



Minutes

State Fair Commission Regular Meeting  
November 28, 2022

African American Performing Arts Center  
300 San Pedro NE – NM State Fairgrounds  
Albuquerque, NM  
11:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Call to Order- Chairman Serna called the meeting to order at 11:08 AM

Roll Call- Michele Clement called the roll.

The following Commissioners were present:

Chairman Eric Serna  
Secretary/Treasurer Benny Roybal  
Commissioner Carol Cloer  
Commissioner Larry Chavez, Sr.

The following staff were present:

Joseph Holloway, Deputy Manager  
Karen Giles-Sena, HR/Risk Management Bureau Chief  
Michele Clement, Procurement Assistant  
Caleb Holloway, Media Assistant

Pledge of Allegiance- the pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Cloer.

New Mexico State Flag Pledge- the New Mexico State Flag pledge was led by Commissioner Cloer.

Introduction of Guests- The following guests were introduced:

Mariah Wilson, President Arabian Horse Show Association of New Mexico  
Members of other Horse Associations were recognized by Mrs. Wilson:  
Brittany Sonntag- NMPHC & 4-H  
Casey Wood- PPH  
Ron Morris- NMPHC  
Marilyn Novat- PtHANM  
Shannon Romero- NMQHA  
Kim Fay- RGMDA

Approval of Agenda- the agenda was approved on a motion from Commissioner Chavez, seconded by Commissioner Roybal, all voted in the affirmative.

Approval of Minutes of June 5, 2022 Regular Meeting- the minutes from the June 5, 2022 regular meeting were approved on a motion from Commissioner Roybal, seconded by Commissioner Cloer, all voted in the affirmative.

Public Comment-

Mariah Wilson, President Arabian Horse Show Association of New Mexico gave a presentation regarding the 2022 New Mexico State Fair Horse Shows. Mrs. Wilson gave each Commissioner a binder of exhibits to coordinate with her presentation. Mrs. Wilson stated that she was at the Commission meeting as a representative of the Arabian Horse Show Association of New Mexico and added that she has been an exhibitor at the New Mexico State Fair for over twenty-six years.

Mrs. Wilson stated that she has done a lot of networking with the other horse breeds/associations, and everyone is in agreement that there has been a decline in the New Mexico State Fair Horse Shows. Mrs. Wilson added that she and others who were not present were there not to complain, but to outline some concerns about the management of the New Mexico Horse Shows.

Mrs. Wilson began her presentation by reviewing a timeline of her involvement in the New Mexico State Fair Arabian Horse Show along with providing correspondence between herself and the New Mexico State Fair Horse Show Manager, Carolyn Dobbins.

April 2022, Mr. Dale Chavez had spoken with Mrs. Wilson regarding rebuilding and growing the Arabian Horse show during the State Fair.

Ms. Wilson, as President of the AHANM called an Emergency Zoom Board meeting to discuss the idea of shifting the club's efforts from the AHANM Fall show to the State Fair Arabian Horse Show. The Board agreed to this request and the Fall Show was cancelled. The plan was to put all resources into a partnership with the Fair management.

Exhibit # 1- June 26, 2022 Mrs. Wilson stated that this exhibit was a proposal presented to Expo NM management regarding AHANM's involvement in the New Mexico State Fair Arabian Horse Show in order to grow and enhance the show. Mrs. Wilson stated that the initial proposal included a request for \$20,000.00 in additional prize money as suggested by Dale Chavez.

Exhibit #2- July 1, 2022 Mrs. Wilson stated that this exhibit was the response from Ms. Dobbins after a discussion with Expo NM management regarding Mrs. Wilson's proposal mentioned in Exhibit #1. Mrs. Wilson added that she received this correspondence after she contacted the Governor's office when she did not receive a response to her proposal. Mrs. Wilson stated that the response from the Fair included a reduction in half of the additional prize money from the initial request of \$20,000.00 to \$10,000.00. It also included a refusal to pay for certain positions such as an EMT. Mrs. Wilson added that the proposal response also includes a reprimand from Ms. Dobbins about the letters that Mrs. Wilson had sent to the Governor's office because she was not getting a response to her proposal in a timely manner.

Chairman Serna asked for clarification regarding the reprimanded Mrs. Wilson mentioned? Mrs. Wilson stated that the reprimand was from Ms. Dobbins in the email indicated in Exhibit #2 in the highlighted area.

Exhibit #3- July 5, 2022- Mrs. Wilson stated that this was an email exchange between herself and Ms. Dobbins regarding volunteer scheduling which was met with disregard and condescension from Ms. Dobbins.

Exhibit #4- Mrs. Wilson stated that this exhibit is a promotional page which was created by AHANM and which was used by the Club to promote and market the entire Arabian Horse Show, September 9-11, 2022. Mrs. Wilson added that this promotional page was not included in the New Mexico State Fair Horse Show Premium book.

Exhibit #5- Mrs. Wilson provided the Commission with a schedule of classes for New Mexico State Fair Arabian Horse Show- September 9,10,11, 2022.

Exhibit #6- Mrs. Wilson provided the Commission with a list of prize money (provided by the New Mexico State Fair) payout allocations in the amount of \$10,000.00.

Exhibit #7- Mrs. Wilson provided the Commission with a schedule of other required fees from exhibitors entered into the New Mexico State Fair Arabian Horse Show.

Exhibit #8- Mrs. Wilson provided the Commission with a list of the Judges hired for New Mexico State Fair Arabian Horse Show and added that all of the judges were from out of state even though there are qualified judges in New Mexico.

Exhibit #10-Mrs. Wilson provided the Commission with a proposed volunteer schedule created by a member of the AHANM. Mrs. Wilson added that Carolyn Dobbins did not utilize the volunteers or the volunteer schedule provided.

Mrs. Wilson also added that AHANM brought all of their equipment for the New Mexico State Fair Arabian shows and that the Hunter Jumper group created the courses.

Mrs. Wilson stated that after all of the hard work and effort that AHANM had done, the Horse Show Manager only had to cut and paste the information provided into the premium book and take entries. Mrs. Wilson stated that in exchange for all of the work the Association had done, it was agreed that the Association would receive \$10/per class/per horse and an additional equipment fee if used by the exhibitor.

Mrs. Wilson added that it was her intention and understanding that the additional fee was to be included in the fee schedule, not to be in addition to those class fees. Mrs. Wilson stated that this did not go as she had anticipated. Mrs. Wilson added that in addition to there being the additional association fee, the Horse Show Manager, Ms. Dobbins and her staff did not properly

charge and collect this fee from all exhibitors entered into the New Mexico State Fair Arabian Horse Show.

Mrs. Wilson stated that according to her calculations AHANM is owed \$2540.00 from what should have been collected for the AHANM Association fee. Mrs. Wilson stated that part of the reason the AHANM agreed to take this show on and lose their Fall show was the confidence she had in the numbers that her proposed show format and the assistance from the Association would produce. Ms. Wilson added that in addition to all of the effort put forth by the Association the AHANM Board passed a motion to approve the expenditure of \$2000.00 of club funds to cover positions that were necessary for this type of show to run properly, that the Fair refused to pay for.

Exhibit #11- July 12, 2022- AHANM Board meeting minutes. Mrs. Wilson stated that on page two of the minutes of the AHANM Board meeting it was stated that the Association would act as sponsors of the New Mexico State Fair Arabian Horse show and not hosts. Mrs. Wilson added that on page three of the AHANM Board meeting minutes Mrs. Wilson made a motion to dedicate \$2000.00 to support the New Mexico State Fair Arabian Horse Show to cover paid Association positions, sponsors, and prize money. Mrs. Wilson stated that the Association sent out checks the week after the horse show as planned and the Association has not been paid for their contribution to the show as agreed.

Mrs. Wilson stated that the New Mexico State Fair Arabian Horse Show had Eighty (80) horses enter with 497 class entries over the three-day show. Mrs. Wilson stated that this is the largest attendance at the New Mexico State Fair Arabian Horse Show in a decade. Mrs. Wilson stated that the AHANM was asked to produce and that is what they did.

Mrs. Wilson added that in addition to the binder that was provided to the Commissioners, she has a file with 189 pages of class entries which include all the results. Mrs. Wilson stated that she would be happy to provide the Commissioners this additional information if they would like her to. Mrs. Wilson also added that there were 53 equipment usage fees.

Mrs. Wilson stated that according to her calculations AHANM was due a total of \$5500.00 in fees. Mrs. Wilson stated that only \$2960.00 was collected, leaving an outstanding balance of \$2540.00.

Mrs. Wilson stated that she also has a file of the Association Fee Forms that she feels are incorrect because the Show office staff did not collect the correct amount(s) from those exhibitors. Mrs. Wilson stated that she could have this information available for Commissioners as well if they would like. Mrs. Wilson added that it is a shame that the Horse Show management did not fulfill the commitments made to the Association.

Exhibit #12- September 14, 2022- Mrs. Wilson stated that this was an email that she sent to Dan Mourning and Antoinette Kulinna after the New Mexico State Fair Arabian Horse show

explaining that the AHANM as owed \$2020.00 from the uncollected fees. Mrs. Wilson added that this email included a confirmation of the agreed terms that the Association was to be paid.

Exhibit #13- September 15, 2022- Mrs. Wilson stated that this was a follow up email to Dan Mourning and Antoinette Kulinna with information about the July AHANM Board meeting minutes and requesting resolution and/or communication from Expo NM management. Mrs. Wilson stated that she did not get a response to this email.

Exhibit #14- September 15, 2022- Email response from Antoinette to Exhibit #12 email which stated that she would be in touch. Mrs. Wilson stated that she followed up with a call September 30, 2022 to Ms. Kulinna and has not gotten a response or resolution since that time.

Mrs. Wilson continued her presentation by outlining some issues that she feels need to be addressed.

Mrs. Wilson stated that the New Mexico State Fair Horse Show is managed by out of state management company, the company is Southwest Show management owned by Carolyn Dobbins. Mrs. Wilson stated that Ms. Dobbins is the only point of contact for the New Mexico State Fair Horse shows and added that this is the most incompetence she has experienced from a Horse Show Management company in all of her years of participating in horse shows.

Exhibit #15- July 2, 2022- Mrs. Wilson stated that this exhibit is an email that she sent to Ms. Dobbins which outlines Guidelines (11 pages) and requirements for an AHA Show. Mrs. Wilson stated that this email included very detailed information but does not think that any of the information was considered or implemented. Mrs. Wilson added that deadlines were missed by Ms. Dobbins which may result in fines for the New Mexico State Fair.

Exhibit #16- Mrs. Wilson stated that this was the wrong form for Arabian Horse Show entries and she had to completely re-do the entry forms so that they would be recognized by the AHA after the show was over.

Exhibit #17- Mrs. Wilson stated that this exhibit was an example of the correct form which is used by the Association. Mrs. Wilson added that the online entry form, which was sent only to SW Show management, caused confusion.

Exhibit #18- Mrs. Wilson stated that this exhibit is a show recognition application form which should have been sent in July. This form was not properly applied for and the premium submissions were not sent until 2 days before the show. The deadline is usually no later than 30 days before the show. This form should have been reviewed before publication for recognition in order to make the results valid. The New Mexico State Fair may get fined for this also.

Mrs. Wilson continued her presentation by stating that the Horse Show Management was negligent by not providing a stall chart or contact information which caused conflict between exhibitors.

Mrs. Wilson also added that the Horse Show Management did not check Health Certificates of Coggins.

Mrs. Wilson stated that the Horse Show office was frequently un-attended during show hours and closed early on Mondays.

Mrs. Wilson stated that no New Mexico State Fair Horse Show applications will be accepted by the Arabian Horse Association in the future if this Horse Show Management companies name is on the application.

Exhibit #19- June 23, 2022- Mrs. Wilson stated that this exhibit was an email from Carolyn Dobbins refusing to have any reasonable conversation.

Exhibit #20- June 24, 2022- Mrs. Wilson stated that this exhibit was an email to Antoinette Kulinna for which she did not receive a response.

Exhibit #21- June 28, 2022- Mrs. Wilson stated that this was a follow up email to Antoinette Kulinna inquiring about Fair management response to the proposal from AHANM.

Exhibit#22- June 30, 2022- Mrs. Wilson stated that this exhibit as an email to Antoinette Kulinna requesting a meeting.

Exhibit #23- June 30, 2022- Mrs. Wilson stated that after telling Dale Chavez she would no longer be able to be a part of this show because no one was willing to work with her she received an email from Carolyn Dobbins- asking if she needed to talk. Mrs. Wilson stated that this exhibit was her mail response to Ms. Dobbins.

Exhibit #24- Mrs. Wilson stated that this exhibit was an example of an automated response from Ms. Dobbins.

Mrs. Wilson stated that this example of the lack of consideration and communication was the reason the other Horse groups don't step up to help the Fair. Mrs. Wilson stated that this Horse Show Manager was nothing more than an ineffective filter to whoever can actually make the decisions in this process.

Mrs. Wilson continued her presentation with several additional exhibits that showed the lack of coordination and cooperation from Ms. Dobbins.

Exhibit #25- Mrs. Wilson stated that this exhibit was page six from premium book. Mrs. Wilson stated that these rule changes made at the last-minute adversely affected riders.

Exhibit #26- Association Fee Form. Mrs. Wilson stated that Ms. Dobbins had created this form but did not follow through with collecting these fees which has resulted in AHANM being owed the additional money mentioned earlier.

Mrs. Wilson stated that the results from the New Mexico State Fair Arabian Horse show should be posted within 15 days after the conclusion of the show. Mrs. Wilson added that as of today, those results have not been posted which may result in another fine for the New Mexico State Fair.

Mrs. Wilson stated that no recorded results for the 2021 New Mexico State Fair Horse show were posted until August 2022.

Exhibit #27- Mrs. Wilson stated that this is a current active web page on the New Mexico State Fair Horse Show page with inaccurate information from 2021.

Exhibit #28- Mrs. Wilson stated that this exhibit shows the January 2022 date that Ms. Dobbins sent the email with the NMSF Arabian High Point and Payouts attachment.

Exhibit #29- Mrs. Wilson stated that this exhibit shows 2021 results that were not done in the proper way and the information is not correct. Mrs. Wilson added that she will have to fix this information on behalf of her clients.

Exhibit #30- Mrs. Wilson stated that this exhibit outlines AHA Show Competition Management and Personnel Requirements- there was not an EMT dedicated to the Horse Shows.

Exhibit#31- June 29, 2022- Mrs. Wilson stated that this exhibit is an email from Ms. Dobbins requesting information for the New Mexico State Fair 2021 Arabian Horse Show. Response from Mrs. Wilson included.

Exhibit#33- June 30, 2022- Mrs. Wilson stated that this exhibit was an email from Ms. Dobbins that was very dismissive.

Exhibit #34- July 5, 2022 Mrs. Wilson stated that this exhibit was a confirmation text/email from Dale Chavez asking for New Mexico Arab logo for buckles.

Exhibit #34- September 10, 2022- this is a text from Mrs. Wilson to Dale Chavez asking why Goldmine logo was on buckle for the Arabian show at the Fair. Mrs. Wilson stated that AHANM submitted to have the Arabian club logo on the buckle if possible since the Club was so heavily involved in creating the show format and the financial contribution that the Club gave to its production. Mrs. Wilson stated that Sponsorships and Awards for the New Mexico State Fair

Arabian Horse show are marketing opportunities for AHANM and she felt that they had been denied this opportunity.

Exhibit #35- July 6, 2022- Mrs. Wilson stated that this exhibit was an email exchange between herself and Dale Chavez's staff which includes the Arabian Horse Association logo. Mrs. Wilson stated that she did not know why the Goldmine logo is on the buckle since this is not a Goldmine affiliated show. Mrs. Wilson added that she had asked for list of sponsors from Fair management and had not received it.

Exhibit #37- August 25, 2022- Mrs. Wilson stated that this is an email exchange with Ms. Dobbins regarding the \$10,000.00 additional prize money.

Exhibit#38- Mrs. Wilson stated that this is page three from the premium book listing all of the out of state contractors for the New Mexico State Fair Horse Show. Mrs. Wilson stated that there are local people who are qualified for these positions, and asked why are they not hired. Mrs. Wilson continued by saying that it is obvious that these hires are just favors by Ms. Dobbins.

Mrs. Wilson added that there were 88 + entries for the New Mexico State Fair Arabian Horse Show weekend, but not as many entries in the other horse shows.

Mrs. Wilson stated that there was good news here, she had solutions to the issues she had discussed earlier and she felt there was nowhere to go but up from here.

Mrs. Wilson stated that one of the solutions would be to have a year-round, paid position filled by a person who can network with the other breeds and would be in tune with what the local horsemen want, specifically not someone who is from out of state and incompetent. Mrs. Wilson suggested that this person should start two weeks after the previous Fair, completing an audit of the 2021 and 2022 New Mexico State Fair Horse Shows financials, results and prize money.

Mrs. Wilson thanked the Commissioners for the opportunity to speak to the Commission about the issues she experienced during the 2022 New Mexico State Fair Horse Show.

Mrs. Wilson added that in the binder that she had provided for the Commissioners were letters from exhibitors sharing their concerns about the New Mexico State Fair Horse Show as well as issues with the Premium book which should be reviewed by a committee and be updated and organized.

Chairman Serna stated that he would like to have the additional documents Mrs. Wilson mentioned during her presentation as a part of the record. Mrs. Wilson stated that she could send them via email.

Chairman Serna thanked Mrs. Wilson for her presentation and added that he thought it was very thorough and organized.



Chairman Serna added that he wanted Mrs. Wilson to know that the Commissioners did not know of any of this and appreciated her bringing it to their attention.

Chairman Serna added that he would like Mrs. Wilson to get her recommendations to the Commission which they will evaluate and go from here.

Commissioner Cloer added that she also thought this was a good presentation but stated that there is always another side of the story and asked if Deputy Manager Holloway would like to respond at this time.

Commissioner Cloer added that she knew everyone, both the Fair management and the Horse community, have their hearts in it, but knows that there are some spots that need attention. Commissioner Cloer asked if this was the first time that the AHANM had put on the show at Fair. Mrs. Wilson stated that yes, as a club supporting it, this was the first time.

Commissioner Cloer added that it seems that both sides have not learned to dance together yet. Mrs. Wilson stated that if some issues were not addressed there won't be any dancing again.

Commissioner Cloer added that everyone has to get together and learn to work together. Mrs. Wilson stated that she is willing to share her ideas on how to do it better.

Commissioner Cloer asked if Deputy Manager Holloway had a response at this time.

Deputy Manager Holloway stated that he did not have a response at this time since this is the first time seeing and hearing the information presented by Mrs. Wilson. Mrs. Wilson stated that this was a part of the problem, the lack of communication.

Commissioner Cloer stated that she felt that out of conflict a better solution can be found.

Commissioner Cloer added that she knows the Fair cares about this and wants to find a solution.

Commissioner Cloer then asked if Mrs. Wilson would be interested in taking the position she had proposed in her presentation. Mrs. Wilson stated that she was not interested in taking that position because she has a lot of pretty horses to ride and does not need any more hats but would like to help develop the program. Mrs. Wilson added that the weakest link is Ms. Dobbins and the bottom line would be to get her out of here. Mrs. Wilson added that if Ms. Dobbins is out of the equation she will help.

Commissioner Cloer stated that hiring or not hiring Ms. Dobbins is up to Fair management. Mrs. Wilson stated that she had been able to work with the Fair in relation to issues that had come up during the Arabian Horse shows held during the year.

Deputy Manager Holloway stated that the Fair management and staff are always willing to work to improve the Fair including the horse shows but felt at a disadvantage at this time since no one had seen the packet of information presented by Mrs. Wilson before today.

Deputy Manager Holloway added that Fair management and staff are willing to have dialogue after we have information coming to us so we can start to work on it.

Chairman Serna stated that after hearing this presentation it appears to him that there was an effort made to communicate with Ms. Dobbins and others and Mrs. Wilson got no response. Chairman Serna added that the Commission will fix that.

Commissioner Chavez stated that there seemed to be dialogue with Ms. Dobbins but nothing from Fair management. Mrs. Wilson stated that she got nothing back from Fair management. Commissioner Roybal asked if Mrs. Wilson sent anything directly to Fair manager? Mrs. Wilson stated that she had sent emails directly to Mr. Mourning and got no response.

Commissioner Roybal asked about the comment Mrs. Wilson made about receiving a reprimand about talking to the Governor's office, where did that come from? Mrs. Wilson explained that Exhibit #2- which is an email from Ms. Dobbins shows the reprimand and Mrs. Wilson added that she saw this as a threat and did not take that well. Mrs. Wilson added that she had sent Antoinette Kulinna three emails and got no response to any of them. Mrs. Wilson stated at this time that she is professional but very direct and got no response.

Commissioner Roybal stated that we would like to see detailed recommendations from Mrs. Wilson as to how the New Mexico State Fair Horse show should operate in writing for the record.

Commissioner Roybal asked when the process should start for next year's show. Mrs. Wilson Stated that if there is a horse show held during the New Mexico State Fair in 2023, the first step would be to visit with all of the different horse show breed leaders, find out what they want, maybe include a profit-sharing situation. Mrs. Wilson added that she will put all of this in her proposal.

Chairman Serna stated that he would like to hear from other clubs present at this time but would need to limit their comments to no more than 2 minutes each. Chairman Serna asked that they focus on what we are here to discuss today.

Commissioner Chavez stated that before they hear from the other clubs, he would like to ask a question. Commissioner Chaves asked if the plan for the New Mexico State Fair Arabian Horse Show was supposed to be a three-way arrangement? Was there a contract between the club and promoter and club and the Fair? Mrs. Wilson stated that that was a good question and added that she was not sure what the arrangement was. Mrs. Wilson stated that AHANM came in as sponsor, spent club funds to make sure show went well and the Horse Show manager, this out of state Southwest nonsense, did a terrible job and failed to communicate with anyone.

Commissioner Chavez asked if there were financial expectations of club and Fair? Mrs. Wilson stated that her expectation was that the club would collect fees from the exhibitors entered in the New Mexico State Fair Arabian Horse. Mrs. Wilson stated that this was solely based on performance it was not a set fee.

Commissioner Cloer asked what was the Fair's portion? Mrs. Wilson stated that everything else was to be paid to the Fair and added that she did not know what the amount was as she is not privy to financials. Mrs. Wilson added that the show should have been profitable.

Mrs. Wilson stated that the Fair did not pay the club, the exhibitors paid for club fees. Mrs. Wilson added that according to her, that was not how it was supposed to be structured. Mrs. Wilson stated that the fees paid by exhibitors should have been shared by club and Fair with the Fair getting \$15, and the club getting \$10 from entry fees. Mrs. Wilson added that what did happen was that the Fair got the whole entry fee and charged the exhibitors the extra \$10 dollars the club should have gotten. Mrs. Wilson added that even then the Horse show management staff did not collect from all exhibitors. Mrs. Wilson stated that the club needs to be made whole on what they are owed.

Commissioner Chavez asked about clarification on the fines Mrs. Wilson mentioned during her presentation. Commissioner Chavez asked who will get fined? Mrs. Wilson stated that the Fair will be fined because the Horse Show Manager, Ms. Dobbins, did an incompetent job.

Additional Public Comments:

Kim Fay representative from the Mule and Donkey Association. Ms. Fay stated that the Horse Show Manager is required to know all rules for all shows. The Horse Show manager is responsible for filing all of the proper paperwork for all breeds shows. Ms. Fay worked for the State Fair in the horse hospitality hut for a different Horse show management company who was excellent. Ms. Fay stated that she does not know what Ms. Dobbins gets paid but, in her opinion, whatever she gets paid is too much. Ms. Fay worked with Ms. Dobbins in 2019 and she noticed she was on Facebook the entire time promoting other areas of the Fair and not at the Horse Show office. Ms. Fay stated the if Ms. Dobbins is hired again nobody will come back. Ms. Fay added that she did not show this year but came to support friends who were showing and ended up working hard doing job of the Horse Show manager. Ms. Fay also wanted to mention that no Health and Coggins certificates were checked.

Shannon Burr- Volunteer Coordinator for Arabian Association. Ms. Burr stated that the Arabian Horse Show was poorly organized and the volunteer effort was disregarded. Ms. Burr added that she requested water bottles for the volunteers but was told there were none available so she went out and bought some on her own. Ms. Burr also stated that the staff was very rude to the volunteers. Ms. Burr mentioned that there was no plan in place by the Horse Show manager to address an accident in the arena. Ms. Burr also mentioned that on 9/10/2022 there was a request to "drag" the arena because the footing was awful. Ms. Burr stated that Ms. Dobbins told her the

only way to request that was through an online system and that would take hours to get done. Ms. Burr explained that the person the “drag” the arena did show up but was turned away by the paddock master because of the delay to the show. Ms. Burr stated that there was a rider accident because the footing in the arena was not good. Ms. Burr stated that she had been an EMT at other horse shows and she went to attend the fallen rider. She let Ms. Dobbins know there was a rider down and to call EMT. Ms. Burr continued by saying that the arena was cleared by Mariah and volunteers because the Horse Show manager did not have plan in place to deal with this type of incident. The EMT showed up after 10 minutes and the rider was transported by golf cart not ambulance to the medical area near the Midway. Ms. Burr stated that she agrees with the ideas of a year-round position filled by a person who could coordinate with the other breed associations to talk about needs, schedules and procedures.

Julianne Luzicka- Owner of Heartlane Farms, Hunter Jumper Association. There was not a Hunter Jumper show but was invited by Mrs. Wilson to participate in the New Mexico State Fair Arabian Horse Show. Ms. Luzicka brought 12 clients to the show, none of whom have received the correct prize money. The Hunter Jumper Association brought their own equipment and set up their own course. Ms. Luzicka is the rider who had the accident in arena which resulted in a spinal injury. Ms. Luzicka has experienced loss of revenue and has not able to ride until the other day. Ms. Luzicka stated that if nothing changes with the New Mexico State Fair Horse Shows she will not be back.

Shannon Romero- representative from the Pinto/Paint/Buckskin/Quarter Horse associations which were not included in the 2022 New Mexico State Fair Horse Show. Ms. Romero stated that she has been involved in Fair for 58 years. Ms. Romero added that she has worked with Ms. Dobbins at other shows and she is very disorganized and does not communicate well.

Edward Adler- representative from the NM Quarter Horse Show association which were not included in the 2022 New Mexico State Fair Horse Show. Mr. Adler stated that his association did not know 30-60 days before show that there would not be a Quarter Horse show during the Fair. As with other associations, the Quarter Horse Show Association requires the show must be registered with them at least 120 days before show. Mr. Adler did Show in the All-Breeds Horse Show during the Fair along with 14 other riders. Mr. Adler added that the promotion of horse shows during Fair is non-existent, not in journal, no tv spots, no advertising in regional/national publications either. He shared an idea that he had to get visitors to come to horse shows. He suggested the use of sandwich boards with the schedule to let the public know what was going on in the Arena. Mr. Adler also thought that an exhibition of each breed so that Fair visitors could come and see what each breed can do would help promote the Horse Shows during the Fair. Mr. Adler stated that the All-Breed Shows had to compete with JR Livestock Sale which was held in the Horse Arena this year which meant that they had to use the outdoor arena which did not have good footing either.

Ron Morris- representative of the Palomino/Paint/Pinto associations which were not invited to Fair this year either. Mr. Morris stated that he thinks there needs to be a committee of different

clubs that can meet with Show management to get together to decide what shows are held at Fair. There also needs to be a better effort to draw people into arena to see the horses.

Cornelia Lange- Exhibitor. Ms. Lange stated that the issues brought up earlier by Mrs. Wilson are not a “one-off”, these problems have gone on for years. Ms. Lange stated that she thought the involvement of the AHANM would make thing better but that was not the case. Ms. Lange added that she would like to give more comments to the commission and asked if the Commissioners have email?

Chairman Serna stated that Ms. Lange could coordinate with Deputy Manager Holloway who will facilitate the sharing of any additional comments from Ms. Lange with the Commissioners.

Mr. Wilson- stated he was Mrs. Wilsons’ husband and he has seen her but her heart and sole into this show. Mr. Wilson stated that he has seen the decline of the Horse Shows over the year but knows the Commissioners all have the best interest of the Fair in mind. Mr. Wilson added that it is his hope that Commission can find a way to bring the agriculture, livestock and horse community base back to the Fair. Mr. Wilson added that he had been involved in Rodeo at Fair and other states and one of the biggest issues that he has faced it the traffic during the Fair, it is a big problem for exhibitors and competitors driving big rigs to get onto the fairgrounds during the Annual Event. Mr. Wilson would like to see if that problem can be alleviated for the competitors.

Chairman Serna stated that the Commission and the Governor are committed to making things equitable for all participants in our organization and in our Fair.

Chairman Serna again thanked Mrs. Wilson for her presentation and thanked all who have come to comment. Chairman Serna added that the Fair is about what they all represent as anything else and added that the venues that make money during the Annual Event are important but there are other areas that represent New Mexico as a part of our culture. Chairman Serna added that sometimes those who represent the finest of our culture, often times are not thanked for all of their hard work and the Commission does not always get an opportunity to thank them.

Commissioner Chavez stated that as Commission Cloer had mentioned, there is always another side of the story and he will be interested in hearing that. Commissioner Chavez added that the Horse community if a very important part of the culture and the economy in New Mexico. Commissioner Chavez added that on a personal note he had experienced this firsthand because his company was in the process of recruiting a high level manager, who was considering accepting the offer in part based on participation in horse activities in New Mexico.

Commissioner Cloer stated that the Fair has got to get this right since the Goal is to be #1 State Fair in the country and with this group, she thinks there are a lot of possibilities for improvement.

Chairman Serna stated that the Commission will follow up on this presentation but warned that it will take more than one meeting to come to a resolution. Chairman Serna added that the Commission would welcome any additional comments in writing, which can be sent to Michele Clement, who will provide them to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Cloer asked if the Commission could get a copy of video from Channel 4. The representative from Channel 4 stated that she could provide the contact information to Commissioner Cloer to request a copy of that video.

Chairman Serna called for a five-minute recess so that the representatives from the Horse community who wanted to depart could before moving on to the other business on the agenda.

#### Chairman's Agenda-

##### 1. Commission Committee Reports

- a. Finance Committee Report- No report, comments from Commissioner Chavez regarding the Audit Exit meeting.

Commissioner Chavez stated that he was present at the Audit Exit meeting. There was a 150-page draft report but Commissioner Chavez was a little bit puzzled because the Auditor did not open the report during the meeting, did not discuss any of the report with the exception of a single finding from last year related to Inventory of fixed assets. Commissioner Chavez stated that once the Audit report is approved the Commission need to have a discussion.

Deputy Manager Holloway stated that under state statute the Audit report must remain confidential until it is reviewed by the State Auditor. Deputy Manager Holloway continued by stating that the meeting Commissioner Chavez attended was typical of an audit report for state agencies. Deputy Manager Holloway then stated that the State Auditor reviews the report and once approved the Auditor's office issues an "ok to print". Five days after that "ok to print" the audit becomes a public document and discussion can be had. Deputy Manager Holloway added that the audit report shall be presented by the IPA to a quorum of the Commission at a meeting in accordance with the open meetings act.

Chairman Serna asked if Deputy Manager Holloway had an anticipated time when the report will become a public document. Deputy Manager Holloway indicated that it is often released in January.

Commissioner Roybal asked who the Audit company was.

Deputy Manager Holloway stated that the Audit company is Carr, Riggs & Ingram (CRI).

Chairman Serna asked if Deputy Manager Holloway knew when the Auditor contract gets renewed. Deputy Manager Holloway stated that he did not know but could find out.

- b. Livestock Committee Report- none at this time
- c. Arena and Rodeo Committee Report- none at this time
- d. Entertainment Committee Report- none at this time-

Chairman Serna asked that Commissioner Roybal meet with Sabrina Garza and review the process for contracting entertainers for the Annual Event.

- e. Arts Committee Report- none at this time
- f. Farm and Agriculture Committee Report- Comments from Commissioner Carol Cloer.

Commissioner Cloer stated she was disappointed that more counties did not participate in the 2022 Fair better than they have in the past. Commissioner Cloer added that she knows that the Fair helps with mileage and other costs but added that maybe the Fair could do a promotion, maybe mail a letter to the counties to encourage their participation.

Chairman Serna stated that that was a part of the problem, that a lot of it revolves around money and asked Commissioner Chavez to oversee the distribution of resources and asked that he look at the Agriculture, Livestock and Horse departments to see if there is a lack of resources being devoted to these programs.

Commissioner Chavez stated that it can be determined where the resources are being devoted and then a group or team can determine where those resources should be devoted or not.

Chairman Serna stated that there seems to be a breakdown in communication, an example of that was demonstrated during the presentation by Mrs. Wilson showing that the Horse Show manager did not communicate well.

Commissioner Roybal stated that he thought it goes further than the Horse Show Manager not communicating well and added that from the presentation this morning he thought the statement that Ms. Kulinna did not respond in timely manner was very concerning.

Chairman Serna added that he agreed, Ms. Kulinna not responding in a timely manner is not acceptable.

Deputy Manager Holloway stated that he could not answer the Commissioners concerns about Ms. Kulinna but he knows that there are always two sides to every story.

Commissioner Cloer stated that she can speak on behalf of Ms. Kulinna and said that during the Fair she was very responsive to her requests and needs.

Commissioner Cloer stated that perhaps the NMSU Agriculture Center which has representatives all over state could send information to all the county representatives to let them know that we have concerns about Agriculture presentations during the Fair.

Chairman Serna asked Deputy Manager Holloway to organize a comprehensive report on the issues with the New Mexico State Fair Horse Shows and added that General Manager Mourning should have been here at meeting at least by zoom.

Deputy Manager Holloway stated that the General Manager was traveling at the same time as the commission meeting and therefore was not available even for a Zoom meeting. Deputy Manager Holloway reminded the Chairman that Expo NM staff had requested the meeting be scheduled a week later in order for the General Manager and other staff to be able to attend the meeting.

### State Fair Management Report-

1. Financial Report- no report at this time
2. Contracts- Discussion of handout- Manager's Report
3. Managers' Report-

Deputy Manager Holloway began the manager's report with information about Expo NM Events, Contracts and Capital projects:

#### **A. Expo NM:**

##### On Going Events:

- Weekly / Monday COVID testing will end on November 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Weekly / Tuesday Roadrunner Food Bank disbursement of Food Boxes is being held in the flea market. Roadrunner will conclude food distribution at EXPO in December.

Upcoming Events: November 2022- February 2023

##### November

11/5-11/6/22	No Excuses Barrel Racing Clinic
11/5-11/6/22	NM Bridal & Wedding Expo
11/7-11/23/22	BernCo Sheriffs Officer Academy
11/12-11/13/22	Zia Productions Trailer Roping
11/18/22	Discovery Festival
11/18-11/20/22	SWAT Agility Trial
11/25-11/27/22	Rio Grande Arts & Crafts Fair
11/26-11/27/22	Duke City Classic

##### December

12/1/22	World Aids Day Candlelight Vigil
11/30-12/28/22	Shades of Gray Photo Art Show
11/25/22-1/1/23	Winter Wonderland
12/2-12/4/22	Sandia Dog Obedience Fall Agility
12/9-12/11/22	SWAT/WC Agility Trial
12/10/22	Elite Tuner Car Show

##### January

1/14/23	NM Showdown
1/20-1/22/23	SWAT/WCA/AKC Agility Trial
1/27-1/29/23	American Cornhole League Tourn.
1/28/23	Spirit of Hope
1/28-1/29/23	Southwest Sniffer Dog Training
1/28-1/29/23	JC Team Roping

##### February

2/4-2/5/23	SWAT/NADAC Agility Trial
2/10-2/12/23	Shrine Circus
2/11/23	Gracie Barra CompNet



2/17-2/19/23	NM Outdoor Adventure Show
2/17/23	KnuckleMania III
2/18-2/19/23	The Downs Classic
2/25-2/26/23	Spring ABQ Home Show
2/25-2/26/23	SWAT/WCA/AKC Agility Trial
2/25/23	NM Jr. Wrestling State Championship

Conferences:

- IAFE (International Association Fairs and Expositions)- November 27- November 30, 2022
- WFA (Western Fairs Association)- January 15-18, 2023

RFP/Contracts:

- Carnival Contract RFP: Current RFP expires 11/30/2022, the new RFP will go out early 2023.  
A pre-planning meeting to discuss the Carnival RFP will be scheduled and Antoinette will send out the date and time for the pre-planning meeting to all who are interested in participating.

Chairman Serna asked that Commissioner Roybal and Commissioner Chavez represent the Commission during the pre-planning RFP meeting discussion.

Commissioner Chavez asked for a copy of the RFP.

- Contracts- List provided for Commission of Fiscal Year '23 contracts in the amount of \$20,000.00 or more per request from Chairman Serna.

Commissioner Roybal asked about the Bateman Group contract.

Deputy Manager Holloway stated that that contractor provides guidance and counsel with DFA /GSD contract processes. Mr. Bateman is a CPA, and has worked for DFA. Deputy Manager Holloway added that the since the Fair does not have a dedicated financial analyst, the Bateman Group fills that function.

Commissioner Chavez stated that he would like a list of revenue contracts \$20K+ to include sponsors, carnival, liquor, etc.

Deputy Manager Holloway stated that he will request a list from Mr. Nordin for the Commissioners.

Commissioner Roybal stated that using the same format would be good for the new revenue contract list. Commissioner Roybal stated that this list would be a good start.

Commissioner Chavez added that yes this would be a good start but added that the commission will want to review more contracts in the future.

Deputy Manager Holloway- again extended an invitation to the Commissioners to come and sit down with staff to review any information they would be interested in.

## Capital Projects:

### In process:

- Electrical infrastructure updates to include installing festival lights- on going
- I.T. projects- Expo NM grounds- on going
- Indian Village and Medicine Bow artificial turf – in process
- State Police Station - A remodel - in design phase

### Completed:

- Food Court surface re-design – Completed
- Lujan –B- kitchen remodel – Completed
- Hydrology drain improvement in livestock area along Love Avenue – Completed
- Tingley Coliseum roof painting project- Completed
- New roof on Parking office – Completed
- African American Pavilion fence – Completed
- ADA compliant ramp at south entrance to Dairy Barn – Completed
- ADA compliant ramp west side of Creative arts Building – Completed
- Lujan –A- kitchen remodel - Completed.
- Update on façade west side of creative art building – Completed.

Deputy Manager Holloway continued the manger’s report with highlights from the 2022 Annual Event:

### **B. 2022 New Mexico State Fair:**

- The Final attendance for this year’s Annual event stood at 475,318, making it the third highest attended Fair since going to the 11-day format in 2012.
- This year’s rodeo/concert lineup was one of the best attended. We had three sold-out performances from Martina McBride, Dwight Yoakam, and Sublime with Rome.
- After two years, the livestock shows returned to the State Fair. The number of exhibitors and entries rivaled pre-pandemic numbers. This year, 431 exhibitors returned to the Fair with approximately 2,000 livestock entries. This year’s sale yielded \$610,425 for 4-H and FFA youth. We received countless compliments on this year’s set up and the hard work of our livestock department’s efforts to welcome the kids back for a memorable year.
- Our first year with an official volunteer coordinator turned out to be tremendously successful. In total, we had over 400 volunteers join us at this year’s Fair. Local high schools and UNM’s ROTC were able to use volunteer their volunteer hours to raise money for their clubs.
- The new cannabis exhibit received a lot of favorable press attention and accomplished what we set out to do. Approximately 50,000 people attended the exhibit and the many educational talks provided by Verdes Cannabis.
- As this year’s Feature Fair for the Western Fair Association, the New Mexico State Fair received great feedback from other Fair organizers who visited our Fair. We received

many compliments for our Sensory Station, the Discovering Cannabis exhibit, Theme Days, our cultural villages, and our School Days program. This was an excellent opportunity for us to host other Fair organizers, exchange ideas and become better at what we do at our event.

- The Fair has received several awards from the International Association of Fair and Exhibitions for our 2022 event. We earned the following awards in these categories:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place - TV Commercial
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place - Agriculture - Rodeo photo
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place - First Year Sponsorship
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Unique or Educational Exhibit – Cannabis

Commissioner Roybal asked for the Budget and Capital request for this year.

Commissioner Chavez asked when the last time the Fair had a “park and ride” option.

Deputy Manager Holloway stated that he did not know when the last time the Fair had a “park and ride” program but did know that the City of Albuquerque chose to not to participate this year and the Fair cannot afford a private “park and ride” program.

Commissioner Chavez asked if the people pay for the “park and ride”? Deputy Manager Holloway stated that the program was free. Commissioner Chavez stated that maybe the Fair could charge for park and ride.

Deputy Manager Holloway stated that a discussion with the City of Albuquerque would be necessary about the “park and ride” program but it was his understanding part of the problem was staffing.

Chairman Serna stated that maybe the Commission could meet with Mayor Keller.

Discussion of Meeting Calendar- the next Commission meeting will be held on Monday, January 9, 2023.

Discussion of Agenda Items of Next Meeting- Chairman Serna asked that the Audit Report and Mrs. Wilson be added to the January 9, 2023 agenda.

Adjournment- Chairman Serna called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cloer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Chavez seconded the motion, all voted in the affirmative. The meeting was adjourned at 1:51 PM.