

Cornell Cooperative Extension Orange County

Board of Director's Meeting

June 23, 2025

**Minutes**

**In Attendance:** Tom Manza, Gordon Dean, Amy Minutolo, Rachel Carr, Richard Mayfield, Paul Wiley, Paul Ruszkiewicz, Lagwana Tyler, Kathi Nywening, Nancy Proyect Rider (Zoom), Edwin Estrada (arrived late).

**Absent:** Tamara Lajara, Jill Marie, Patricia Claiborne

**Staff in Attendance:** Lucy Joyce, Amanda Sostre, Susan McCormack, Adhara Jimenez-Banse, Jill Van Aken, Maire Ullrich, Cynthia Blomquist, Shayna McGeady Russo

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 7:06PM by board president, Gordon Dean; followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Kathi Nywening

**Reading & Approval of Minutes:** April 28, 2025 & May 27, 2025

Motion by Gordon Dean, seconded by Amy Minutolo to accept the May 27, 2025 Board of Director's meeting minutes as presented. Vote taken – unanimous; motion passed.

Motion by Tom Manza, seconded by Amy Minutolo to accept the April 28, 2025 Board of Director's meeting minutes as presented. Vote taken – unanimous; motion passed.

**Program Reports:**

- *Family & Consumer Sciences & 4H* – Susan McCormack, Program Leader
  - Link in Report from Straus News about Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) care.
  - RAPP movie night this Thursday 6/26 8-11PM
  - RAPP picnic will be held 7/10 at the Education center
    - Great opportunities for volunteers
  - Incubation/Embryology
    - Over 50 classrooms
    - Zoe read books with classroom

- Robotics in Monroe library
- *Agriculture* – Maire Ullrich, Program Leader
  - Hoping to work with Hay for career development for kids
  - Hired Carolyn Coletti – new position – Glean Mobile Program Volunteer Coordinator
    - Pick up produce for food pantries
  - Ice Cream Trail
  - Onion Lunch 7/1/2025 from 12-1PM
  - Pasture walk in August
  - Climate stewards class is full
  - 2501 Grant – underserved farmers/vets
    - Javier – bilingual
    - Last Tuesday all DEI based were cut, but they are still asking for reports
      - Waiting for payment
- *SNAP-Ed* – Shayna Russo, Program Leader
  - Not in Senate’s Bill
    - Currently defunded
  - #SNAPEdworks

**Program Presentation:** Adhara Jimenez-Banse, MSW – 2-Generation Family & Youth Bilingual Program Manager

- Supporting both FCS and 4-H programming initiatives
  - After school programming
  - Liberty Partnership Program (LPP) – SUNY Orange & Newburgh school
    - Voted on who participates by students
  - Served 160 youth this year at Alamo & RAPP Newburgh/Orange
    - Leadership skills
    - Communication
    - Healthy habits
    - Need volunteers
    - MGs very helpful
  - Native New Yorker → Newburgh with MGs
    - 3 sessions
    - Kids could build greenhouses and planting
- 2-Generation Family & Youth meets needs of parents/guardians
  - Resources & workshops

- Youth Mental Health 1<sup>st</sup> Aid in Spanish
  - Lack of knowledge/resources
- 1 out of 3 children impacted by Mental Health
- LPP went out to the Park
- Youth Climate Program

**Executive Director's Report:** Lucy Joyce

- Jill & Jenna graduated Leadership Orange
- Train the Trainer went well
- Wash Rack completed
- Met with Ryan McGuire for Education center
  - Discussed scope of work
  - Water will be difficult
  - Would not include internal plumbing
  - Should take 18 months for design
    - End of 2026
  - Construction 2026-2028

**Report of Liaison Representatives:**

- *Orange County Executive's Office* – Paul Wiley
  - Compost for farmer's market going forward
  - Buildings coming down in Camp Laguardia / removing asbestos
  - OSI cut deal with railroad
  - Trees down on Schunnemunk Trail
  - Orange County Land Trust event
- *Orange County Legislators* – Paul Ruskiewicz
  - June is Dairy Month
  - Budget season coming up, due on Friday
  - County in good shape
  - Housing Task Force committee
    - Looking for solutions
- *CCE State Specialist* – Patricia Claiborne
  - Cornell facing financial stress
  - Smith-Lever funds are good

**Committee Reports:**

- *Personnel Committee* – Amy Minutolo
  - No updates; next meeting scheduled for 7/8 9AM
- *Finance Committee* – Tom Manza
  - Met & reviewed March/April financial statements
  - March
    - 25% into the year
    - 22% into the budget
    - Good standing
  - April

Motion by Gordon Dean, seconded by Amy Minutolo to accept the April financials as presented. Vote taken – unanimous; motion passed.

- 2026 Budget for County Appropriation
  - SNAP-Ed not included in Budget
    - SNAP-Ed pays \$100K throughout the year to the association (rent, salary, etc.)
  - \$100K for Nutrition Education
  - Will ask county for 15% increase in appropriation

Motion by Kathi Nywening, seconded by Amy Minutolo to accept the 2026 Budget as presented. Vote taken – unanimous; motion passed.

- *Fund Development Committee* – Amy Minutolo
  - Next meeting rescheduled to 7/9 9AM
  - Duck Derby
    - 4H families who sell the most tickets win a prize
    - Staff & Board are welcome to sell as well for a prize
  - Fair
    - Press kick off was today
      - We can now advertise transportation grant
        - Will be Saturday of fair
        - Need tour guides/bus attendants
        - Possibly a survey about rides
        - Board raffle proceeds → Bands vs. tickets?
        - Bountiful Harvest Early Bird Special until 7/1
          - \$150 now
          - \$175 after
          - Jill to send email
          - Currently 12 cow-milkers

- *Strategic Planning Committee*
  - First Meeting will be 6/30 10:30AM
- *Park & Facilities Committee* – Lagwana Tyler
  - No updates; next meeting scheduled for 7/10

**Unfinished Business:**

- The Country Fair
  - Volunteer Matters
    - Volunteer time slots are up
  - Duck Derby Competition
  - Board Raffle basket
    - Baskets due 7/21
  - Ribbon cutting for Rain Water Harvester
- Arched Roof Barn
  - Engineer running behind on bid specs
    - Over \$100K prevailing wages

**New Business:**

- SNAP-Ed House Bill
- Indigenous Acknowledgement Consideration

Motion by Richard Mayfield, seconded by Edwin Estrada to adopt the indigenous acknowledgement consideration draft as presented. Vote taken – unanimous motion passed.

- 2026 Budget

**Adjournment:** Motion by Richard Mayfield, seconded by Gordon Dean to adjourn the meeting at 8:30PM. Vote taken – motion passed unanimously.

Richard Mayfield will be resigning his seat on the board effective immediately.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathi Nywening, Board Secretary

Amanda Sostre, Recording Secretary