

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

April 9, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 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, John Peschong, Ross Tenhaeff, Michael Torgerson

BODs Absent:

Members/Guests: Colleen Bojorquez, Deb Cipriano, Michael Cipriano, Jason Diefenderfer, Chuck Fletcher, Brian Harms, Thomas Humphrey, Lori Marquez, Nancy Nichols, Mary Pat Reilly, Gretchen Roddick

Approval of Agenda: Daren Friedle made a motion to approve the agenda. Joanne Cummings made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: JD Cronin moved to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2025, meeting. Mike Coon seconded 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 and profit and loss statement through April 9, 2025, were distributed to the Board.

Deana Nelson reported that the current balance on the balance sheet was over \$2 million in assets. After some discussion, Daren Friedle made a motion to approve the monthly financial report as presented. Brenda Fletcher seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Deana Nelson presented the list of checks written since the last meeting and indicated the check to Hall Hieatt Connely & Bowen LLP was for phone consultations regarding the lawsuit. Dave Belmont made a motion to ratify the checks written. Joanne Cummings made a second to the motion, which passed unanimously.

Deana Nelson stated there were no unpaid bills of which she was aware.

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Board Business:

A. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee - Michael Torgerson stated that the executive committee met and discussed reviewing the bylaws and the Ag West Stewardship Grant. Michael indicated this was not going to be an entire overhaul of the bylaws, as was previously done.
2. Budget/Audit/Endowment – no report.
3. Bylaws –Debbie Dusi reported she would contact the bylaws committee to set up a meeting. Debbie Dusi made a motion to appoint Ross Tenhaeff to the bylaws committee. John Peschong seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
4. Concessions – Dave Belmont indicated the committee would be meeting on April 17, 2025, in the Heritage Lounge.
5. Elections – Deana Nelson - no report.
6. Facilities – Ross Tenhaeff reported that the committee would be having a meeting before the next monthly board meeting. Ross also informed the board that the sound system was not working, and the ice machine needs to be serviced.
7. Media/Marketing – Susan Beebe- no report.
8. Membership—Brenda Fletcher stated that seven memberships did not renew. The membership committee sent out 3 letters (the first 3 on the waitlist). Two out of the three have already joined. They will continue to work off the waitlist until all the memberships are filled. Brenda reported that the membership committee met on March 31, 2025, to discuss the concert tickets. A majority of the committee felt the process for concert tickets should remain the same. All concert tickets will be available for printing and downloading, including the balcony seat tickets by the membership.
9. Balcony – Mike Coon reported four balcony seats were not renewed and filled with the first two names on the waitlist. Mike will also be pricing the covers for the chairs, as many have been destroyed due to the weather.
10. Scholarships – Joanne Cummings – no report.

B. Special Committee Reports:

1. Hugh Pitts Memorial Fund Capital Project – Dave Belmont indicated the fair would like a new gate on 24th Street. The Hugh Pitts family logo or brand would be placed on the gate. The Heritage Foundation's role would be to raise the additional funds, then turn that over to the Fair to work with the City to construct the gate.
2. Legal Task Force – Dave Belmont – no report.
3. Capital Improvements – Deana Nelson presented a Funding Request List from the CMSF and reported that the Capital Improvements Committee met on April 2, 2025. Deana explained to the board that we had applied for monies from the Ag West Stewardship Grant, but that the committee was recommending to the board that the Heritage Foundation fund this project, even if monies from the grant are not received. After some discussion, Deana Nelson made a motion to approve this funding request from CMSF for a total of \$55,000. John Peschong made a second to the motion, which passed unanimously.
4. Barn – Daren Friedle indicated he had spoken with Colleen Boroquez CMSF CEO, and the committee would be meeting the first part of May.

Old Business:

1. Ag West Stewardess Grant Update – Ross Tenhaeff indicated the grant had been submitted. It will be voted on in May and go to the Ag West Board in June for approval.

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New Business:

1. CMSFHF Strategic Plan – Justin Perino discussed with the board the importance of a five-year strategic plan. Justin explained the process and indicated that it should start with a committee and then proceed to board workshops. After some discussion, Kaci Marcotte made a motion to create a CMSFHF Strategic Committee. Deana Nelson made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously. Ross Tenhaeff made a motion to appoint Justin Perino Chair of the Strategic Plan Committee. Dave Belmont made the second to the motion, which passed unanimously.
2. CMSF Board Liaison – Nancy Wheeler-Nichols indicated the annual dinner was a good event, and staff is working hard on events and preparing for the fair.
3. Fair Update – Colleen Boroquez reported the annual dinner was well attended. The office staff is very busy, entertainment announcements should be coming out on the next two Mondays. Kim Daily has a meeting with Ticketmaster tomorrow to go over ticket details. Tickets should be available near the end of June.

Board Comments:

Michael Torgerson congratulated Dave Belmont for being inducted into the Hall of Fame and Brenda Fletcher for being the Heritage Member of the Year.

John Peschong stated that there are 98 days until the fair, and next year will be the 80th anniversary.

Kaci Mott explained to the board the organization Must Charities, and this organization may be a nice fit for the Heritage Foundation

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

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Dusi,
Secretary

***The Next Regular Board Meeting:
Wednesday, May 14, 2025***