

**New Mexico State Fair Commission Minutes  
Of the Regular Commission Meeting  
Monday, January 6, 2020  
Expo New Mexico  
African American Performing Arts Center  
300 San Pedro Dr. NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87108  
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

**Call to Order** by Chairman Serna at approximately 11:05 a.m.

**Commission Roll Call**

Commissioners present:

Chairman Eric Serna

Secretary/Treasurer Benny Roybal

Commissioner Thomas Spindle

Commissioner Trudy Healy

Commissioner Carol Cloer

Commissioner Danielle Lowry

Commissioner Larry Chavez Sr.

**Staff Present**

Mr. Dan Mourning, General Manager

Ken Salazar, Deputy Manager

Bill Nordin, Chief Financial Officer

Antoinette Kulinna, Procurement Director

Oona Gonzales, Marketing Manager

Larry Trujillo, Security Manager

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Chavez. Chairman Serna asked if the New Mexico pledge could be incorporated at this time during the commission meetings.

**Introduction of Guests**

Commissioner Spindle introduced Frannie Miller, NMSU. Commissioner Spindle stated that Ms. Miller was in attendance to give a presentation during the Livestock committee report.

**Action Item: Approval of Agenda**

Chairman Serna asked for a motion for approval of the agenda. Commissioner Roybal made a motion to approve the agenda, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Spindle. Chairman Serna asked if all were in favor of the agenda, and all voted in the affirmative.

**Action Item: Approval of Minutes of November 4, 2019 Regular Meeting**

Chairman Serna asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2019 regular meeting. Commissioner Lowry made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2019 regular meeting, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Healy. Chairman Serna asked if all were in favor of the minutes, and all voted in the affirmative.

**Public Comment**

None at this time.

### **Annual Open Meetings Resolution\***

Chairman Serna asked for a motion to approve the Annual Open Meetings Resolution. Commissioner Roybal made a motion to approve the Annual Open Meetings Resolution, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Cloer. Chairman Serna asked if all were in favor of the Annual Open Meetings Resolution, and all voted in the affirmative.

### **Election of Officers: Chair, Secretary-Treasurer\***

#### **Chair State Fair Commission:**

Commissioner Serna asked for nominations for Chairman of the State Fair Commission.

Commissioner Roybal made a motion to nominate Commissioner Eric Serna for Chairman of the State Fair Commission, Commissioner Chavez seconded the motion.

Commissioner Lowry made a motion to nominate herself for Chairman of the State Fair Commission.

Commissioner Chavez asked for a second on the motion to nominate Commissioner Lowry for Chairman.

Commissioner Lowry stated that there does not have to be a second on the motion per the election rules provided.

Commissioner Serna asked for a vote on the nomination for Commissioner Lowry for Chairman of the State Fair Commission, one commissioner voted in the affirmative, six voted no.

Commissioner Serna then asked for a vote on the nomination for Eric Serna for Chairman of the State Fair Commission, six commissioners voted in the affirmative, one voted no.

Commissioner Eric Serna was elected Chairman of the State Fair Commission by a vote of six to one.

#### **Secretary-Treasurer State Fair Commission:**

Chairman Serna asked for nominations for Secretary-Treasurer of the State Fair Commission.

Commissioners Spindle made a motion to nominate Commissioner Roybal for Secretary-Treasurer of the State Fair Commission, Commissioner Healy seconded the motion, all voted in the affirmative.

No other nominations were made at this time. Commissioner Benny Roybal was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the State Fair Commission.

### **Chairman's Agenda**

#### **a. Committee Reports**

- i. **Finance Committee Report** – Commissioner Chavez stated that since the commission was relatively new and because of the holiday season, the committee had not had the opportunity to meet. Commissioner Chavez stated that he took the opportunity to obtain the 2018 and 2019 Audit reports and asked for clarification on information in those reports. Mr. Mourning stated that the independent auditor will be giving a full report during the next commission meeting and asked Mr. Bill Nordin to address the concerns of the commission. Mr. Nordin stated that he is available at any time to meet with Commissioner Chavez and the committee members to go into further detail on the financial reports for Expo NM/NM State Fair. Mr. Mourning added that Expo NM/NM State Fair is different from other state agencies and he would suggest that Commissioner Chavez and the committee meet with Bill Nordin and Dupuy Bateman to go into further detail. Chairman Serna stated that the commission would accept the offer of having a more in-depth discussion with staff and the members of the committee.

Commissioner Lowry asked if this discussion could be addressed in a meeting of multiple commission members without conflicting with quorum, or does it have to be held in an open meeting.

Chairman Serna stated that the initial discussion has to be with a limited number of commissioners so as not to violate the open meetings act. Chairman Serna then stated that a full discussion can be held during a regular commission meeting in the future if included on the agenda.

- ii. Livestock Committee Report- Commissioner Spindle stated that the committee had not had the opportunity to meet but would be scheduling a meeting before the next commission meeting. Commissioner Spindle then asked Frannie Miller from NMSU to present to the commission her proposal for a Youth Agricultural Public Speaking and an Agri-science Fair contest. Ms. Miller stated that she had experienced these types of contest while living in Texas. Ms. Miller added that these contests can create participation by interested contestants in areas such as public speaking or Agriculture and natural resource issues. Ms. Miller stated that she is delighted to have the opportunity to partner with the New Mexico State Fair commission and staff.  
Chairman Serna asked how the commission and the State Fair could assist Ms. Miller with this program. Mr. Mourning stated that he thought these programs are amazing and is excited to work with Ms. Miller to see if this is a viable option for the Livestock program for the 2020 Annual Event. Mr. Mourning added that the next step should be to facilitate a meeting with Livestock manager, Beverly Zastrow and other NM State Fair staff and Ms. Miller.
- iii. Arena and Rodeo Committee Report- Commissioner Healy stated that the committee had not had the opportunity to meet. Commissioner Healy added that she had spoken with Mr. Ken Salazar and would like to plan to meet with Rodeo experts during the PRCA Conference in Las Vegas, NV for the 2021 New Mexico State Fair. Commissioner Healy asked if outside experts could be invited to participate in the committee meetings to discuss new ideas to make the Rodeo more exciting and better. Chairman Serna stated that input from experts would be very welcome. Mr. Mourning stated that he agreed, having experts provide their input would be very helpful and Ken Salazar and Sabrina Garza are the best staff members to meet with to coordinate committee meetings with experts, staff and commissioners. Commissioner Healy also stated that she would be interested in meeting with the architect and contractor for the Arena project. Mr. Mourning stated that the Arena study project is with the Governor's office to decide on how to proceed with the study and decide the next steps and so no architect or contractor has been hired.
- iv. Entertainment Committee Report- Commissioner Roybal stated that the committee had not had the opportunity to meet. Commissioner Roybal added that he would like to schedule a meeting before the next commission meeting. Mr. Mourning stated that NM State Fair Staff is currently working with agents and promoters on entertainment for the Annual Event and suggested that Commissioner Roybal could visit with Sabrina Garza to get updates on progress made.
- v. Arts Committee Report – Commissioner Lowry stated that the committee had not had the opportunity to meet. Commissioner Lowry added that she did not know who was on her committee and would like to figure that out after the meeting. Commissioner Lowry stated

that she has met with Connie Elmore and the ladies who manage the Flower Building during the Annual Event. They have agreed to add a professional category in the Flower Building during the State Fair and have begun to research the rules for this category and how to proceed. Commissioner Lowry added that she would also like to meet with staff to discuss the home arts and creative arts department next.

- vi. Farm and Agriculture Committee Report- Commissioner Cloer stated that the committee had not had the opportunity to meet. Commissioner Cloer added that she would like to schedule meetings before the next commission meeting with staff involved in Agriculture during the Annual Event to find out what is done, how they do it, what do they need and what does and doesn't work.

### **State Fair Management Report**

#### **New Mexico State Fair 2020:**

Mr. Mourning began his management report by stating that staff are already working on contracts for entertainment for the 2020 NM State Fair.

Mr. Mourning added that the Media Department has been meeting to discuss a theme for the 2020 State Fair. The committee had discussed one theme which would highlight the movie industry in New Mexico. Mr. Mourning added that since New Mexico has become an attractive location for many movie and TV productions he thought this theme would be fitting.

Mr. Mourning stated that the New Mexico State Fair had won two awards at the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) conference this year. The State Fair received a 2<sup>nd</sup> place Hall of Communications award for the design and execution of our State Fair Beer. Mr. Mourning added that the State Fair also brought home a 3<sup>rd</sup> place Agricultural Award for the Cider Fest hosted inside the Farm on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Mourning added that this year the New Mexico State Fair competed in the same division as some of the country's largest fairs – California State Fair, Ohio State Fair, and the Oklahoma State Fair to name a few. Mr. Mourning added that those fairs hold a lot of prestige in the fair industry and recognition for what the New Mexico State Fair does is proof that the job we do here in New Mexico is among the very best in the business.

Mr. Mourning stated that the 2020 New Mexico State Fair has been chosen as the Western Fairs Association (WFA) "Feature Fair". Representatives from Fairs around the country will be visiting the New Mexico State Fair September 15-17, 2020. Mr. Mourning added that he had spoken with the Governor's office to let them know of the designation and they are very excited about this visit. Mr. Mourning stated that the commission could be very helpful in welcoming the visitors to our Fair and asked for their ideas for showcasing the great state of New Mexico.

Mr. Mourning stated that staff are also working on finalizing contracts for the Spectaculars for the Annual Event which will include returning entertainment like the Sea Lions, Petting Zoo and the American Duck Races. Staff is also working on new entertainment options and Mr. Mourning will provide an updated list to the commission at future commission meetings as it becomes available.

Mr. Mourning stated that NM State Fair will partner with Habitat for Humanity this year for the first time. Mr. Mourning added that Ken Salazar and Oona Gonzales are working with Habitat for Humanity with the goal of building a house during the 2020 Fair. This is a very important project which fits in with the community partnership goals at Expo NM/NM State Fair.

### Expo NM 2020:

Mr. Mourning stated that Expo NM departments are working on several projects around the grounds in preparation for the upcoming Annual Event and to maintain the safety and overall appearance of the grounds throughout the year with capital money recently received. These projects include:

- Flea Market –Paving the parking lot which will be accomplished in three phases.
- Tingley Coliseum –There will be upgrades to lighting on the Arena Floor and upgrades/replacement on all of the exterior doors hardware.
- Lighting in Parking Lots- the Midway and Infield (Gate 8) parking lots will receive upgrades to the lighting.
- Lujan A- will received upgrades to match what has already been done in Lujan B and C to include; lighting, new paint, drop-down electrical, and wainscot.
- African American Pavilion will received upgrades to the interior which will enhance the ability to rent this facility for more diverse events.
- Roofing Projects- will include the Bolack, AAPAC, Youth Hall buildings.
- Upgrades to security: a new fence at Gate 3 and additional cameras at the gates will help to ensure the campus is more safe and secure. Metal Detectors have been added - the state of the art metal detectors are being used at all of our larger events. The detectors are helping our visitors feel safer

Mr. Mourning stated that Expo NM will be busy with many returning Events such as:

- The Custom Automotive Supnationals Show
- NM Game and Fish Outdoor Adventure Show
- Oddities and Curiosities Show
- Rio Grande Arts and Crafts Festival
- Monster Jam- Feld Entertainment
- Southwest Coffee and Chocolate
- Central NM STEM
- Gathering of Nations Pow-Wow
- CNM Graduations
- APS High School Graduations
- State of NM Rapid Hire Event
- Albuquerque PrideFest 2020
- Rt. 66 Street Rod Nationals
- Rio Grande Arts and Crafts Festival
- Gladiator Indoor Football

Mr. Mourning added that in addition to our returning events, there are new events happening at Expo NM such as:

- NM Elite Indoor Arena Soccer
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation 5K/Walk 2020
- Weekly Alibi's Hemp Fiesta

Mr. Mourning stated that Villa Hispana continues to be a popular location for outdoor concerts: It has become the 5<sup>th</sup> most popular small outdoor venue according to Venues Today.

- May- Russ Concert
- Other Concert holds for April-September: Iration, In this Moment, Slightly Stoopid, Dispatch and Head & The Heart.

Mr. Mourning stated that at this time his report was concluded and he is looking forward to the committee meetings and working with the commissioners and staff to move forward on some new ideas and challenges.

Mr. Mourning then opened the floor for questions and comments.

Commissioner Cloer asked if the Habitat for Humanity house would be built on the grounds during the 2020 Fair. Mr. Mourning stated that yes, Habitat will be building the house on the grounds and then move it to its permanent location once that has been decided.

Chairman Serna added that he thought this project had the potential to grow over several year and added that since NM has three congressional districts maybe in the future each of the districts could be represented by a Habitat for Humanity house built at the Fair.

Commissioner Healy asked if anyone from the Fair had approached Meow Wolf to see if they would like to have a presence at the Fair. Mr. Mourning stated that Oona Gonzales had reached out to them in the past and they indicated that because of the commitments they had already made they could not participate during the Annual event. Mr. Mourning added that staff will continue to work with them to see what can happen in the future.

Commissioner Chavez asked about the Ultra Health lawsuit which an article in the newspaper recently had stated had been settled by Risk Management. Mr. Mourning stated that the lawsuit had been settled and added that with the many rule changes since 2016 when this issue began, he was looking forward to what the future may hold for the Fair and the Hemp and Medical Marijuana industries.

#### **Discussion of Meeting Calendar**

Chairman Serna stated that he would like to discuss the schedule for future commission meetings.

Chairman Serna asked how often the commission was required to meet. Mr. Mourning stated that the commission was required to meet annually and added that the prior commission had been meeting quarterly and called for a special meeting when needed and that had worked well.

Commissioner Healy suggested that the commissioners provide their individual schedules to Michele and she can then work with Chairman Serna to create a schedule for upcoming dates for quarterly meetings. Chairman Serna stated that that was a good plan going forward and would let the commission know when the next meeting would be scheduled.

#### **Discussion of agenda items for next meeting**

Chairman Serna stated that if the commissioners had any agenda items that they would like to address at the next commission meeting to please let him know.

#### **Adjournment**

Chairman Serna called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Cloer made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Roybal, with all present voting in favor.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:39 p.m.