

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING FOR
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE
EL DORADO COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION, INC
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020, 4:00 PM

IN ORDER TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE GUIDANCE REGARDING LARGE GATHERINGS AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE OF CALIFORNIA EXECUTIVE ORDER N-29-20, TO PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE COMMENTS TO THE BOARD, THE BOARD PROVIDED A CALL-IN NUMBER OR JOIN WITH ZOOM.

PRESENT: Whitaker, Forni-Feathers, Carter, Denton, McGuire, Davis, Kobervig, Knight, Witherow, Hunt, Bradley

EXCUSED:

ABSENT:

MANAGER: Jody W. Gray

OTHERS: Brian Veerkamp, Gay Willyard, Tom Lemos, Jason Wilson, Rita Timewell, Paul Zappettini, Kami Arnold, Bob Seeley, Denise Padilla, Cindy Cleveland, Trish Sweeney, Thomas Hinshaw, Kristy, Kathy Dunkak, Heather Watson, Ann McMillan

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Record Verification of Legal Meeting Notice:

Gray authenticated the verification.

QUORUM REQUIREMENTS MET:

Gray determined that the requirements for a quorum were met.

II. APPROVE AGENDA

Whitaker moved that the agenda be approved with moving New Business A – Fair 2020 and Treasurer’s Report B – Worst Case Scenario Predictions Discussion to Old Business B – COVID-19; Davis seconded; motion carried to approve.

III. APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 2020 REGULAR MEETING:

Carter moved that the minutes be approved; Bradley seconded; motion carried to approve.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

Rita Timewell, Imagination Theater, said she was concerned what the schedule would be for Fair to use the Theater and, if it was used, how would the buildings and restrooms be sanitized.

Kami Arnold, Russell Motor Sports, shared that Test and Tune would be held in the Grandstand this weekend. She then stated that the COVID-19 Liability would be signed by each participant, social distancing would be followed and spectators would not be allowed. Arnold closed by saying she would report back on the event at the next meeting.

Gay Willyard asked when the Adopt A Spot people would be allowed to work on their gardens. Gray responded that the Fairgrounds were open Monday – Friday, 8am to 4pm and that the restrooms were closed with the Apple restroom open for emergencies.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

Email from Susie Davies, MORE Workshop, saying MORE was delaying their Comedy Night to April 2021. She included after the weeks and months of this coronavirus situation, school closures, business closures our community will need a celebration and the El Dorado County Fair touches so many lives and brings the entire community together this is the celebration we need and the change to the July 9th-12 date feels much better.

Email from James Sweeney saying he is gravely concerned at holding a fair at this time with this Coronavirus problem.

Letter from Western Fairs Association saying they are pleased by the action taken by California Fair Services Authority’s Board of Directors proposing a financial contribution to Western Fairs Association in response to the fiscal crisis facing the Network of California Fairs. The CFSA’s Board approved a contribution to the advocacy effort in the amount of \$ 25,000.

Letter from Butte County Fair saying they have committed \$ 500 to CFA's 2020 campaign and challenging all Fairs to support the campaign by donating \$ 500 or whatever they are able to.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Acknowledgment of Contracts entered in April 2020.

Denton moved that the Contracts be acknowledged, Bradley seconded; motion carried to approve.

B. COVID-19, Governors Orders and the Fairgrounds.

Gray began by saying she recommends postponing Fair to July 9 – 12 and added contact had been made to entertainers, Department Heads, carnival, admissions and others who can make the change. The swine show and auction would be held online in June. There would be no spectators. FFA and 4H would be in separate rings. There would be a vet check. The auction would begin early and be complete by noon. The minimum bid would be resale value and bids would increase in \$25 increments. The Great Group would be continued to July when the rest of the animals would be shown and sold at Fair.

Gray asked for questions.

Forni-Feathers asked when would the July Fair need to be cancelled to limit loss. Gray responded that most of the upfront had been paid. There would be minimal advertising since word of mouth would be the best advertising. Sound and lighting, entertainers, etc. always get paid upon completion. Gray said she felt cancelling a week or two prior would work.

Carter stated July was too early because of COVID-19. Gray responded an idea for a fall home show/fair had been discussed.

Arnold asked if the John Studebaker Wheelbarrow Races would be held in July, if Fair was postponed. Gray stated she received a letter from Jerry Galloway, Kiwanis, saying in part that Kiwanis could not participate in the Wheelbarrow Races this year until Dr. Williams, County Health Director gives clearance. Gray continued saying she was not going to continue with Fair in June or July unless the County was moved to Stage 4 and she had clearance from the County. Zappettini clarified that the races would go forward if the Fair was given clearance and the County was in Stage 4.

Timewell asked if the Theater needed to be closed in July if Fair was postponed. Gray responded only for a week.

Lemos stated that other Counties allow livestock exhibitors to opt out of selling and asked if that would be an option. Gray responded yes, as long as they opted out prior to the auction.

Kristy, who came into the meeting late, stated that she did not hear the information about the animal sale. Gray recapped.

Kobervig asked about the Open Wine Competition. Gray responded it has been cancelled.

Denton mentioned that the Coleman Rodeo was still moving forward.

Veerkamp stated the if the Fair is postponed to July, locally it would do well, however tourists are a concern.

McGuire stated that what Jody has proposed is reasonable and stated that the Board should proceed with Jody's proposal. Gray stated that she would have staff take temperatures of vendors before they could enter.

Carter stated that based on being in Stage 4, Jody's idea is good. She continued by saying this is fluid, needs approval, and we want to do the best we can for safety and health of all concerned. Exhibitors need to keep in mind this is fluid and can change at any time, depending upon approval. Gray is doing a good job.

Witherow expressed that she thought it was cutting it close because of the timeline moving from one stage to the next.

McGuire moved to authorize moving the Fair to July 9 – 12 and to hold the hog show and sale in June, Davis seconded; motion carried to approve.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request Approval for letter to Bigelow and Dahle requesting help for CA Fairs.

Gray recapped the letter which asked for \$ 300,000,000 for all 76 California Fairs and followed saying she was asking for approval to send a letter from the Association which she would email.

Denton moved that sending the letter from the Association be approved, Bradley seconded; motion carried to approve.

VIII. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Approval of Expenditures for April, 2020.

Witherow moved that the Expenditures for April 2020 be approved, Denton seconded; motion carried to approve.

IX. MANAGER'S REPORT

- Gray began her report by saying the wash rack project is mostly complete. Thank you to Robyn Kelly, Carter Kelly, Veerkamp General Engineering, Junior Livestock Auction Committee and the Heritage Foundation for putting on the lasagna dinner fundraiser.
- Gordon Vicini fixed our broken tractor, which broke again. He loaned us a tractor until our can be fixed.
- Supervisor Veerkamp is a big proponent of the Fair who helped us acquire TOT funds to be used for the RV park and light poles.
- Fairgrounds is now open with the Fair Office open by appointment only. We have been selling compost, which brought in \$ 631 last week. Open Ride is available 9am – 4pm Monday through Friday under a modified program. Dog walkers and Adopt A Spot people are back.
- Gray shared she had time to complete staff evaluations and that McMillan is retiring.
- All Fairs have been asked for a facility assessment for 5 projects. We are asking for funding for upgrading the Forni Building, bathrooms, kitchens so they will be more usable for emergencies.
- We have an idea for a fall Home Show, if other events cannot take place.

X. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Witherow:

Thank you for mentioning the RV park. What is the timeline? Gray answered that funding has not been received from the County, but it is close.

Where are we on the Gate House? McGuire answered, it is just sitting.

Kobervig:

Will we have Mutton Bustin? Hunt answered that we do not have any sheep. Gray suggested that she and Hunt should talk.

Bradley:

Thanked Gray for all she does.

Whitaker:

Compost is nice. Used some yesterday.

Davis:

Thank you to Gray and staff. Tahoe is hurting. Lakeside Inn and Nels Hardware are closing.

McGuire:

Pass.

Carter:

Gray is doing a really good job overall. She is being responsible to our community and is trying to do what we can to discover options instead of cancelling which is why we have guidance. Good job with livestock.

Denton:

Seeing this has been hard on everyone, but we have not thrown in the towel. Good decisions; great job.

Hunt:

Pass

Knight:

Thank you to Gray and staff for a lot of work. Good job.

Forni-Feathers:

When is our next meeting? Gray suggested a tentative date of May 27.

Gray thanked the community who is on the Zoom call.

XI. Adjourn 5:20 PM.

Chris Whitaker, President

Date

Jody W. Gray, CEO

Date