COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
PUBLIC MEETING

TUESDAY 4:00 P.M.  FEBRUARY 25, 2003

PUBLIC MEETING  8TH STREET ENTRANCE TO FAIR/RODEO  FAIR

At approximately 4:08 p.m. CHAIRMAN GOLLADAY opened the public meeting to consider a proposal by the Ellensburg Rodeo Board, for an entrance off of 8th Street into the Fair/Rodeo.

KEN PETERSON, REPRESENTING THE ELLENSBURG RODEO BOARD explained the Rodeo Boards proposal of constructing a western type “mall” entrance off of 8th Street into the Fair/Rodeo. The felt the proposal was very viable and would better suit the needs of the Ellensburg Rodeo, while adding a better location for off-season use. He indicated the location could be developed for a warm-up area, once pens were reconstructed. The proposed restrooms would also better satisfy the conditions of the John Wayne trail head. He also explained how the proposal would satisfy the promise the Rodeo Board made to the Yakama Indian Nation three years ago, when they were relocated. He indicated the Rodeo and Fair Board had met on two separate occasions since last meeting with the Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER GOLLADAY expressed his appreciation for the pro-active approach, but had hoped the two Boards would be able to come to an agreement for the good of everyone. MEL SCHYNER, a member of the Fair Board, said the Board was in favor of the concept, but did not want to see two separate facilities, and two separate entrance locations. He felt the Rodeo Board would not get the amount of ticket traffic they anticipate. MR. PETERSON said the restrooms could require a SEPA review and the Rodeo Board may not be able to complete them this year.

COMMISSIONER GOLLADAY said the requirements for restrooms are unknown at this time, and was concerned with the cost of maintaining them. He explained the need for a better detailed planning mechanism.

COMMISSIONER COE said within the next 5-10 years, the carnival, main entrance gate etc. would be located off of Alder Street, and with the Rodeo Boards proposal, it seems to be moving towards fulfilling that vision. He felt there was plenty of time for the Fair staff to maintain the additional restrooms, and having those would add greatly to help rent the facility for other events. He asked if it would be a problem to have the restrooms up and running within the next year. He did not have a problem with the Rodeo Boards proposal as it stands, as long as it is attractive. Everyone expressed interest in reviewing the actual design/drawings as soon as possible. KATHRYN ANDERSON, FAIR OFFICE
MANAGER said she was interested in reviewing the design and mentioned the importance of having additional room located next to the restrooms for supplies etc. She expressed safety concerns of everyone entering and exiting the same gate off of 8th Street, and suggested maybe putting up cooperative fencing.

The Rodeo Board was instructed to return for further negotiations, once a construction proposal has been drafted with cost estimates (including restrooms and a shower stall), and to ensure it meets all ADA requirements. COMMISSIONER HUSTON mentioned possibly partnering in the restrooms construction. The Board agreed to call another public meeting at a later date to discuss the progress.

Adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Julie A. Kjorsvik

Max A. Golladay, Chairman