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Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 2, 2023

At 10:00 am, Chair Tom Mitchell called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: In attendance were: Tom Mitchell, Sarah Cummings, Michelle Richards, Dana Stoehr, Becky Bartling, Teresa Burrola, Patricia Conklin, Dave Dillabo, Mic Moulton, Joe Brengle, Laurie Giannini, Carrie Bayley, Matt Cranford, Louie Brown, Norm Towne.

- A. CFA Chairs' Report: Tom discussed the BCP letter and stated that the paramount focus of the Board going forward is communication and transparency with members.
- B. Legislative Report: CFA's legislative team is focused on two tracks: The budget track and the legislative track.
 1. Budget: Since the Budget Change Proposal went public, there have been positive conversations, and WFA is taking the steps necessary to negotiate solutions that benefit CDFA and all fairs. There was no hearing in the budget subcommittee today regarding CDFA's budget, as last evening the committee changed the focus of the hearing to climate issues, and CDFA's budget will be taken up later this month. In response to CDFA's proposal in the BCP, Louie outlined CFA's basic proposal as follows: 1. Bridge funding of \$2 million per year for the next two years from the General Fund so that F&E's administrative costs may be covered 2. Increase the Fair Funding (AB1499) percentage in current law from 0.75% to 3 or 3.5% to take effect in the 2025-26 Budget along with designating a reasonable percentage of Fair Funding to support F&E's administrative costs thereafter. 3. Reinstate the requirement that CDFA produce an annual "Expenditure Plan" from the F&E Fund for approval by the Joint Committee on Fairs Allocation and Classification. Louie stated that with the return of annual funding in the F&E Fund designated for fairs a plan like the former Expenditure Plan is needed to provide transparency in the funding process so funds are not being held by F&E without discussion or explanation, for example.
 2. Legislative: Currently, we are monitoring nearly forty upcoming bills that may impact Fairgrounds and need to be reviewed and prioritized. Some examples of these upcoming proposed bills are that State Agencies cannot use TikTok on governmental devices,

pollution control with lighting, open meeting policy, and online ticket fees. Determining legislative priorities will include reviewing these upcoming bills and notifying Fairs of the effects these bills can have on operations. The board then discussed how a newer bill AB 1775 (Ward), signed last year, has caused confusion with staging vendors needing to meet new OSHA requirements. Suggested CDFA provides contractual language for this and similar bills going forward.

C. Service Member Report- Miki reported that the Service Member Council met yesterday and are looking forward to another strong 2023 Fair Season.

D. Area Reports:

1. North Coast Area: WFA & CDFA need to come together to do what is best for the Network. They recognize that both WFA & CDFA worked hard for the 1499 funding but there is now a lack of transparency.
2. Mother Lode Area: the Mother Lode area members have been dealing with extreme weather and member Fairs are concerned with holding of 1499 funds. The Area reinforced the importance of inclusion for non-profits and County Fairs. The area reported concerns with the current Fair Funding (AB1499) money being held by CDFA.
3. Cascade Area: reported that the Cascade area is also dealing with extreme weather and that members are optimistic about CFA's response to the budget change proposal. The Cascade Area knows that CFA has its members' best interests at heart.
4. Central Coast Area: also reports having full confidence in CFA and their actions to benefit the Network and expressed interest in knowing when the 1499 funds would be distributed from CDFA.
5. Sacramento Valley Area: No response from area fairs. But personally am supportive of the actions taken by CFA/WFA and support the open lines of communication and transparency.
6. Southern Area: In the absence of the Area Board Member, Michele assured she would disseminate the information from today's meeting to the area
7. Tom expressed that communication has broken down and stated that while CFA will continue to communicate updates, member Fairs should contact CDFA directly regarding the disbursement of the Fair Funding (AB1499) funds.
8. Dana reported that Deputy Flores had been contacted requesting a meeting to improve communications between CDFA and CFA, the CA network of Fairs.
9. It was stressed that there should be no divide between DAAs and County Fairs; there is no benefit otherwise.
10. CFA processes and procedures need to be understood by members, allowing for feedback so that members understand that decisions are made in the best interest of the network.
11. Current legislation/ law needs to be communicated/provided with any dialogue/discussion.

E. Committee Reports:

1. Government relations Committee: reported on the Fire Marshall regulations. There have been positive discussions with the Fire Marshall that will hopefully lead to changing the proposed regulation. Still, there is a need for a consistent method for determining

commonalities to segment which events will be subject to enforcement. It was suggested to create an MOU with the Fire Marshall specific to certain repeating events or venues.

- F. President & CEO's Report: Sarah reported that Louie and Norm continue to work through Fair Funding (AB 1499) with CDTFA, to then communicate updates with WFA/CFA membership. Another priority is the collection of vendor sales data. So far response rate to our survey is low, and increased reporting will result in increased funding for maximum benefit to members. Since CFA Membership meetings during the pandemic were very effective, CFA will open quarterly CFA board meetings to the entire CFA membership to ensure transparency and communication. Industry partners will continue to be invited.
- G. 2023 Planning Session:
1. CFA overview and purpose: CFA is an arm of the 100-year-old WFA created to focus on California efforts and be an advocate for California Fairs and ensure the success of the California Fair Industry.
 2. CFA structure: WFA Board of Directors has been restructured to be more representative of its entire membership. California Area seats have been transitioned to State representative seats to align with representation from all WFA State representatives. CFA will be the primary voice for California Fairs within WFA, emphasizing the role of each of the 7 Area Board Seats on the CFA Board. The CFA Chair has a seat on the WFA Board to be the CFA Board Liaison to the WFA Board.
 3. 2023 Goal Setting: comments include:
 - i. Communication and transparency need to be the highest priority goal
 - ii. CFA needs to communicate its purpose and goals to member Fairs and Educate member Fairs on the purpose and role of CDFA, WFA, CFA
 - iii. Improve overall government relations and help smaller Fairs connect with local government officials
 - iv. CFA to take on the effort to improve safety standards, sustainability, ethics, and customer service, getting input from fair partners
 - v. Celebrate each other's wins
 - vi. CDFA online university and online training to be made available to the entire network. Also include crowd manager and Fire Marshall course links on the website
 - vii. CFA to Provide meeting minutes to all member Fairs.
- b. 2023 CFA Board Goals
- i. Increased communication and transparency
 - ii. Education about CFA and its role in the California Fair industry
 - iii. Education and Training for the Network of California Fairs
- H. Old Business: none
- I. New Business: none
- J. Meeting adjourned: 12:15 PM