

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

November 8, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chairman Torgerson.

BODs Present: Branden Blanke, Mike Coon, Joanne Cummings, Debbie Dusi, Brenda Fletcher, Daren Friedle, Patricia Lawrence, Deana Nelson, John Peschong, Ross Tenhaeff, Michael Torgerson

BODs Absent: Susan Beebe, Dave Belmont

Members/Guests: Steve Baker, Kristina Benson, Ashley Blanke, Deprise Brescia, David Brown, Steve Chambers, Sam Clevenger, Kim Daily, Ken Dewar, Chuck Fletcher, Holly Fletcher, Jason Friedle, Kelli Gonzales, Richard Gonzales, Anna Hahn, Ed Hale, Melissa Horn, Ryan Horn, Marianne Johnson, Randy Lawrence, Lori Marquez, Kaci Mott, Steve Nakamoto, Bridget Neves, Jimmy Nichols, Nancy Nichols, Jeff Parks, Renee Petroff, Bea Santoro, Tim Santoro, Therese Shapero, Michael Silvas, Yolanda Silvas, Dan Teixeira, Paul Tognazzini, Cindy Wilson-Parker

Approval of Agenda: Joanne Cummings made a motion to approve the agenda with the start time change from 6:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Daren Friedle made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: Deana Nelson motioned to approve the October 11, 2023, minutes. Ross Tenhaeff made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Announcements/Introductions/Member Comments:

No Announcements/Introductions/Member Comments

Financial Report:

A. Financials

The Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statements were distributed to the Board for the period ending November 8, 2023.

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

The list of checks written since the last meeting was presented. Daren Friedle made a motion to ratify the checks written. Patricia Lawrence made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

There were no unpaid bills.

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Board Business:

A. Standard Committees

1. Budget/Audit/Endowment – Daren Friedle – no report.
2. By-Laws –John Peschong - no report.
3. Concessions – Michael Torgerson reported that the Concession Committee proposed a pizza and beer concession at the new concession under the Skybox and that the Heritage Foundation was successful in securing the bid. After discussion, Daren Friedle made a motion to allow Dave Belmont to accept and approve the contract for the new concession, and then present it to the Board at the January meeting. Brenda Fletcher made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously. Michael also indicated that the Heritage Foundation has the Cantinas concession which has a bar that is not functioning properly, Mike Esser felt that the Fair could re-design and build a better functioning new bar. Daren Friedle made a motion to allocate \$6,000 for the Fair to rebuild the Cantina Bar. Mike Coon made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously. Michael moved on to the Island Bar and reported to the Board that the Fair does not like the way the northeast side of the Island Bar building looks. Brett and Jay feel we can get rid of that area. It will extend the bar and provide more area for the bartenders. After much discussion, Daren Friedle made a motion to allocate \$20,000 to improve the northeast corner of the Island Bar. Patricia Lawrence made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.
4. Elections – John Peschong – no report.
5. Facilities – Mike Coon indicated that 5 cameras were currently being installed in the lounge.
6. Media/Marketing – Susan Beebe – no report.
7. Membership – Brenda Fletcher reported the current membership is 350, with 92 on the waitlist. Joanne Cumming reported that the 2024 Fair will be the 25th anniversary of the Heritage Foundation, and the Committee is working on ideas for buttons (or something similar) to be given to the membership. Joanne indicated they will be looking for sponsors for this gift to celebrate the 25th anniversary.
8. Balcony – Mike Coon stated we have 51 on the wait list.
9. Scholarship – Joanne Cummings – no report.

B. Special Committees:

1. Hugh Pitts Memorial Fund Capital Project – Dave Belmont – no report.
2. Legal Task Force – Dave Belmont – no report.
3. Capital Improvements – Deana Nelson reported that the Committee is looking into replacing the beef barn. This idea would need to be taken to the Fair Board Facilities Committee and then to the Fair Board. Mike Coon indicated he would like to discuss the extension of the lounge. Deana further reported that the Fair has asked for assistance for 2 projects in 2024. These projects are The CMSF office computers, both hardware and software, with a quote of \$45,191, and the CMSF front wooden gates which are currently rotten. The idea is a phased project, the first to continue the black rot iron fencing between the two ticket booths. The Fair reached out to one company (that had initially done a portion of the black rot iron fencing). The quote received was between \$64,000-\$80,000 depending on the gate system (sliding, multiple sliding, pedestrian-only, one large gate, etc). After some discussion, Brenda Fletcher made a motion to add Daren Friedle and Ross Tenhaeff to the Capital Improvement Committee. Mike Coon made a second to the motion, which passed unanimously. In addition, the Capital Improvement Committee will meet and bring back a recommendation to the Board at the January meeting.

Old Business:

No old business.

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New Business:

- A. Western Fair Association - Brenda Fletcher indicated she would once again like to attend the 2024 conference. Brenda stated that the cut-off date for registration was December 14, 2023. Cost will be approximately \$979 per person. After some discussion, Mike Coon made a motion to allocate up to \$1,100 per person for a total of 3 Board members to attend. John Peschong made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.
- B. CMSF Board of Director Liaison Update – Nancy Nichols announced April 5, 2024, will be the date for CMSF Annual Dinner. Planning is underway, and there should be lots of fun this year. This is the 78th Fair and the theme is “Wide Open Spaces.”
- C. Fair Update – Kim Daily reported that the “Save the Date” email should be sent out soon, to be followed by formal invitations which will be sent out via US Mail. In addition, Kim stated that the Fair was very excited about the new concession.

Board Comments:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Debbie Dusi
Secretary

***The Next Regular Board Meeting:
January 10, 2024***