

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS AUDITORIUM
SPECIAL MEETING**

TUESDAY

6:00 P.M.

MARCH 1, 2016

Board members present: Chairman Obie O'Brien; Vice-Chairman Paul Jewell and Commissioner Gary Berndt.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Mickey Webb, Event Center Director; Tom Beckwith, Beckwith Consulting; Becky McDowell, Fair Board Member and 2 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING

EVENT CENTER STRATEGIC PLAN

EVENT CENTER

At 6:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN O'BRIEN** opened a Public Hearing to consider the adoption of the Kittitas Valley Event Center Strategic Plan.

TOM BECKWITH, BECKWITH CONSULTING provided an overview of the Kittitas Valley Event Center Master Plan. He reviewed the Fair and Rodeo attendee survey; market influence area; and the Kittitas County resident survey. He also reviewed the finance and management; goals and objectives; master plan elements; voter survey; and development costs.

COMMISSIONER JEWELL indicated how it would almost be impossible to have everyone involved, completely satisfied with the Master Plan because there is such a variety of groups involved. He said there are many considerations and the plan is a living document as adjustments will happen as time goes along. **CHAIRMAN O'BRIEN** said he liked idea of the plan and not having to commit to funding right now. He expressed his appreciation for everyone's time and effort who was involved in creating the plan.

THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: MITCH WILLIAMS, WASHINGTON STATE HORSE PARK, cautioned the Board in adopting the plan prior to having a financial feasibility study conducted before investing any funds. He noted that the M&O's were not included in the plan either. **THERE BEING NO OTHERS REQUESTING TO TESTIFY, THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

PLAN

EVENT CENTER STRATEGIC PLAN

EVENT CENTER

COMMISSIONER JEWELL moved to adopt the Kittitas Valley Event Center Master Plan, as presented. **COMMISSIONER BERNDT** seconded.

COMMISSIONER JEWELL acknowledged the plan included some aspirational elements that would require much more evaluation before any commitments or construction begins. He noted the existing needs

including space, parking. He recognized and thanked the many volunteers who put in countless hours in helping create the plan.

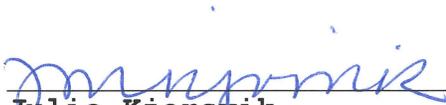
COMMISSIONER BERNDT explained how he hopes it's not competitive, but rather an additive to the County. He recognized how the plan was created by a consensus and not necessarily unanimous from groups of people who hoped it was the best solution for the community.

COMMISSIONER O'BRIEN felt the plan was a cumulative effect in bringing people into the County, while recognizing projects will be taken on in small increments.

Motion carried 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD


Julie Kjorsvik

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**


Obie O'Brien, Chairman