

**TRINITY COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS'  
ANNUAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Trinity County Fair  
**DINING HALL – 6000 Hwy 3**  
Hayfork, CA 96041

**Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**6:00 pm – Dinner  
6:30 pm - Open Session**

**Board of Directors**

Dennis Rourke, President	Sharon Eggleston, Vice President
Marjie Watkins, Director, 1 <sup>st</sup> District	Michael Thompson, Director, 2 <sup>nd</sup> District
Adrien Keys, Director, 3 <sup>rd</sup> District	Adam Dummer, Director, 4 <sup>th</sup> District
Jenny Millsap, Director, 5 <sup>th</sup> District	Chuck Sauer, Director
Donny Case, Director	

**Mission Statement**

To provide for the management of the Trinity County Fair and year-round use of the fairgrounds in the best interest of the people of Trinity County and its rural county values by partnering with county agencies and businesses, promoting agriculture and education, and maximizing available resources.

**Note**

Please be informed that any member of the public has a right and is invited to participate during this public meeting and may address the Board either during the “Public Comment” portion and/or prior to the discussion by the Fair Board of any item listed on the agenda.

**AGENDA**

The Board of Directors retains the discretion to adjourn to Closed Session at any time during this meeting to confer with and give direction to its negotiator(s).

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Items listed on this agenda may be considered in any order at the discretion of the Chair. All items so listed may be considered for action. Any item not listed on the agenda will not be discussed or considered by the Board.

Called to order by Director Rourke at 6:30 pm.

**2. ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

- a. Directors present in person, Watkins, Thompson, Dummer, Eggleston, Rourke, Keys, Case, and Millsap.
  - a. Director Thompson moves to approve Director Sauer’s absence; Director Eggleston seconds the motion; Motion carries unanimously.

**3. PRESIDENT WELCOME REMARKS**

- a. Director Rourke welcomes everyone to the Annual Meeting. “That was a good dinner. I would like to thank Sharon for all she’s done on the Board. She has always been a huge help, keeps me on track. She

has always been a huge help with volunteering, So Thank You Sharon! She also did a fine job running meetings when I couldn't be present.

1. Association Members present: Angela Riggs, Michele Gamlen, Terra Kephart, Laurel Dummer, Steve Miller, Shelby Proud, CJ Sisco, and Evelyn Haynes.

#### **4. COMMENTS FROM ASSOCIATION MEMBERS AND/OR PUBLIC**

- a. Sue Erenberger; I just want to say thank you Sharon, she was always there with me at the front gate greeting people. I hope she still wants to volunteer!

#### **5. CEO: 2022 REVIEW & 2023 FORECAST**

- a. Welcome, we are going to begin with a few awards:
  - i. Volunteer of the Year is CJ Sisco – stepped in when our Exhibits Supervisor left the Tuesday of Fair Week
    - 1. We only had 5 volunteers last year versus the 30 in previous years.
  - ii. 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Employee of the Month – Michelle Gamlen – also stepped up not only this year but the past 3 years of Fairs with Exhibits knowledge that we had lost from previous employees and volunteers.
  - iii. 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Employee of the Month – Wade Johnson, known by friends and family as Purple – joined our maintenance team prior to Fair and has worked into one of our most valuable employees.
- b. I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce you to your Board of Directors,
  - i. Marjie Watkins is our newest Director, representing Trinity County District 1, Marjie was appointed by Keith Groves when Wallace Brinkley resigned earlier this year.
  - ii. Michael Thompson was appointed in 2021 as the District 2 representative, Michael is also the Finance Committee Chair, Premium Book Committee Chair and a Voting Member of the Junior Livestock Committee; he is another valuable member of the Fair Team as a very active member of Jr. Livestock supporting the Livestock Auction and all the volunteer hours that go into putting on an Auction, he is also our main proofreader for the Premium Book and catches all my typos.
  - iii. Adrien Keys represents District 3, and is on the Fair Policy Committee, previously Chaired the Well Committee, and is on the Volunteer Committee where he has been instrumental in volunteering and helping get volunteers for not only our Fair, but events such as Bigfoot BBQ & the Harvest Festival; Adrien basically wrote the exhibit guidelines for our 1<sup>st</sup> Cannabis Division at the Harvest Festival and with the support of TCAA we were able to exceed our expectations with over 50 cannabis exhibits; he also did the cooking for Pancakes with Santa in 2021 and again this year in 2022.
  - iv. Adam Dummer represents District 4 and is on the Fair Nominating Committee, he also is our “go to” Director for events, volunteering during Fair, Bigfoot BBQ and Harvest Festival & Rodeo wherever needed we can rely on Adam to step in and assist, and with Adam we always get bonus volunteers known as “Robin, Laurel and Kendal.
  - v. Jenny Millsap is your District 5 representative, this was Jenny’s first year as a Director and she jumped right in, Chairing the Rodeo Committee, and anyone who knows the Millsap’s know we really benefited when Jenny joined our Fair Team, she has great enthusiasm along with knowledge in both Jr. Livestock and Rodeo; we look forward to working with Jenny to bring an even better Rodeo & Cowboy Calcutta event this fall.
  - vi. Chuck Sauer is one of your Member Elected Directors, he has been a Director since 2014, but has been a part of the Fair Family since the 1980’s; Chuck’s knowledge in Mining and Minerals has helped that Exhibit stay of track; but his real talent is as the

Fair's own MC and Auctioneer, which he has also been doing for over a decade; Chuck is the Chair of the Fair's Nominating Committee, and a member of the Well Committee.

- vii. Donny Case is another Member Elected Director, he is Chair of the Volunteer Committee, Chair of the Well Committee, and Chair of the Motorsports Committee; Donny was instrumental in producing if not the largest, one of the largest Derby Purses in California at our Destruction Derby during Fair, it was Donny's idea to move the Derby to Saturday Night which turned out to be a huge success, he has also taken on the challenge of keeping our Raceway at the Fairgrounds in operation after the Mountain Valley Raceway went under; Donny's vision is to incorporate a Truck Derby during Bigfoot BBQ, and Enduro Racing throughout the year with the final race being the NYE Slip & Grip, which again was a success this past December, with his leadership I know the raceway will continue to thrill spectators at the Trinity County Fairgrounds.
  - viii. Dennis Rourke is another of your Member Elected Directors, Dennis is the current President of the Fair Board and Chairs the Executive Committee, he has not only committed to running an efficient Board of Director's Board Meetings he is committed to helping wherever necessary, not only during events but year round; Dennis has been a huge support to myself and our maintenance team with his knowledge of the fairgrounds, he was instrumental in securing the donation from Shasta Drilling of our Fairgrounds Well, and with his water witchcraft was able to locate an area that resulted in over 30 gallons per minute; Dennis also has knowledge of Jr. Livestock and has directly helped myself and Jr. Livestock Committee continue to provide a Show and Sale through the pandemic, when other Fairs canceled their programs in 2020 and 2021.
  - ix. Sharon Eggleston is your final Member Elected Director, Sharon is retiring from the Board after today and I also want to take this opportunity to thank her for her years as a Director and many hours of volunteer work at the Main Gate, Sharon was our own personal Greeter during the Fair and Events; Sharon's shoes will be difficult to fill, she was Board Vice President the last 4 years, on the Executive Committee, Chaired the Policy Committee, and Chaired the Grants & Fundraising Committee; Sharon we all will miss you and wish you well.
  - x. Thank you to all our Board Directors, your commitment to the Trinity County Fair is greatly appreciated, and I and the Fairgrounds Staff acknowledge the support and work you put into our Trinity County Fair!
- c. Introduce Trinity County Fair Staff
- i. Sue Erenberger
  - ii. Christina Wine
  - iii. Teresa Miller
  - iv. Richard Stone – Lead Maintenance Technician
  - v. Purple or Wade Johnson – Maintenance Technician
  - vi. Ben Ehler – Maintenance Technician
  - vii. Aaron Smith – Maintenance
- d. Before I recap last year I would like to review the finances, we have an overall loss of approximately \$160,000; Non-Fair Revenue we are under budget by \$18,000 which we didn't receive our AB1499 Funding of around \$50,000; Fair Revenue we were under projected budget by \$10,000; Non-fair Expenses we were over budget by \$85,000 which the majority was projects like our Well and Quilter's Building; we also had an increase in payroll of 35% which the majority was minimum wage increases and cost of living increases to our staff. As we go into

2023, we have over \$550,000 in Operating Cash, and \$48,000 in Auction Reserve. I will have an update at the February Board Meeting of what our AB1499 money will be, as they have been negotiating a larger % from the State on the Taxable Revenues on Fairgrounds, we should see 2 payments in 2023, first our 2022 AB1499 money and then our 2023 AB1499 money.

i. Recap Past Events:

1. We had our 1<sup>st</sup> Easter Festival in April and broke even on this fundraiser.
  - a. We still plan on teaming up with Lions Club for Easter festivities on Easter Sunday.
2. Bigfoot BBQ Event in May was a success with a higher attendance than previous years and we were able to have our 100 Year Fireworks Show that was postponed due to fires in 2021.
3. Trinity County Fair our 1<sup>st</sup> Full Fair since 2019, we had over 6000 in attendance. Overall the carnival was well received, comments about the professionalism of the carnival workers was expressed by the community, having more rides (14) was also a big hit, the cost of games and food & beverage was a concern, but I'm noticing that increase in costs anywhere you go out now is much higher. We had a profit of just under \$40,000.
  - a. Higher than we've had in 10 years.
4. We had our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Harvest Festival & Freedom Rodeo in September. We had committed to having a Harvest Festival when we moved our Fair to July, giving everyone in the County the opportunity to Exhibit their Horticulture and Agriculture entries. This included our first ever Cannabis Division which was well received. The event was held the opening weekend of Rifle Season, but even with that we still ended up almost breaking even. Our goal for new events is to break even the first year, and then gain momentum each year, which I'm sure will happen with all the positive feedback we received from both the Harvest Festival and the Freedom Rodeo.
5. In October we also had our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Haunted Homestead, we teamed with the Hayfork High School Drama Department to help them raise funds to add lighting to the stage production at the school, so all the profit from the Haunted Homestead went to Hayfork High School; we did make a small profit on the Hayrides, due to a sponsor who paid for all 500 tickets. We also teamed with other Mountain Valley School Classes to do the Food & Drinks out of the Homestead and raise funds for their school trips. Hayfork Lions did a Costume Skate and Cake Walk in the Commercial Building, and then in place of the Carnival was a Trunk or Treat in the Parking Lot. Overall the entire 4 day event was a huge success.
6. 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Pancakes with Santa we teamed up with TCAA as a fundraiser for their program. We changed the breakfast to Saturday after Thanksgiving and the First Saturday of December, and both were very successful. We have a check for TCAA, after expenses of \$751
7. 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Festival of Trees & Christmas Bazaar we again had between \$1000-\$1500 in donated gifts for 4 Trees, Home Tree – Kids Tree – Sports Tree – Misc Adult Tree, we had the trees available to view along with a Bazaar on 3 separate nights, and during Pancakes with Santa. We also had new vendors this year at the Bazaar, and on the First Friday in December we teamed with Hayfork Lions

who did an outdoor roller skating in the Large Animal Barn, and the Hmong New Year was the First Friday and Saturday in December during our event. In addition to all this, the Hayfork Christmas Light Parade was moved to Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and ended at the Fairgrounds, just before we raffled off each of the Trees. After expenses we raised just under \$4000 which will be used for Entertainment at Fair.

- a. Not a whole lot of parking.
8. 1<sup>st</sup> Annual NYE Slip & Grip Enduro Race, sponsored by the Trinity County Fair was this past December 31<sup>st</sup>, we took over the Raceway Events when the Mountain Valley Raceway went under. The Enduro Race went very well, we had a break in the rain which gave Director Case and Steve Miller time to prep the track and kept all our attendees dry during the race. We also had 2 sponsors that paid for the first 40 people through the gate, we ended up with just under 200 people. We teamed up with Hayfork Boosters on the Raceway Bar and was able to give them a check tonight for \$352. The Hayfork High School Senior Class ran the Snack Shack and was able to make money for their Senior Trip.
    - a. Looking into other insurance for these events. CFSA charges \$1800.00 per event.
  9. Finally, BINGO, our monthly Fundraiser has been supported beyond what we imagined. We started a Fair Progressive Black Out that grew by \$100 each month, and in December we had a prize of over \$1500 with the monthly Black Out and Progressive Black Out combined. We will continue to have the Progressive Pot each month, we are changing the way to win this Fair Progressive Pot giving the player 11 chances a night to win, we will again award the Fair Progressive Pot in December if it is not won prior to the final December Black Out Game! This year after expenses we netted just under \$7000. Come to bingo January 21<sup>st</sup> to see how we will be playing the Fair Progressive Pot this year!
- e. Overall, we were able to bring some new events this year, here are some of the things we were able to accomplish from Suggestions Forms taken at the 2022 Annual Meeting:
    - i. Brought new and more Vendors for both Fair & Bigfoot BBQ
    - ii. Fryed Brother Band performed at the Fair
    - iii. Hypnotist which included a private adult Comedy Show
    - iv. More variety of Music at Events
    - v. Increase Pancakes with Santa to 2 Days
    - vi. More Rollerskating
    - vii. Keep Website updated – difficult lately with the lack of consistent internet
    - viii. Add Cornhole Tournament so Jr. Livestock Exhibitors can participate
    - ix. Following are a few things that we weren't able to provide from the suggestions:
      1. Tiny Houses to Rent
        - a. Too expensive.
      2. Gun Show
        - a. Not allowed on Fairgrounds in California.
          - i. CDFA requirements; If we have a Sponsor that wants to do the show we can.

3. Invited Blacksmith to Bigfoot BBQ & Fair, but wasn't able to come, we will try again this year
  4. Open Mic before Concert or Bands start
  5. Airsoft Tournament
  6. Older Country Music like Clink Black or Clay Walker, due to the cost of Artists, it is difficult for us to book bigger names, we were able to bring the Fryed Brothers and the Hagaard Brothers with sponsorships from local businesses, but we did not have the attendance to support doing another concert in 2023. I will look at possibly doing a stand alone concert, but this will take some time to put together a proposal for the Board to review.
    - a. Concert during Fair is not really beneficial for us.
    - b. Derby and Logging show are big already.
- f. We have included a 2023 Fundraising and Event Schedule on the tables, these show each month what we are planning. This is also on our Website and posted on our Facebook page. We will keep it updated monthly so you don't miss any of these events. Most of the events are things we've done in 2022. Rather than recap each event, I will just hi-light some of the additions or changes. Valentines Bingo Dessert Pot Luck on February 18<sup>th</sup> is new this year; we are teaming with Hayfork Lions Club at Easter and doing our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Easter Festival on Easter Sunday with the Easter Egg Hunt, if you or anyone you know would like to have a booth at this event please contact Teresa Miller at the Fair Office; Bigfoot BBQ may look a little different, we have some things we are working on with Kenny Wiley and will get that information out soon, along with our 1<sup>st</sup> Truck Derby on Saturday afternoon following the Awards Ceremony; I added a Father's Day Enduro Race, but haven't run this by our Raceway Committee so that may change but we are looking to continue Enduro Racing at the Fairgrounds in 2023; Fair is July 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> and the theme this year is "Fair Season is the Best Season" by Betty Leedy; 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Harvest Festival and Freedom Rodeo is scheduled a week earlier this year, to miss opening day of rifle season, September 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> and WestCoast Rodeo has us on their books to provide the Freedom Rodeo again; BINGO will continue every month except for July which is Fair month; finally we are raffling off a Baby Bigfoot Chainsaw Carving, Raffle Tickets will be available beginning February 17<sup>th</sup> at the Cake Bake Off Competition, and will be sold in the Fair Office and by Directors, the fundraising committee will organize additional raffles throughout the year which we will publicize through social media and in the Fair Buzz News Letter.
- i. Rhonda bought Baby Bigfoot at Auction last year and donated back to the Fair to raffle off again.
- g. We also put the Fair Board Meeting Calendar at each table, we have 3 meetings scheduled outside Hayfork, throughout the County this year.
- h. We have decided to combine the Business Assistant Position with the Exhibits Supervisor, this will be a temporary 8-month position, beginning in March and working through September. The position will fly in February so if you are interested or know anyone interested they can pick up a Job Description in February.
- i. Some Projects that were completed this past year is the Quilters' Building, where we had our 1<sup>st</sup> Quilt Show during Fair, this worked out great and provided a clean and safe place to exhibit Quilts. We are still waiting for Campora to install the Heater in this building, so for now they are using their storage area when they meet, which is inside the same building, just a smaller space that can be heated with electric heaters. The Dining Hall Kitchen was upgraded to a

Commercial Kitchen with a Grant supported by Hayfork Rotary. A new metal roof was put on the main Fair Office, and we still need to replace the Exhibits Office Roof and possibly the Dining Hall Roof which both have leaks. The Show Ring Roof was damaged in 2021 from a falling tree, and it was repaired prior to Fair this past year. The Fairgrounds Well was donated and drilled by Shasta Drilling, we ended up with over 35 gallons per minute of water. We applied for community assistance from Trinity PUD's Grant Program, and they funded 100% of the work to add a new Power Line to the Well House. We were able to get 3 2500 gallon water tanks, which is set up to run water from the Well to the tanks, once the power is connected. The next step is to decide how we will utilize the water on the fairgrounds.

- i. The heater for the Quilter's Building is on back order. Mike found a different one and I will contact him to see when it will be installed.
  - j. Our Fair Buzz News Letter – has been coming out every quarter, you can read it on our website or Facebook page. 2022 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Fair Buzz is at your tables, we recognize a Business that contributes to the Fair and their Events every Quarter, as a good neighbor we are helping to advertise their businesses.
    - i. The Gift Giveaway with Santa was sponsored by TOPP, Angela Riggs, and Farms of Trinity Forests.
  - k. We will begin working on the 2023 Premium Book the end of this month, we are currently taking advertisements in the Fair Office, see Teresa Miller for this information.
    - i. Watch for Trinity Longears and new stuff they may be adding.
  - l. Talked to Olson Processing who does the processing of our Jr. Livestock Buyer's Hogs and they do not require anything on the Prop 12 Initiative that takes place this year.
- 2. CORRESPONDENCE:**
- a. Letter of Interest from Terra Kephart for Elected TCFA Director Position
- 3. ELECTION OF OPEN BOARD DIRECTOR POSITION(S)**
- a. Terra Kephart is the only member interested in the open Director position.
- 4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**
- a. Director Dummer moves to approve Director Rourke as President and Director Thompson as new Vice President; Director Keys seconds the motion; Motion carries unanimously.
- 5. NEW BUSINESS**
- a. APPROVE & SEAT NEW DIRECTOR(S)
    - i. Board and Association elects Terra Kephart for open board seat.
      1. Director Keys moves to approve election; Director Case seconds the motion; Motion carries unanimously.
- 6. ADJOURNED**
- Adjourned by Director Rourke at 7:30 pm

**Submitted By:**

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*Carrie Bayley, CEO*

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*Dennis Rourke, TCFA President*