

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

**ZOOM only due to winter storm**

**6pm, February 18, 2026**

**Call to Order:** President Rice called the board meeting of the Tanana Valley State Fair Association to order at 6:02pm.

**Directors in Attendance:** President Priscilla Rice, Treasurer Linda Stanley, Secretary Missy Rees, Vice President Tiemessen, Danielle Gibbs, Joey Taylor, Jody Thomas

**Directors Excused-** Director Monroe, Director Lowder

**Association Members in Attendance:** Ella Cotter, Jan Laite

**Staff/Association Members in Attendance:** Executive Director Scott Vance

**Staff in Attendance:** none

**Guests in Attendance:** none

**Establish Quorum:** President Rice

**Land Acknowledgement:** Director Rice

The Tanana Valley State Fair Association gratefully acknowledges that these events are taking place in the territory of the traditional and original inhabitants of this land, the Tanana Khwt'ana, and we say their name in this place to remind us of the Tanana Khwt'ana, their culture and way of life, their special relationship to the land and to honor the original language of this place Che'no' Kenaga'.

**Agenda Approval: MOTION** to approve the agenda by **Director Gibbs** seconded by **Director Taylor**. Motion carried without objection.

**Approval of Minutes: MOTION** to approve January 21, 2026 meeting minutes by **Director Gibbs**, seconded by **Director Tiemessen**. Motion carried without objection.

**Public Comments:** 6:10pm

Ella Cotter hopes that we will address absentee ballot voting for the annual membership meeting, and wonders where it will be held.

**Committees:**

**Budget and Finance - Chair Director Stanley:** Director Stanley reported that she met with ED Vance to continue work on the 2026 budget, they will go over the January financials Friday 2/20 @ noon. She doesn't anticipate any issues.

**Policy and Procedures - Chair Director Rice:** Director Rice reported they have finished going through the bylaws and will send them to the board for edits and approval. It will be ready to go for the annual meeting to be voted on for approval. There are a lot of edits to be approved by the membership.

**Board Development/Community Involvement - Chair Director Rice:** Wants to have a meeting in March at the Ag Museum with all directors to touch base and ask questions of Directors leaving the board, give everyone an opportunity to talk about how to move forward with incoming board positions.

**Capital Projects - Chair Director Monroe:** Director Rees and ED Vance reported that they met and discussed campground improvements. ED Vance met with contractors, there is more work than anticipated, trying to figure out what might be done in house, and contract out the rest. There are more problems with the boiler because of not being properly winterized, copper piping not welded correctly. There is a need to fix/buy new heavy equipment, the bobcat is not functioning properly so that needs to be addressed.

**Entertainment committee:** Chair Director Monroe: Director Rees reported that they met and heard lots of ideas from Scott and Lilli from their conference, wheedled down the list to a few to contact including The Birdman and Mango and Dango acts. Contracts to be presented later in the meeting. They also pitched an idea about a group called Game Of Lore that would do an event at the fair in the fall setting up an interactive live action "board game". They will look into the feasibility of bringing this up to the entire board.

**Executive Director Report:** ED Vance reported that the entire office has been sick but seems to be on the upswing. This month they are focussing on operational goals and sponsorships. They currently have most of the day sponsors for the fair and there is a possibility of a Tier V sponsor!! Currently he is hiring for Operations assistant, campground manager, grounds workers, Entertainment co-ordinator, and gardener. He has posted on indeed, and realizes after Director Stanley's suggestion, that posting on our website and social media pages could get candidates as well. The new rental system is online and is working. No big fixes have happened this month, currently the bobcat is down, perhaps the head gasket has blown. He has a worker that is looking into the issue. There is a new social media campaign that is going to start soon that they are hoping will get the community more involved leading up to the fair. It is top secret at the moment and there will be a big reveal.

### **Old Business:**

Techwise was able to create a google workspace for Board Member documents and storage of files so it will be more concise and accessible to everyone. Hopefully this will create a record that future board members can use as a tool to help them navigate their position.

ED Vance still needs a board member signature on the SBA loan document.

The annual meeting will be held in the Upper Totem building. It can accommodate 250 people, staff is getting all the systems in order, ramp will be shoveled to create access for anyone that needs it. Catering options?? The Annual meeting will be **Mar 25, 2026** @6pm. ED Vance will work with Techwise to create an online absentee ballot voting system to allow online voting.

The 2026 Budget is still being worked on by ED Vance and Lilli Wilcher, they have a few final suggestions from Director Stanley, but it will be ready to present to the Finance committee on 2/20/26, he will then send it on to the rest of the board.

Membership is currently only about ¼ of the numbers of members we had last year. Staff is hoping their new social media campaign will help boost membership.

### **New Business:**

Director Stanley reported that she had been contacted by members of the spinners Weavers guild, who currently uses the lions building every once in a while , about a plumbing issue. We discussed the proper route to guide people that have issues with things on the fairgrounds so they can be addressed. ED Vance had not been made aware of the issue and will look into it. Maintenance Bill Howe was aware of the issue but did not think it was a fair issue since it was the lions building. Ice Alaska has not mentioned the issue, and they are currently using the lions building, so no one is sure if it has been fixed or not.

### **Board Comments:**

Director Taylor- ED Vance is doing a great job.

Director Rice- Appreciates everyone's flexibility.

Director Tiemessen- Wonders if the bobcat mechanic is a contracted person or staff, ED vance replied it was contracted.

**Motion** by **Director Taylor** to move into Executive Session to discuss HR matters and contracts, seconded by **Director Tiemessen**, motion passed with no objections at 6:55PM

**Motion** by **Director Rees** to move out of Executive Session, seconded by **Director Taylor**, motion passed with no objections at 7:49PM

**Upcoming dates:**

Budget and Finance- Friday, February 20, 2026, at noon via zoom

Policies and Procedures- 3/12/26, at 5:30 in person and zoom, Ag Museum

Next Board of Directors Meeting- 6pm Wednesday, March 17, 2026, hybrid in person and zoom, Ag Museum

Annual Membership Meeting Wednesday March 25, 2026 6PM at upper Totem

Motion to adjourn by **Director Taylor**, seconded by **Director Tiemessen**, motion passes with no objection. Adjourned at 7:53

**Submitted by Director Missy Rees**