

MINUTES
35-A District Agricultural Association
Board of Directors
September 23, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by President Williams at 5:00 PM in the director's room, of the 35-A District Agricultural Association.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by Williams.

DIRECTORS & STAFF PRESENT: Directors – Williams, Richards, Phillips, Johnson, Wass and Staff - Bullis, and Foley.

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Shelton (Out of Country) and Vaughan

GUESTS: Denise Elliott from CFSA joined the meeting late for the closed session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- a. Approve Agenda as Emailed

Motion by Phillips, second by Johnson and carried unanimously via roll call to approve the Consent Agenda as is.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- a. APPROVE MINUTES: Motion by Richards, second by Phillips and approved via roll to approve the July 15, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.
- b. APPROVE DISBURSEMENTS: Prior to discussion, Foley made a correction that the Disbursements should be \$49,593.38 not \$49,915.35. Motion by Richards, second by Johnson and carried via roll call unanimously to approve disbursements in the corrected amount of \$49,593.38 and net payroll in the amount of \$24,414.85 for the month ending July 31, 2024.
- c. REFUND REQUESTS: Foley presented the Board with one refund request for Calf Branding team Fairbanks, they had to cancel due to Madera Fair requiring all animals to be moved into the fairgrounds on Monday, September 1, 2024, they usually move in on Tuesday. Motion by Richards, second by Johnson and carried via roll call unanimously to approve a refund for Fairbanks in the amount of \$160.00.
- d. FULL TIME MAINTENANCE PERSON: Bullis explained to the Board that when he was hired as the CEO that position was for both office administration and for all maintenance due to his background in both business and construction / maintenance. It would benefit the Fair and the newly hired CEO to hire a Maintenance Supervisor to handle the everyday duties of the maintenance department. Motion by Richards, second by Johnson and carried via roll call unanimously to approve the hiring of a

Maintenance Supervisor as soon as approval comes from State. Richards would also like to see the candidate meet the Board. Bullis also mentioned that there may be need to fill the empty position from when Julie Lebow retired in 2020, Foley has been doing both her job and Julie's job for the past 4 years. Richards suggested the Foley add that to our next Agenda.

REPORTS AND INFORMATION:

- a. GENERAL FAIR DISCUSSION: Bullis reported that Fair was down this year but in talking to the vendors and carnival prior to the start of fair it was expected. Carnival was down \$7,000 from last year, which really isn't that bad considering the current economy. Need to add signage to direct patrons to the Horticulture Building, they don't realize you need to enter the Baked Goods and Preserved Foods Building in order to get to the door leading into it. Also, need to add lighting at the entry of the Grandstands in order to see tickets as patrons are entering.
- b. FAIR THEME CONTEST: Richards liked the way Foley did the social media announcement last year. Foley will put out a reminder that it is coming up in mid-November and then blast it the first of December for entries.
- c. FINANCE COMMITTEE: Move to January. Richards set the date for 1 hour prior to the January Board meeting.
- d. DIRECTOR & STAFF COMMENTS:

Wass said the Judge for swine and goats was very slow, she did a great job was just slow.

Johnson had nothing to share.

Phillips had nothing to share.

Richards said he enjoyed the fair very much. It was nice to see the school buses back, keeping our community support. The Fairy Gardens were really good! Wanted to recognize Foley for a great job, always doing what is needed even if it is working a ticket booth with a smile if a cashier doesn't show up. Thanked Wass, Phillips and Johnson for their help during fair. Williams helps keep everything going, very dedicated in helping where needed. Bullis micro manages like no other, his leadership is outstanding. Richards stated he would like to see the Rodeo Grand Marshall receive a belt buckle instead of a plaque, he would like to sponsor the buckle. In the past Richards and his wife, Dorothy have sponsored a Team Roping buckle but will not be sponsoring it in the future, they fill that the importance of the buckle has diminished with all of the saddles being given away. The Rodeo needs some help, the excitement this year was with the barrel racing, the crowd loved it. It's hard to get good professional rough stock cowboys for such a short rodeo, most of them are attending two day rodeos.

MANAGERS REPORT:

Bullis informed the Board that there was an auto accident on the grounds, somehow, our Fine Arts Judge ran into our main restroom. This was within two weeks of opening day of fair, not something we needed for sure. The parties insurance will cover the cost of all repairs.

We had two small fire camps in August, we should receive \$82,050 for both of them. The State Fire Marshall came on Friday of Fair, he showed up around 2:30 PM and was here for about 3.5 hours, they usually spend about 30 minutes but this one wrote up several areas for needing fire extinguishers within every 75 feet of the vendor areas. A different Fire Marshall showed up on Sunday just before the Rodeo to check on the status of the items that needed to be checked as completed from Friday. Two weeks before Fair, we had to order CAD Drawings of the buildings and grounds to submit to the Fire Marshall for our vendor locations, electrical panels, fire extinguishers, the width of our isles between vendors, etc. they were delivered a few days prior to fair, once these were submitted they approved our event.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Government Code (GC) Section 11126, the Board met in Closed Session at 5:51 PM for the purpose of considering matters involving:

- a. Pending Litigation: - Govt. code 11126(e)(2) – Sergio Ramirez v. 35-A DAA, et. Al.*
- b. Personnel: CEO Hiring – Govt. code 11126(a)(1)*

Direction was given to staff as a result of the closed session.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION: The Board reconvened in open session at 6:18 PM.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion by Richards, second by Johnson and carried by roll call unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 PM in memory of Judge Richard McMechan.

Respectfully submitted

Brian Bullis, CEO

Tom Williams, President