



## JLA minutes for December 11, 2023

**Attendance:** Brian Lopez, Kori Wittinger, Mark Karthaus, Jack Pchelkin, Julie Hernandez, Christy Penner, Jacob Willhite, Jennifer VanSant, Jonathan Stefani, Luke Parnell, Dave Ebbert, Sonia Del Toro, Samantha Penner, Heidi Headington, Regina Dvorak, Joani Utterback, **Mike Clader, Pat Clader**

**Guests:** Don Ales

- I. **Call to Order** – Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Brian Lopez.
- II. **Pledge** – Joani U.
- III. **Public Comment**
  - Don A. introduced his idea of the AGvocates of the 20<sup>th</sup> District project as a reimagining project to reorganize the JLA and make it more efficient and have better communication. **Don A states that Agvocates proposal was approved in concept by the Fair Board.** Please see **attached** handout provided by Don A (**Attachment not included**) Luke P. made a clear statement that the Fair Board did not approve this idea **but rather referred to the Exhibits Committee to study and report back.** Joani U. stated this is talking about all things livestock not just the auction. Luke P. stated we want to make it a good show and auction for all the kids. That this should be an open and transparent process. Joani U. stated we are here for the youth. Kori W. stated that she didn't feel any decisions could be made at this meeting that there was a lot of material to digest and that it could be discussed at future meetings. She stated that this was a big change and it would likely not be able to be put into place this year but perhaps in the future once feedback has been provided, by-laws/Charter revised, framework developed and policy statement developed. She stated that this a lot of work to be done very quickly. **Director Parnell states that the amendments approved by the Sub-Committee in 2023, were not presented to the entire board for consideration because the Exhibits Committee determined the amendments made by the Sub-Committee were not impactful to the upcoming fair.** Don A. stated he envisioned more individuals being involved and that he as the CEO would be the sole person delegating the authority. Julie H. asked who determines the funding? Mark K. said that the Placer Fair **management oversees funding with recommendations from the group** Regina D. said we need to know who and what this is all about before we can make any decisions. Don A. said everyone in this room has the information, that he doesn't know it. Don A. stated he knows the budget and costs side better. The information is sitting in everyone's head and not on paper and he stated that we need to know it. Mark K. said we are here for the same reason – the kids. Julie H. stated that this fair and Placer County Fair are apples and oranges. She stated she does not see the funding, has never seen the balance sheet despite asking for it many times. The reason she participates on the JLA is to watch this and the money. Don A. mentioned that the scholarship money is at the Foundation and **he is responsible for overseeing JLA/Operating funds and all financials are made public at monthly board meetings.** Regina D. said she wants to look at Placer County's documentation so we can see the structure etc. in order to better understand this concept. Brian L. asked Don A. about how the

membership would work. Don A. stated people would just show up and that would provide more accountability. There was a question of whether there would be a Livestock Advisory meeting to discuss the livestock concerns, Sonia agreed to this now that she understood the purpose of the meeting and that it had been happening for several years. Don A. asked if we wanted a Placer County representative to attend a future meeting to discuss this concept. Luke P. said there needs to be a policy statement crafted by the Fair Board that he will then send to Kori to send out to the group which will drive the development of a draft policy statement. He again reiterated that the Board did not approve or deny this concept. **Jacob W. says that the current structure of the JLA is different from common practice at other fairs and states that people will not join this JLA because they believe it to be a "lion's den" and unwelcoming. Jacob adds that he's heard this statement on several occasions. Heidi H. agrees and states that she was confronted by colleagues for joining the JLA for the same reason and joined anyways because she cared about the youth, not the drama.** Jennifer V. asked if a financial report would be given at each meeting. Don A. replied yes. Don A. stated he started thinking about this and was hoping to dissolve the formality and structure of this group as he has been told by some people, they don't like it.

**IV. Approval of Minutes –**

- The November minutes were reviewed and approved. Jack P. made a motion to approve, second by Heidi H., minutes approved.

**V. Financials**

- Current financial update – Mike C. , please see **attached. (Attachment not included, refer to handout)**

**VI. Unfinished Business**

- Goat pens – Sonia D. will get a bid from Big Jim and present it to the group.
- Rabbit/Poultry pens – Don A. stated he has a bid but hasn't been able to present it to the group yet.
- Prop 12 – all kids will need to get their hogs from a certified buyer. Luke P. asked when kids have to commit to a hog project? The answer was now. Sonia D. stated she is waiting for the State Fair Rules to come out and then will decide how the animals will be handled at the auction i.e. resale or not. Sonia D. is looking into how verify if a hog farmer is certified.
- Joani U. asked if there was still going to be poultry at this year's fair due to the Avian Flu, Sonia D. stated yes.
- Officer nominations/elections – there were no nominations for Chairman/President. Sonia D. nominated herself. A vote was taken and Sonia D. is the new Chairman/President of the JLA. There were no nominations for Vice Chairman/President. Joani U. stated she would do it. Sonia D. nominated Joani U., a vote was taken and Joani U. is the new Vice Chairman/President. There were no nominations for secretary. Sonia D. stated she would be happy to take that over as well, and thus Sonia D. is now the new secretary of the JLA.

**VII. Projects for the year**

- JLA House – An updated bid was supposed to be provided by Don A. but he was not able to present it. Regina D. asked for the context of this subject, Brian L. read the current bid. Heidi H. made a motion to approve up to \$15,000 be spent to repair the JLA House, second from Jack P., motion passed. The completion date is to be included in the new bid.

**VIII. Open Discussion/New Business**

- None

**IX. Adjournment** -a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Heidi H., second by Julie H. Meeting adjourned by Brian L. @ 7:19 pm.

Next Meeting January 8, 2023 @ 6:00pm @ the Gold Country Fairgrounds