUORUM CONFIRMATION

President Abramowicz called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m., confirming the presence of a quorum.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Abramowicz called for approval of the agenda, postponing item 6.1.1 Annual Evaluation of the CEO, to the next Board meeting.

Director Rodeno moved approval of the agenda as amended. Director Carr seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Abramowicz opened the floor for public comment.

Muriel Fagiani asked if there was an update on the quilts. Interim CEO Anderson explained that he would report on that later during CEO report.

President Abramowicz extended congratulations on behalf of the Board to John Salmon and Dorothy Lind on their recent wedding.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Director Lugo moved approval of the minutes from September 21, 2004 as corrected. Director O’Kelly seconded the motion. The motion carried.

INFORMATION ITEMS AND PROGRAM REPORTS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee – There was no Executive Committee report at this meeting.

Nominating Committee – Director Lugo reported that the Nominating Committee has been meeting and will present a slate of officers for the 2005 year for the Board to vote on at the next Board meeting. If Board members have input or suggestions, they are encouraged to contact Directors Lugo or Battisti before the next meeting.

Personnel Committee – Director Lugo reported that the Personnel Committee will make their annual evaluation of the CEO at the November Board meeting. Board members have been

mailed individual evaluation forms with their October packets and are encouraged to return them to Director Lugo before November 1st.

Friends Committee – Interim CEO Anderson reported on the recent Friends Board meeting. The Friends were brought up to date on the planning process, the Soscol Corridor planning and recent changes at the Expo facility, including the falling trees and the new Livestock Office and Restroom facility. The Friends Board offered to put up a \$1,000 reward for the remaining missing quilts and will discuss the specifics of the reward at their next meeting. A holiday party for both the Fair Board and the Friends Board is being planned. Rosemary will have the date and place set in the next week or so and notify both Boards. The Friends Board also discussed the qualifications for and making suggestions for new appointments to the Fair Board. The Friends Board will meet again in November.

Livestock Committee – There was no Livestock Committee report at this meeting.

Vice President Dickson asked if there would be a response to the recent letter to the editor in the Napa Valley Register about the Livestock Auction. Interim CEO Anderson explained that the JLAC would be drafting a letter in response.

Buildings and Grounds Committee – There was no Buildings and Grounds Committee report at this meeting.

Finance Committee – Director O’Kelly gave the Finance Committee report, explaining the shortages reflected in the building rental account are due to Napa Valley Charter School rent being delayed while their contract goes through approval at the school district. Some of the expense increases this month include Admin. Employee Benefits, which reflect the increase in PERS from July of this year, as well as the billing for Denise’s benefits now that she has returned to work. The increase in Admin. Other expenses is due to the insurance policy for the Geis wagons being paid in September, rather than October, which is when it was paid in 2003.

The Board asked why we are showing a \$75,000 deficit at this time this year, compared to \$32,000 in the positive in 2003. Business Assistant Davis explained that we are reflecting \$38,000 in Capital projects for the new Livestock Office and Restrooms, which will be transferred to a reimbursable account before the end of the year. In addition, this Capital account also reflects \$12,000 in repairs from the tree limbs that have fallen this year. Finally, we are also reflecting a Prior year expense of \$21,000 for adjustments made to General and Worker’s Comp Liability insurance, which is now reflected on the calendar year instead of the fiscal year.

Interim CEO Anderson also explained that we have lost a bingo game this year, and will be losing another one soon. This is not a rental we can count on like we use to.

President Abramowicz would like to see a committee set up to deal with the future of the rental of the facility with bingo games going under and the loss of the Napa Valley Charter School as a renter in mid-2005. Director Rodeno would like members of the Friends Board included in this committee.

Vice President Dickson asked if there was any progress on the re-development of the RV Park. Interim CEO Anderson explained that the project was turned down for funding by Fairs and Expositions because it was submitted as a phased project. We will re-submit the project in a different format in January and hope that it is approved then.

Director Rodeno moved that the financials be approved. Director Lugo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Real Estate and Development Committee – Vice President Dickson reported on his meeting with Cassandra Walker and Interim CEO Anderson regarding the development of a stakeholders committee on the Soscol Corridor plan. Both Vice President Dickson and Interim CEO Anderson will sit on the stakeholders committee, which will begin meeting in 2005.

Director Lugo asked if the transit center is still in the planning for the Soscol Corridor. Vice President Dickson explained that the funding of the transit center is available with or without the transportation sales tax.

CORRESPONDENCE

Director O'Kelly passed around a thank you note from the exhibitor whose lamb the board purchased at the auction.

NEW BUSINESS

President Abramowicz stated that she and Interim CEO Anderson met with the quilters from the last board meeting to discuss issues for 2005. On that day, two of the quilts were returned to their owners, one in excellent condition and the other in poor but repairable condition. Bars have been installed on the windows in Riesling Hall, and the doors have been replaced. We are exploring a bar-coding system for exhibits next year that will help us control the checking in and out of exhibits in this building. All in all, it was a very positive meeting.

Director Rodeno asked if there was any news on who may have stolen the quilts. Interim CEO Anderson explained that the police are still investigating and keeping hush hush about it, but to our knowledge, the women who had the quilts and the man they say they bought the quilt from off the street have no connection to the Fair.

Vice President Dickson asked if there was any more dissent on the withholding of award ribbons and premiums for those exhibitors who voluntarily removed their exhibits from the Fair. Interim CEO Anderson explained the State's policy on the matter at the meeting and there was no further discussion of the issue.

Muriel Fagiani asked if there was forced entry to the building. Interim CEO Anderson explained that the break-in was through a window in the kitchen of Riesling Hall.

Director Dohring would like to look at a possible Board policy on gun shows on Fairgrounds. If staff could prepare an investigative report/factual analysis of gun shows on fairgrounds facilities for the Board to evaluate and discuss in February of 2005, he would appreciate it.

Director Lugo would like to see a follow up on the Buildings and Grounds committee meeting with the Friends to brainstorm future rental ideas at the February meeting.

FUTURE MEETINGS

President Abramowicz read the list of future meeting dates.

ACTION ITEMS

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar consisted of the following: Rental Agreements #2004-96 through and including #2004-97.

Director Rodeno moved approval of the Consent Calendar. Director Carr seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CEO/MANAGER'S REPORT

Interim CEO Anderson reported on his upcoming surgery, scheduled during the week of November 29th. He anticipates being out of work for just two weeks, and then will work from home, per the Board's suggestion, during the remainder of his recovery.

Interim CEO Anderson reported that today is Business Assistant Davis' last day at work. She will return from maternity leave on the 2nd of January.

Interim CEO Anderson reported that a bid to top the trees in the Plaza stage area is being prepared and will go out before the end of the year. California Fairs Services Authority is meeting this coming Monday on whether or not to combine both of our claims into one. We want them combined into one claim, which will cost us just one \$25,000 deductible. Our insurance company is recommending a settle at cost settlement, which means they will cut us a check for the cost of repair/replacement and we will be able to do with it what we choose.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Rodeno moved to adjourn the meeting of the 25th District Agricultural Association Board of Directors at 2:11 p.m. Director Dohring seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Joseph Anderson, Interim CEO Date

Myrna Abramowicz, President Date