



**15<sup>th</sup> District Agricultural Association  
Kern County Fair and Event Center  
Bakersfield, California**

**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting  
Monday, October 19, 2020**

**Call to Order:**

Chairwoman Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM via zoom teleconference.

**Directors Present:**

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Jared Britschgi	X		
Cesar Chavez	X		
Ned Dunphy	X		
Lucas Espericueta	X		
NaTasha Johnson	X		
David Lidgett			X
Blodgie Rodriguez	X		
David Torres	X		

Chairwoman Rodriguez requested a motion to approve the excused absence of Director Lidgett. Motion made by Director Britschgi, seconded by Director Torres. Motion passed by all Directors.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Consent Calendar:**

- a. Review of Minutes of September 21, 2020 regular meeting

Chairwoman Rodriguez requested a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion made by Director Torres, seconded by Director Johnson. Motion passed by all Directors.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Approved (Yes Vote)</u>	<u>Not Approved (No Vote)</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jared Britschgi	X		
Cesar Chavez	X		
Ned Dunphy	X		
Lucas Espericueta	X		
NaTasha Johnson	X		
David Lidgett			
Blodgie Rodriguez	X		
David Torres	X		

### **Committee Reports**

**Finance Committee** - Lucas Espericueta, Chairperson

- a. Review of Financial Report (*Discussion/Action by Board*)
- b. Review of September 2020 Financials (*Discussion/Action by Board*)

The cash position has us sitting at \$492,000, but is comparing apples to oranges, since we would be at the end of fair and this year there was no fair. Total revenue for the month was \$257,000 and expenses were \$237,000. We netted about \$20,000 for the month of September. We are down about \$724,000 for the year because of the fairgrounds being closed and no events.

Chairwoman Rodriguez requested a motion to approve the Financial Report and September's Financials. Motion made by Director Torres, seconded by Director Dunphy. Motion passed by all Directors.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Approved (Yes Vote)</u>	<u>Not Approved (No Vote)</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jared Britschgi	X		
Cesar Chavez	X		
Ned Dunphy	X		
Lucas Espericueta	X		
NaTasha Johnson	X		
David Lidgett			
Blodgie Rodriguez	X		
David Torres	X		

**Livestock Committee** - Jared Britschgi, Chairperson

I am going to pass this off to Dawn so she can speak on the Virtual Show and Auction. As far as our first virtual auction went, I think the virtual livestock show went off great and had no hiccups. Dawn did a great job putting this all together.

a. Virtual Livestock show and Auction Recap

**Dawn** – We had our show and not everyone had to sell, but if they wanted to sell, then they had to be in the show. 265 chose to sell in the auction. I worked with SC on the shows, and they were able to give us a break in the cost of the service. I did more of the class setup and pictures, which helped us out. As far as the auction sales, it wasn't as good as we thought because of COVID and the loss of Buyer 9. We grossed about \$266,000 but with add-ons we added another \$304,000. Which made the auction close to \$570,000. We are usually about 2,000 sale animals and gross sales of about \$2.9 million. In a year like this, we did fairly well. With the number of animals, we are about average per exhibitor. We did have less expenses this year, since it was virtual. On a typical year, there is about 10-12 people working in the department, but this year there were two to three. There was a judge that didn't charge us for his time, others charged us a minimal fee.

**Ned** – Dawn, were there any animals that were in the auction that didn't sell?

**Dawn** – No, actually every animal that was in the auction sold. We also had a very generous supporter that donated to 34 kids and got them to about \$4,000.

**Lucas** – I actually participated and had a few friends over at my house. We had an auction watching party. I was able to buy a couple animals and enjoyed the process of the final minutes with the horse racing style timer.

**Jared** – I agree and I actually bought as well. It was a cool process and I am glad we were able to do this for the kids.

b. Virtual Livestock Committee Meeting

The meeting will be tentatively held Wednesday November 18, 2020 @ 5:00 PM

If there are any questions, comments, concerns, feel free to email the fair to either Dawn or Mike.

c. Cancellation of the Harvest Moon & Holiday Classic Livestock Shows

Due to the restrictions with COVID, the November and December shows will be cancelled.

**Julie Beechinor** – When looking at other areas, why are the counties allowed to show in person, weigh, and leave? The numbers are small compared to the actual fair, why can't we still be able to show in person for a show like the Harvest Moon and Holiday Classic?

**CEO Olcott** – Since the County of Kern has control of the grounds, we had to go through lengthy steps for them to allow us to do just the drop off of the livestock from the auction. The County doesn't want any general public on the grounds since there are COVID patients in the carnival lot. Fresno for instance doesn't have their grounds activated. Fresno had a grading event, but that was allowed because they are not taken over by the county, like we are. Honestly, I think we may even have to cancel the Pacific Coast Show in the spring.

**Facilities Committee** - Cesar Chavez, Chairperson

Nothing to report

**Business Development Committee** - Ned Dunphy, Chairperson

Nothing to report

**KC's Farm Committee** - Ned Dunphy and Lucas Espericueta

Nothing to report

### **Old Business**

No Old Business

### **New Business**

No New Business

### **Next Regular Board Meeting**

Next scheduled board meeting is Monday, November 16, 2020 at 5:00 PM in the Association Office and via zoom meeting.

### **CEO Report**

The fair food drive thru was very successful. We had Rey O'Dey, President of NICA (National Independent Concessionaires Association) drove up from LA to see how it was going. She told me that we were one of the most successful drive-thru in the country.

- In the 20/21 State Budget – May Revise – The governor issued the following statement, **“The Administration plans to engage the Legislature and stakeholders over the course of the next year to develop a thoughtful approach to transition the state’s relationship with fairs, while acknowledging the need to continue supporting property that may be necessary for emergency operations.”**
- While there has not been any further comment regarding transition from the governor’s office that would give us any indication exactly what their intentions are, we have received some direction from the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA).
  - CDFA has directed fairs to go through the layoff process for state employees.
  - The state budget included \$40.3 million to be used specifically for DAA layoffs.
  - CDFA has established an internal committee to discuss and study fair transition.
  - CDFA has requested fairs look at different options for transition and submit all models for the Secretary of Food & Agriculture’s consideration.
- The California Fair’s Alliance, a trade association serving the California Network of Fairs, has established a committee to develop a model(s) that fairs can use if transitioning is requested by the Governor.
- At a recent strategic planning meeting, the board of directors articulated the importance of preserving the Kern County Fair and Event Center as a valuable community asset; one that provides resources and activities that promote social well-being, supports engagement with cultural and educational experiences, and to ensure that the Kern County Fair and Event Center continues to reflect and showcase all aspects of the very fabric and traditions of Kern County families.
- I have been working with our Fair Board Executive Committee to investigate the possible effects that the Governor’s call for transition could have on the Kern County Fair and Event Center.

- In addition, the committee and I will begin to research possible models of governance that include the following parameters.
  - A governance structure that ensures the long-term economic viability of the Kern County Fair and Event Center, to ensure its continued presence and ability to serve as a resource to the Kern County community.
  - A governance structure that allows for local control and the maximum amount of autonomy to operate the Kern County Fair and Event Center.
  - A governance structure that not only allows for but increases the ability of the Kern County Fair and Event Center to offer educational programs that enrich our youth and deepen our ties with our community.
  - A governance structure that allows the Kern County Fair and Event Center to improve and maximize the use of the fairgrounds and its facilities, serving as an economic engine for the area.
  - And Lastly, Enables the Kern County Fair and Event Center to continue to operate in times of emergency in partnership with the state, county, and surrounding communities.
- This model will be submitted to the Secretary of Food and Agriculture to consider per CDFA's request.

We did receive money from CFSA this week for the revenue protection program because we did not hold the fair due to COVID.

**Correspondence**

None

**Directors Comments**

**Chairwoman Rodriguez** – Thank you to Dawn, Chris for working the virtual show and auction and KC Steak House for their generosity.

**Director Dunphy** – None

**Director Lidgett** –

**Director Chavez** – No comment

**Director Torres** – No comment

**Director Espericueta** – Thank you to the staff for powering through this virtual show and drive thru

**Director Britschgi** – No comment


**Director Johnson** – No comment


Chairwoman Rodriguez requested a motion to adjourn the October 19, 2020 Board of Directors meeting. Motion made by Director Torres, seconded by Director Espericueta. Motion passed by all Directors.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Approved (Yes Vote)</u>	<u>Not Approved (No Vote)</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Jared Britschgi	X		
Cesar Chavez	X		
Ned Dunphy	X		
Lucas Espericueta	X		
NaTasha Johnson	X		
David Lidgett			
Blodgie Rodriguez	X		
David Torres	X		

Time is 5:36 PM.

Certified to be a True Copy

Signed   
Blodgie Rodriguez  
Title: Chairwoman of the Board  
Date: October 19, 2020

Signed   
Michael G Olcott  
Title: Chief Executive Officer  
Date: October 19, 2020