

**Minutes of Meeting  
Fair Board Quarterly Update  
September 17, 2019  
3:30 p.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Chris Fillios, Commissioner Leslie Duncan and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Resource Management Office (RMO) Director Jody Bieze, Senior Staff Accountant Melissa Merrifield and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were Fairgrounds General Manager Alexcia Jordan, Fair Board Chair Jerry Johnson, Fair Board Members Linda Rider and Joe Doellefeld, and Kootenai County Resident Bobbi Brooks.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business (Discussion Items):**

**Fair Recap**

Fairgrounds General Manager Alexcia Jordan reported that the North Idaho Fair went very well this year. She said the attendance was the highest ever, at 97,082. She noted that tickets had been sold at a number of off-site locations, including Jiffi Stop, Jitters, North 40 and Super One Foods. She added that four of the six arena shows for the five days were sold out; food concessions were up 24%; carnival sales were up 32% and the Gem State Stampede paid out \$103,000 to its contestants. She also announced that the amount of money the non-profit food concessions sent back to the community was over \$28,000.

All present offered their applause to Ms. Jordan. Ms. Jordan thanked the Commissioners and noted that this year had been the first grand opening of the Fair attended by all three Commissioners.

**Silver Buckle Club Cover**

Ms. Jordan explained that they had not been aware that new fire code regulations would require a sprinkler system in the Silver Buckle Club, despite its open design. She said they would go out for bids on the system installation soon.

Fair Board Chair Jerry Johnson commented that the structure had gone through the normal permitting process, but the fire inspector and the County Planners did not notice the omission. He added that an exemption might be possible.

**RV Park Grant Phase III Update**

Resource Management Office (RMO) Director Jody Bieze provided the Board with an estimated timeline for phase III of the RV Park Project. She predicted that bid documents

would be sent out in January 2020 and construction would be started in the spring. Ms. Bieze said they estimated that project would be completed in the summer or fall of 2020.

Ms. Bieze confirmed this phase was for the construction of showers and restroom facilities.

### **Upcoming Events**

Ms. Jordan gave a preview of events at the Fairgrounds. She said the upcoming Pro-West Rodeo, September 27 and 28, 2019, was one of their signature events but there were plenty of other things going on.

### **Fair Property Inquiry/Fire District**

Fair Board Member Joe Doellefeld said he was a fire commissioner for Kootenai Fire & Rescue and Vice Chair of Kootenai County EMS. He explained that the fire district had made a survey of the community's projected needs and asked the insurance rating bureaus to complete a study to find possible sites for new stations. He announced that there was a parcel belonging to the Fairgrounds that seemed suitable. Mr. Doellefeld reported that he had received a positive response from the Fair Board.

Mr. Doellefeld stated that the BOCC would need to approve the plan because the Fair Board was not permitted to lease or sell land to an outside entity. He noted that the fire district planned to invest about 4 million dollars in the new facility, which could also offer space to OEM (Office of Emergency Management) services. He asked the Board to consider supporting their choice of the site.

Mr. Doellefeld suggested that the income from the rental or sale of the property could provide funding for the Fair's capital improvement program, if the Board allowed the Fair to retain the money.

Ms. Jordan confirmed that the Fair Board was in favor of the idea. She noted it would give them access to 24-hour emergency services, among other advantages.

Chairman Fillios asked whether the Fair Board thought a public meeting would be needed. Mr. Doellefeld said it would. He added that he expected the community would be in favor of their plan.

Commissioner Duncan encouraged Mr. Doellefeld to prepare a formal proposal and present it to the Board.

Chairman Fillios stated he had to leave the meeting due to a prior commitment and asked Commissioner Duncan to take over as Chair Pro Tem.

Chairman Fillios exited the meeting at 3:59 p.m.

Mr. Doellefeld remarked that the Fair Board had received many suggestions for possible improvements to their facilities. Ms. Bieze inquired whether the Fair Board had created a master plan yet. Ms. Jordan replied that she hoped to have a new master plan available for comment by this coming spring.

Chair Pro Tem Duncan asked when they might break ground for the fire station. Mr. Doellefeld predicted it could happen by late 2020.

Chair Pro Tem Duncan urged Mr. Doellefeld to have Kootenai Fire District’s legal department meet with the County’s legal department so formal plans could be drafted.

**D. Public Comment (Discussion):** This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County-related issue. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing. There was no public comment.

**E. Adjournment (Action):** Chair Pro Tem Duncan adjourned the meeting at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk

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