

**The California Mid-State Fair
Heritage Foundation, Inc.
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

May 10, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Torgerson.

BODs Present: Susan Beebe, Dave Belmont, Branden Blanke, Deb Ciprano, Mike Ciprano, Mike Coon, Joanne Cummings, Debbie Dusi, Brenda Fletcher, Daren Friedle, Deana Nelson, Michael Torgerson.

BODs Absent: Patricia Lawrence, John Peschong.

Members/Guests: Steve Baker, Colleen Bojorquez, Deb Cipriano, Mike Cipriano, Bob Cummings, Meg Evans, Chuck Fletcher, Ed Hale, Steve Nakamoto, Vicki Silva, Susie Torgerson, Nancy Wheeler-Nichols.

Approval of Agenda: Branden Blanke made a motion to approve the agenda. Deana Nelson made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Brenda Fletcher made a motion to approve the April minutes. Joanne Cummings made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Announcements/Introductions/Member Comments:

Chairman Torgerson asked the members present to introduce themselves.

CMSF Staff Report: Mike Esser, Maintenance Supervisor for the CMSF introduced himself, shared some information about his family, and informed the group that he attended Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, and graduated with an engineering degree. Mike explained that the maintenance unit was currently made up of 40 employees with up to 150 during the Fair. Currently, they have many projects going, and a lot were due to deferred maintenance over the last several years. Mike ended by telling the Board that he liked his job with CMSF, especially the versatility.

Financial Report:

The Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statements were distributed to the Board for the period ending May 10, 2023.

After some discussion, Darin Friedle made a motion to approve the monthly financial reports as submitted. Mike Coon made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Deana Nelson presented the list of checks written since the last meeting and explained that the \$42.96 was for additional keys being made since the building

Heritage Foundation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2023

was rekeyed. Darin Friedle made a motion to ratify the checks written. Joanne Cummings made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Deana Nelson stated she had one unpaid bill for Margarita Mix which Dave Belmont would address in his concessions report.

Deana Nelson spoke with the Board about the current climate in the banking industry and her concerns over our accounts. The Board discussed the fact that normally we have kept our monies in one bank, it might be time to consider placing our funds in additional banks to keep the individual accounts at no more than \$250,000 to be federally insured. In addition, it was felt that we may want to consider a bigger bank rather than the smaller regional banks. After some discussion, Deana Nelson made a motion to research moving some of the monies to other banks. Darin Friedle made a second to the motion which passed unanimously.

Darin Friedle made an additional motion to authorize the Executive Committee to move the monies after completing the research. Ross Tenhaeff made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Board Business:

A. Standard Committees

1. Budget/Audit/Endowment – Daren Friedle – no report.
2. By-Laws –John Peschong - no report.
3. Concessions – Dave Belmont reported that the invoice for the Margarita Mix was due to the Committee’s decision to pre-buy this mix, as the price was set to go up substantially. Dave indicated Brett Butterfield is currently going over the costs and staffing in preparation for the 2023 Fair.
4. Elections – John Peschong – no report.
5. Facilities – Chuck Fletcher explained to the Board that security working the front door gets baked in the late afternoon and the thought for a solution to this problem was an awning above the door. However, the cost for an awning would range from \$2,400 to \$4,800 and would not really offer much relief as the sun would shine below the awning for a short period of time. After some discussion, the Board determined that it really would not solve the problem. Chuck also informed the Board that when vendors deliver things up the elevator, they often bang the corners of the walls when removing the products. Therefore, Bryson Nerelli made and donated stainless steel edgers to place on the walls to avoid any more damage.
Mike Coon stated he met with Cal Poly regarding the Mission Statement for the wall in the Heritage Lounge. Mike indicated that only a portion of the Mission Statement would be used, and would read as follows: To preserve and enrich the heritage of the 16th District Agricultural Association and showcase agricultural industries to the community; to offer support to the 4-H and FFA projects and create agricultural education opportunities; maintain a standard of excellence in the facilities and create capital improvement opportunities. Brenda Fletcher made a motion to allocate up to \$1,000 for this project. Joanne Cummings made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.
6. Media/Marketing – Susan Beebe has been updating the website.
7. Membership – Brenda Fletcher stated membership closed on May 1, 2023, with 21 memberships not renewed. Notices were sent out from the waitlist and currently, we have 10 new memberships to date, with an additional 11 to fill. Anyone that did not respond will be removed from the waitlist. The pick-up party is July 12, 2023, Savannah Martineau is working

Heritage Foundation Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2023

on a video for that evening. The committee is still determining where and how this video will be viewed by the membership.

8. Balcony – Mike Coon reported that 16 seats came open on the balcony and all have been filled off the waitlist which currently has 57 names on it.
9. Scholarship – Joanne Cummings indicated the Farm Bureau received 13 scholarship applications.

B. Special Committees:

1. Hugh Pitts Memorial Fund Capital Project – Dave Belmont stated that the committee was still waiting on the landscape architect and that the project would probably not be completed by the Fair.
2. Legal Task Force – Dave Belmont – no report.
3. Capital Improvements – Deana Nelson – no report.

Old Business: No Old Business

New Business:

1. CMSF Board Liaison – Nancy Wheeler-Nichols – no report.
2. Fair Update – Colleen Bojorquez CMSF CEO stated staff is busy. Events will be closing down in preparation for the Fair. May 31, 2023, will be the last day to finalize entertainment. Hopefully, the last three grandstand nights will be booked, and the Frontier stage should close soon. Colleen indicated she met with the carnival, and it is going to be big this year, with many new rides. Tables for the wine night were renewed this year online and ticketing for the Heritage members will also be online. Work on Estrella Hall which is a State-funded project is progressing, and hopefully will be completed by the Fair, along with the elevator in the Skybox and a reconfiguration of the front gate. The Sheriff's rodeo will be using the Skybox this year as well as the Heritage Lounge, and they are expecting a sell-out event.

Board Comments: No Board comments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Dusi,
Secretary

*The Next Regular Board Meeting:
Wednesday, June 14, 2023*