THURSDAY

5:30 P.M.

OCTOBER 16, 2014

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

Others: Mandy Buchholz, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Mickey Webb, Event Center Director. Rodeo Board Members: Gene Dana, Kelly Schademan, Rick Cole, Ron Mitchell, Megan Meeks and Brian Twardoski. Kittitas County Fair Board Members: Wilma Pratt, Becky McDowell and Greg Zempel.

SPECIAL MEETING

RODEO BOARD CONTRACT DISCUSSION

COMMISSIONERS

At 5:30 p.m. Chairman Jewell opened a Special Meeting to discuss with representatives from the Ellensburg Rodeo Board the Contract they have with the County that will expire in 2016.

Brian Twardoski, Ellensburg Rodeo Board (ERB) thanked the Board for setting the meeting up. He stated that he wanted to begin discussions in advance and prior to the Rodeo Board heading to Las Vegas for the NFR where they will be doing their brainstorming and meeting with other Rodeo representatives. He indicated that the ERB has areas of the Contract they want to review and figured that the Board of County Commissioners would as well.

There was roundtable discussion between the ERB and the Board of County Commissioners regarding their concerns and frustration for the amount of money & time they puts into the Rodeo grounds every year and it’s never returned to the ERB in the same condition. There were concerns expressed regarding the lack of credit given to the ERB and that they feel that their work is underappreciated. Concerns were expressed regarding the lack of input they are allowed to give with the meetings they have been involved with the contractor who is doing the work for the Kittitas Valley Event Center Strategic Plan (KVECSP).

Chairman Jewell expressed his apologies. He explained that those feelings, perceptions etc., are not true at all and encouraged the ERB members that were appointed to the KVECSP to speak up during those planning sessions so their concerns can be addressed at that time. He stated that the Board of County Commissioners hasn’t had a chance to meet and discuss areas of the Contract they would like to focus on renegotiating but speaking for himself, he would like to discuss concerns regarding the security and issues from behind the chutes. He would also like to discuss the vendor counts on the Rodeo
grounds side, noting that the Rodeo has reported their vendor counts up the past few years and it is hurting the Fair counts. He stated that he doesn’t feel having a set rate for 10 years in the Contract is a stable plan any longer. He stated that they need to build inflation rates into the future rates. He explained that he is not in favor of the current dispute resolution clause in the Contract and feels it needs to be reviewed as well as increasing insurance. He explained that they have been doing that with all Contracts.

Commissioner O’Brien indicated that after spending a lot of time down at the Event Center this summer he has seen more of the wear and tear that before he never noticed, and agreed that the grounds get worn down and that they should have the upkeep preformed before it’s turned over to the ERB for Labor Day Weekend.

Commissioner Berndt questioned if it would be beneficial to have quarterly meetings with the Rodeo Board and possibly the Fair Board so that everyone is aware of what’s going on and so that the meetings are not always focused on responding to emergencies.

It was determined that there would be another meeting set for January 28th, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Auditorium, noting a deadline of January 19th, 2015 for both the ERB and the BoCC to exchange drafts of discussion topics. It was also determined they would meet in March and again in May, and at that point they will evaluate where things are at and how to proceed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Mandy Buchholz

Paul Jewell, Chairman

2014-10-16 MINUTES