

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

January 8, 2025

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

BODs Present: Susan Beebe, Dave Belmont, Mike Coon, JD Cronin, Joanne Cummings, Debbie Dusi, Brenda Fletcher, Daren Friedle, Kaci Marcotte, Deana Nelson, Justin Perino, Ross Tenhaeff, Michael Torgerson

BODs Absent: John Peschong

Members/Guests: Steve Baker, Colleen Boroquez, Deb Cipriano, Michael Cipriano, K-C Cronin, Chuck Fletcher, Ed Hale, Thomas Humphrey, Michael Marcotte, Kim Mott, Steven Nakamoto, Susie Torgerson, Nancy Wheeler-Nichols

Approval of Agenda: Daren Friedle made a motion to approve the agenda as corrected. Mike Coon made a second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Swearing-In of Newly Elected Board of Directors:
Michael Torgerson swore in Kaci Marcotte and Justin Perino.

Election of Officers: Dave Belmont announced the proposed Slate of Officers for 2025 as follows: Michael Torgerson, Chairman, Ross Tenhaeff, Vice-Chairman, Debbie Dusi, Secretary, Deana Nelson, Chief Financial Officer. Dave Belmont asked if there were any additions to the Slate of Officers for 2025. There were no additions. Dave Belmont motioned to approve the Slate of Officers for 2025. Mike Coon made a second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Appointment to the Board of Directors:
Michael Torgerson reported to the Board that the election in November was extremely close. Michael explained that after discussions at the Executive Officers' meeting, the Officers agreed to recommend to the Board that JD Cronin be appointed to the Board of Directors for a four-year term, per the bylaws. Daren Friedle made a motion to appoint JD Cronin to the Board of Directors. Brenda Fletcher made a second to the motion, which passed unanimously. Chairman Torgerson swore in JD Cronin.

Appointment of Assistant Secretary:
Chairman Torgerson reported that the Executive Officers are recommending the appointment of an Assistant Secretary. Michael explained that with the volume of secretarial duties, this would be a big benefit to the Board. Daren Friedle made a motion to appoint Kaci Marcotte as Assistant Secretary. Joanne Cummings made a second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes from the Annual Membership Meeting on November 13, 2024:
Joanne Cummings made a motion to approve the minutes of the Annual Membership Meeting on November 13, 2024, as corrected. Ross Tenhaeff made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting on November 13, 2024:

Joanne Cummings made a motion to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on November 13, 2024, as corrected. Daren Friedle made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Announcements/Introductions/Member Comments:

Chairman Torgerson asked the guests to introduce themselves and indicated this was the time for questions regarding items not on the agenda.

Financial Report:

The Balance Sheet through December 31, 2024, and the Profit & Loss Comparison Statement from January through December 2024 were distributed to the Board.

Deana Nelson reported we received \$60,000 of 2025 membership pledges during 2024. Daren Friedle made a motion to approve the monthly financial reports as submitted. Joanne Cummings made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Deana Nelson presented the list of checks written since the last meeting. Deana stated the check for \$65,000 was for the front gate and that \$20,000 had been donated anonymously to be used for educational classes conducted by the CMSF. Daren Friedle made a motion to ratify the checks written. Joanne Cummings made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Deana Nelson indicated there were no unpaid bills.

Board Business:

A. Appointment of Committee Members for 2025

The list of proposed Committees and Members was presented to the Board. Ross Tenhaeff made a motion to adopt the list as presented. Justin Perino made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

B Standard Committees

1. Budget/Audit/Endowment – Daren Friedle – no report.
2. By-Laws – John Peschong - no report.
3. Concessions – Dave Belmont indicated the Committee had its final Fair wrap-up meeting. Dave also informed the Board that the Committee had been approached by the Fair regarding a multi-year contract at the Silo. Dave indicated that keg prices may be going up next year, but everything else should remain the same. Dave Belmont made a motion to work with the Fair on a multi-year contract at the Silo. Mike Coon made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.
4. Elections – John Peschong – no report.
5. Facilities – Ross Tenhaeff stated the Board would be receiving another bid for additional upgrades to the heating/air conditioning in the lounge. Ross also suggested that the Board look at replacing the flooring this year. Chuck Fletcher indicated the elevator inspection is coming up. Chuck also stated we received the go-ahead from P.G.&E. for the proposed barn. P.G.&E. stated that the 3 large transformers would not affect the footings.
6. Media/Marketing – Susan Beebe – no report.
7. Membership – Brenda Fletcher reported 39 memberships had been renewed. Brenda confirmed the due date for pledges is April 1, 2025, and the Membership Committee will be sending out reminder notices.
8. Balcony – Mike Coon stated that there were still 62 names on the waitlist.

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9. Scholarships – Joanne Cummings confirmed ticket prices for the crab feed would be \$100 per person, with tickets available on January 22, 2025.

C. 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 – no report.

Old Business: No Old Business

New Business:

1. CMSF Board Liaison – Nancy Wheeler-Nichols indicated she would turn the floor over to Colleen Boroquez.
2. Fair Update – Colleen Boroquez, CMSF CEO reported that the event center was very busy with horse events and that entertainment announcements should begin around February 1st. Colleen reminded the Board of the Fair dinner on April 4, 2025, and stated it would be held indoors this year. This year's theme for the Fair is “Off to the Races”. Colleen announced that Dave Belmont was voted to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. As previously reported, an anonymous donor contributed \$20,000 which Tisha Tucker will use for classes to encourage more exhibit participation. These will be hands-on classes, and a \$5.00 donation is requested.

Board Comments:

Justin Perino indicated he was happy to be a part of the Heritage Foundation Board of Directors.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Dusi,
Secretary

***The Next Regular Board Meeting:
Wednesday, February 12, 2025***