

**KITTITAS COUNTY
EC STUDY SESSION MINUTES
BOCC CONFERENCE ROOM, 205 WEST 5TH ROOM 108 - ELLENSBURG
Special Meeting**

MONDAY	10:00 AM	May 20, 2024
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Board members present: Chairman Brett Wachsmith, Vice-Chairman Laura Osiadacz, Commissioner Cory Wright

Others: Kady Porterfield (Event Center Director), Lacie Dawson (Event Center Program Manager), Robert Eddings (Fair Board President), Amy Cziske (Fair Board Treasurer)

1. Call to Order 10:01am

2. Citizen Comments (1 min. time limit) None

3. Boundary Line Adjustments Update

Porterfield: A BLA for underneath the Bloom addition is getting close to done and working on tying in with the hill project. They are currently working to clean up language and make the adjustment consistent with the access road along the hill. Porterfield is continuing to work with the City and Public Works while waiting for clarification from the Geotech. Kittitas County may have to put in a minimal amount of money to help pay for an updated report or clean up project work.

4. Funding for Electrical Upgrades

Porterfield: There was \$15,000 in budget for repairs/upgrades to the vendor courtyard. The estimate came back higher than expected and there is a need for an additional \$9,500 to reconnect power to Frontier Village from the demo of the Dog Barn. The repairs are needed as some pedestals are not in good operating condition and falling over. Per Bell Electric, it needs to be done at the same time, not piece by piece. It would be \$33,000 total to get the needed repairs done.

Chair Wachsmith and Commissioner Wright stated to use ARPA funds of \$18,000 to cover the balance as the repairs are necessary. Kady will work with Zack DeHaven on a budget amendment and notify him of the ARPA funds designation.

5. Amended Friends of the Fair PSA Progress Update

Porterfield: There was a Friends of the Fair meeting last week and there will be a special Fair Board meeting tonight to discuss the Friends of the Fair contract.

Chair Wachsmith: Do all fair board members attend all of the meetings?

Eddings: No, but they are working on that.

Porterfield: need to meet with Zempel to move forward with a contract for the livestock sale, which needs to happen quickly.

Vice-Chair Osiadacz: What could happen tonight? What should be done going forward?

Porterfield: there will be a sale no matter what. If Friends of the Fair doesn't want to continue with the Sale, the auction services have gone out to bid already and the Fair will contract with an outside auction company. The bid that's been received currently offers taking a 3% sale commission from the sale proceeds and will be no additional charge to the Fair. The only real difference would be for the buyers that won't receive any tax benefit (since it will not be run through a non-profit).

Commissioner Wirght: What about the liability for the beer garden, is that also an issue?

Porterfield: most Fair Board members really do want to make it work with Friends of the Fair continuing to hold the Sale.

6. Grandstands Project Update

Porterfield: ALCS met with Patti and there will be a budget meeting next week. Looking at removing the KK-MM section scope, but will keep the bathrooms and cat-walk as first priority. Will be doing a physical walk through with the rodeo board representatives, Chair Wachsmith will also attend.

7. Fair Parking Update

Porterfield: Fair Board voted to support premium parking at the North Lot and Shady Acres. Premium parking will be \$20, all other lots will remain at \$10. This will come forward in a Public Hearing soon.

8. Fair Bedding Fees Update

Porterfield: Fair Board agreed that it will be changing the fee name to a "per-head entry" fee, as the current wording isn't congruent of true operational expense coverage and could be viewed as a gifting of public funds when comparing the true cost versus the fee cost. The fee has always traditionally been designated as the animal's one-time entry fee and the history is unknown to why it was named a bedding fee to begin with. Due to other fee changes from last year along with this new fee name, the BOCC and Kady agree it is best to hold off on any suggested fee increases from the Fair Board until 2025. Kady will report back to the Fair Board on that direction.

9. Other Business - No Action to be taken


At 10:18 Chair Wachsmith announced the board would enter into Executive Session for 5 minutes per RCW 42.30.110 (g) To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. However, subject to RCW 42.30.140(4), discussion by a governing body of salaries, wages, and other conditions of employment to be generally applied within the agency shall occur in a meeting open to the public, and when a governing body elects to take final action hiring, setting the salary of an individual employee or class of employees, or discharging or disciplining an employee, that action shall be taken in a meeting open to the public. – No action shall be taken. Porterfield, Dawson and Eddings exited meeting.

At 10:23 the meeting reconvened and announced they will reenter into Executive Session for 5 minutes per RCW 42.30.110 (g) To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. However, subject to RCW 42.30.140(4), discussion by a governing body of salaries, wages, and other conditions of employment to be generally applied within the agency shall occur in a meeting open to the public, and when a governing body elects to take final action hiring, setting the salary of an individual employee or class of employees, or discharging or disciplining an employee, that action shall be taken in a meeting open to the public. – No action shall be taken.

At 10:28 the meeting reconvened, no action was taken.

Meeting concluded at 10:29am.


Kady Porterfield

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Brett Wachsmith, Chairman