



Minutes  
State Fair Commission Regular Meeting  
January 6, 2025  
African American Performing Arts Center  
300 San Pedro NE – NM State Fairgrounds  
Albuquerque, NM  
10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Serna at 10:03 a.m.

Roll Call: Michele Clement called the roll.

The following Commissioners were present:

Chairman Eric Serna  
Commissioner Benny Roybal  
Commissioner Carol Cloer  
Commissioner Walter Adams  
Commissioner Larry Chavez  
Commissioner Julian Baca

The following Staff were present:

Dan Mourning, General Manager  
Joseph Holloway, Deputy Manager  
Antoinette Kulinna, Chief Procurement Officer

Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Cloer.

- A. New Mexico State Flag Pledge: The New Mexico State Flag pledge was led by Commissioner Cloer.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion from Commissioner Adams and seconded by Commissioner Roybal, all voted in the affirmative.

Approval of Minutes of November 26, 2024 Regular Meeting: The minutes from the November 26, 2024 regular meeting were approved on a motion from Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Roybal, all voted in the affirmative.

Approval of Minutes of December 3, 2024 Special Meeting: The minutes from the December 3, 2024 Special meeting were approved on a motion from Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Roybal, all voted in the affirmative.

### Introduction of Guests:

Chairman Serna stated that he would like to introduce and welcome the newest member of the New Mexico State Fair Commission, Julian Baca.

Commissioner Baca thanked Chairman Serna for the introduction and welcome. Commissioner Baca stated that he is currently employed at the University of New Mexico as a Senior Research Scientist at the Bureau of Business & Economic Research. Commissioner Baca added that he was looking forward to learning more about the New Mexico State Fair and hoped that he would be an asset to the Commission and the Fair management team.

### Public Comment:

Mr. Newton Robinson- African American Performing Arts Center (AAPAC). Mr. Robinson thanked the Commission for allowing him to speak with them during this commission meeting and stated that he was in attendance at the meeting to ask for their support with the effort to move the African American Performing Arts Center Foundation to the Office of Cultural Affairs. Mr. Robinson added that the AAPAC foundation felt that being a part of the Office of Cultural Affairs would be a better fit for the organization.

Chairman Serna thanked Mr. Robinson for bringing this effort to the attention of the New Mexico State Fair Commission and suggested that this topic should be added to the agenda of the next commission meeting for further discussion and any action that may need to be taken by the commission.

Commissioner Cloer asked for the opinion of the New Mexico State Fair management. General Manager Mourning stated that this request was supported by the management team.

Commissioner Adams asked that General Manager Mourning provide the commission with the necessary background information on this topic for the next commission meeting.

Mr. Robinson thanked the commission for their time and added that he looked forward to the next commission meeting to further discuss this request.

Approval of Annual Open Meetings Resolution: Commissioner Adams made a motion to approve the 2025 Open Meetings Resolution, which was seconded by Commissioner Roybal. By a vote of 6 to 0 the Commissioners approved the 2025 Open Meetings Resolution.

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

Chairman Serna asked for nominations for Chairman of the State Fair Commission. Commissioner Adams moved that the current commission officers (Commissioner Serna as Chairman and Commissioner Roybal as Secretary-Treasurer) remain the same for 2025. Commissioner Cloer seconded the motion.

Chairman Serna called for a vote on the nomination for Eric Serna for Chairman and Benny Roybal for Secretary-Treasurer, all commissioners voted in favor.

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

State Fair Management Report:

**A. Manager's Report: Expo NM**

General Manager Mourning stated that he would like to begin his Management report with an update on the events and activities happening on the grounds of Expo NM.

Events:

Local movie & television productions – we continue to support local productions for major networks including Netflix and Fox.

Recent big events:

- Winter Wonderland
- Hot Wheels Monster Truck Shows
- Bridal & Wedding Show
- New Mexico Ski Swap
- Discovery Festival
- Rio Grande Arts & Crafts Festival

Upcoming events include:

- Brick Convention/Lego Fan Event
- Archery Competition
- Low Class New Mexico Car Show
- Spirit of Hope
- Dog Agility Trials
- Roping Competitions

General Manager Mourning added that in addition to these revenue generating events, EXPO NM continues to support programs that serve the community including:

- Roadrunner Food Bank Holiday Distribution & other food distribution events
- Christmas Angel Tree
- Providing facilities to shelter dogs to assist Bernalillo County
- Various law enforcement trainings

### Special projects:

- Route 66 Centennial Grant – We’ve received the \$250,000 allocation from the state Tourism Department to begin work on the tower on Central Avenue. We’ve received approvals on the neon signage as well and will begin infrastructure improvements in the coming weeks in order to meet completion deadlines of June 2025.
- RFP – The RFP process for a Master Plan remains on track with a deadline for proposal submissions of January 24 at 2:00 PM.
- National Guard Youth Challenge – We are nearing completion of the dorm renovation project and will be meeting with NMNG soon to finalize an MOU for a year-round agreement.
- Smithsonian Project – We were thrilled to learn that the Smithsonian National Art Museum has selected a piece from the state fair permanent collection to feature in Washington DC as part of their exhibition relating to state fairs. The piece Procession de Navidad by Martha Varoz Ewing will be on display for a year beginning in August.
- Tingley Seating – by way of a status report, installation of the new seats is nearly complete. We are still targeting the end of January or beginning of February for completion. The project also includes lighting enhancements.
- Other capital projects – infrastructure projects including water, sewer, paving, concrete are ongoing. We’re nearing completion of construction of the bank and there are several other active projects underway.

### **B. State Fair 2025 Report**

General Manager Mourning stated that planning for the 2025 New Mexico State fair is going well. General Manager Mourning added that staff and management are in the process of booking national talent for our concert lineup and hope to hear something in the next couple of weeks.

General Manager Mourning stated that his management report was concluded and opened the floor for questions and comments.

Commissioner Roybal asked about the Monster Truck event being held at the Rio Rancho Center. General Manager Mourning stated that there was a Monster Truck event being held at the Rio Rancho Center but this was not the big show that happens at Tingley Coliseum each year. General Manager Mourning stated that the Monster Jam event will again be held at Tingley Coliseum.

Commissioner Roybal asked about the remodel to the Public Safety Building on campus. General Manager Mourning stated that that project was on hold at this time.

Commissioner Roybal asked General Manager Mourning to send the 2025 Legislative Hearing schedule to the Commissioners when the New Mexico State Fair management team is invited to appear. General Manager Mourning stated that he would be happy to provide that information to the Commission when it becomes available.

Commissioner Adams suggested that a plaque be made to acknowledge Commissioner Tony Casados for his time and contributions to the New Mexico State Fair Commission. General Manager Mourning stated that he would work with his management team to fulfill that request.

Commissioner Cloer stated that she felt as though she needed to express her opinion on the proposed move of the New Mexico State Fair to another location. Commissioner Cloer stated that she felt that the New Mexico State Fair could not be replicated at a different location and would lose the multi-cultural areas that are so unique to our Fair.

Chairman Serna thanked Commissioner Cloer for her comments and stated that the process will go forward and we will see what decision comes of that process.

Commissioner Roybal asked who would be in charge of the committee for the Master Plan after a company has been selected. General Manager Mourning stated that Secretary Anna Silva would be in charge of the committee.

Discussion Items: None at this time.

Discussion of Meeting Calendar:

Commissioner Roybal stated that he would like to look at scheduling the next New Mexico State Fair Commission on Friday, February 28, 2025.

General Manger Mourning suggested that the Commission may want to postpone scheduling their next meeting until after the 2025 Legislative session is over, which is March 22, 2025.

Chief Procurement Officer Kulinna added that the Master Plan RFP process would not be completed by February 28, 2025. Chief Procurement Officer Kulinna stated that there are deadlines/processes that must be followed which include a Protest period after all other processes have been completed.

Chairman Serna stated that he would discuss the date of the next commission meeting with the commissioners and would proceed from there.

Discussion of Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

1. Moving AAPAC to the Office of Cultural Affairs.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. on a motion from Commissioner Adams, seconded by Chairman Serna, all voted in the affirmative.