

Board Minutes

January 23, 2020

Board Members in attendance: Jennifer Rigg, Josephine Bangs, Minnie Knych, Kira Sable

Parks & Fair Staff in attendance: Jennifer Allen, Adrienne Bourne, Kathryn Hansen

Convened: 9:02am

Approval of December Minutes: December minutes not approved. Joint meeting with Parks & Rec Commissioners in Marie Boe Building

Guests in Attendance: 4-H Program Coordinator, Wendy Waxman; County Councilman, Bill Watson

County Staff in Attendance: Mark Tompkins, Interim Parks & Fair Director; Mike Thomas, County Manager; Greg Sawyer, Facilities Manager

Recruitment, Budget, Capital: Mike Thomas introduces Mark Tompkins, Director of Health & Community Services, who is the Interim Director for Parks & Fair Department; Greg Sawyer, Facilities Manager, will be more involved with Parks & Fair facilities and maintenance. Mike said that despite the levy being approved, the county budget is still tight and that all departments have had to re-organize for efficiency in providing services. Mike discussed cost saving projects such as solar panels on county buildings, specifically the fairgrounds main building, cost saving for IT at remote parks, and tractor at Odlin. Mike said that while the budget didn't include revenue or expenditures for Fairgrounds events, it doesn't mean county council isn't "on board", just needs more research. Mike said for capital projects, Greg will be involved with the development of projects, \$100,000 designated for capital preservation from the recent levy. Greg will assess parks, create an inventory, and work on projects over time. Parks Commissioners Bill Shearer & Cy Field clarify with Mike Thomas that the \$100,000 is budgeted annually for capital preservation projects. Jennifer Rigg asked Mike Thomas about status of the Fairgrounds Master Plan; Mike said it needs to be refined further and that it costs a lot of money to "chase events". Tex Blankenburg asked if the Fairgrounds Main Building has been identified as a gathering place in an emergency. Mike confirmed it has been, and that Brendan Cowan with the Department of Emergency Management has applied for a grant to purchase a generator for the county. Tex discussed possibility of using reserves from solar power at the Fairgrounds during an emergency, Greg Sawyer indicated that would not work with the current power system, technology is not there yet with the OPALCO program.

Mike Thomas said that the County has received over 20 applications for the Parks & Fair Director position. Mike said there will be two interview panels, one consisting of board members and the other consisting of county staff, and that human resources will forward qualified applicants to the two committees for review.

Kathryn confirmed with Greg Sawyer that the ESGV restroom expansion project would begin in the fall of 2020.

Ended joint meeting with Parks & Rec Commission at 9:57; Moved Fair Board to Parks & Fair Admin Conference Room, Kira Sable left the meeting at this time.

Guests Open Forum: Wendy said 4H is gearing up for the Ag Summit on February 7th & 8th, and that 4H will be giving demonstrations. Wendy said she met with Tamara Greene & Micha Traynor (Horse Superintendents) to go over Fair Entry, and that they would like to use Fair Entry for open class horse events this year. Wendy is still having weekly office hours on other islands. Jenn and Wendy discussed the \$5,000 WSU 4-H revenue that has been budgeted for Fair expenses. Wendy said she would discuss this with Brook.

Jennifer Allen and Bill Watson discussed the Fairgrounds Master Plan, capital projects and reduction of the Fairgrounds Maintenance position to .65 FTE. Bill said 50% of the county's operating expenses are paid for by retail sales tax and that all costs are going up. Council is focusing on funding departments that are state mandated. Minnie Kynch asked for clarification on the planned solar panels project at the Fairgrounds, discussion of savings and costs of the capital project.

NEW BUSINESS:

FAIR:

- Poster Submission Discussion. Jennifer Allen shared drawings submitted by Eliza Habegger. Fair Board liked the drawings submitted, and agreed to move forward with Eliza as the poster artist. Wendy said 4-H has been excited about this year's fair theme. Jennifer and Adrienne will meet with Eliza soon to discuss the poster and "2020: A Fair Odyssey" theme.

OTHER:

- Ordinance revision: Jennifer Allen said she had reached out to Linda Kuller in Community Development & Planning to revise the Fairgrounds overlay ordinance. Suggestion was made that the ordinance be updated to allow for the maximum number of RV and Tent sites, but that the number of sites could be slowly rolled out, depending on staffing levels. Jennifer said she's also looking at the possibility of having longer term camping in the off season (contractors program), and that she would like the maximum stay to be 14 days rather than 10 to be consistent with other county parks policies.
- Drive-In: Jennifer Allen said the Drive-In was in the 2020/2021 budget, although that was not expected. A press release was sent out asking for

community input and suggested Drive-In volunteer duties be presented to the Friday Harbor High School Community Projects Class.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Spring Fling 21+, dance night, March 28, 2020: Jennifer Allen said she is working on the contract with Prom Date Mixtape. Kings Market provided a matching grant to purchase a stage \$1250 and David and Nancy Honeywell provided a match. Jennifer said that Vic's Drive-In would be doing food and that she is researching the special occasion license.
- Virtual Reality Event, February 8, 2020: Jennifer said Luxel has donated \$250 towards the event fee. The cost for playing would be \$1 per minute and staff would reach out to the schools.
- Fair Theme/Update: Jennifer Allen asked the Fair Board if they wanted to add any "tag lines" to the "2020: A Fair Odyssey" theme. Ideas discussed were "Future of Farming", "Plowing into the Future" and "Till the Future"
- Jennifer Allen asked if any Fair Board members would be available to help volunteer at the Orca Run on May 16th. A percentage of the half-marathon's proceeds goes toward local non-profits who help volunteer during the race. Jennifer Allen and Adrienne said they would be available to volunteer that day.
- Jennifer Rigg discussed the possibility of moving her Loea booth closer to the poultry/rabbit tent to better assist those departments as the Open Class Superintendent.

ADJOURNED at 11:02am