

**KITTITAS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
SPECIAL MEETING**

THURSDAY

10:30 A.M.

JULY 9, 2013

Board members present: Arrived at 10:45-Chairman Obie O'Brien; Vice-Chairman Paul Jewell and Commissioner Gary Berndt.

Others: Mandy Buchholz, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Gene Dana, Rodeo Board Directors; Roylene Crawford, Fair Board President; Matt Anderson, Facilities Maintenance Director; Kelly Schademan, Rodeo Board President and two members from the Yakama Nation Tribe: Guy Nason and Allen Aronica.

SPECIAL MEETING

YAKAMA NATION

COMMISSIONERS

Vice-Chairman Jewell opened a Special Meeting to meet with Allen Aronica, Yakama Nation Tribal member to discuss the contract with the Kittitas County Fair and Ellensburg Rodeo. He reviewed the Tribe's concerns and the changes that have taken place over the years. He gave the history as it pertains to the various locations they have been moved to throughout the County Fairgrounds which is his family's ground. He stated that the tribe feels as though the Native American performers that come for the Labor Day weekend holiday are the ones who are continually getting shorted in their contract. He stated that the tribe has also felt that when there have been issues between the Fair and Rodeo Board the tribe gets slighted in the end as well.

Kelly Schademan, Rodeo Board President reviewed the history he has with the tribe from when he began his interactions with them back in 2001. He stated that the County owns a house that they provide for the Native American performers to use during the Labor Day weekend so they have showers, etc. He stated that the Rodeo Board had water and electric installed in the home and they maintain it. He referred to the contract the Fair has with the Yakama Nation and that in addition they were, and/or are to be provided free entry.

Allen Aronica, Yakama Nation Tribal member stated that they seem to be going backwards and felt a contract needed to be re-negotiated. He explained that they used to get a \$1,000.00 contract in addition to the free entry and now that ends up

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APPROVED
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being about \$500.00 dollars, and so they end up taking home \$500.00 worth of entry fees are taken out of that original \$1,000.00. He explained that the tribal members get paid different amounts for performing; performing and bringing a horse; or performing bringing a horse and setting up a tepee etc. He stated that in some years the amount of funding they receive varies due to how well the rodeo does. He stated that the County receives grant funding using their name and that they don't financially benefit from it. He stated that it's important to the Yakama Nation and himself to participate in the County's Rodeo as it's a tradition and he has personal ties to the land and wants to see it maintained. He explained that he understands times are changing and that there are impacts however; even the little things like ice and pop that they used to have provided are no longer provided. He stated that the County more than redeems its cost because the Native Americans that come for the performances spend a lot of money at the County fair.

Roylene Crawford, Fair Board President stated that the Fair doesn't ever charge the Native Americans; but it does depend on what gates they enter through.

Matt Anderson, Facilities Maintenance Director explained that the Fair receives two performances during the Fair from the Yakama Nation for the \$1,000.00 contract.

There was discussion on parking and space needs at the Fair/Rodeo grounds. Mr. Schademan explained that the Yakama Nation would like to have additional space at the Fairgrounds however, at this time it doesn't fit into the plan.

Commissioner Gary Berndt was tasked to work with Matt Anderson, Facilities Maintenance Director to come up with some solutions to the problems as discussed and then re-group with the Board to determine how to resolve some or all of the concerns.

Commissioner Jewell stated that it will take some time to resolve, but there was an obvious need to address the compensation issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

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Mandy Buchholz
Mandy Buchholz

Obie O'Brien
Chairman Obie O'Brien
