

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

<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>	<b>September 23, 2024</b>
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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 (Program Manager), Pat Kelleher (public citizen)

- 1. Call to Order 10:00am**
- 2. Citizen Comments (1 min. time limit) None**
- 3. Approve Amendments to the Kittitas County Fair Board Bylaws**

The Fair Board Executive Committee made a few adjustments to processes, no major changes.

Vice-Chair Osiadacz made a motion to approve the Kittitas County Fair Board Bylaws. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. Motion passes 3-0

**4. Kittitas County Fair and Ellensburg Rodeo Recap**

Fair went very well this year all-around. Attendance was approximately 77,000, slightly down from last year (100th anniversary). Concessions and admission were also down slightly, but still up from 2022. The exhibit halls were full of entries and carnival was up 77%.

There was an issue with the carnival wristbands, there were about 75 fraudulent wristbands discovered. Despite that, carnival revenues were up this year.

Operations went smooth, everyone was pitching in and being very helpful. There wasn't much office traffic (not many issues with carnival or customer service). Parking did not receive any complaints about the premium parking prices. The chuck wagon exhibit was a popular addition to the Frontier Village, they plan to have them back again.

Vice-Chair Osiadacz said the trash crew was great, lots of fun.

**5. Approve Funding Designations towards the RV Park Project**

Porterfield requested verification the revenue from the cold weather shelter and the sale of the First & Last Chance Tavern will go toward the RV Park Project. Yes, funds from sale of F&L and cold weather shelter will go towards RV project.

Vice-Chairman Laura Osiadacz made a motion to approve funding designations towards the RV Park Project. Seconded by Commissioner Wright. Motion carried 3-0.

## **6. RV Park Project Progress**

Porterfield and Patti Stacey will meet over the next week to discuss the project further. Some parking spaces had to be moved/adjusted from the last rendering. The hope and plan is to have a total of 50 RV spaces, with back-in and pull-through options. Porterfield will need to speak with Rodeo Board about space for the Yakama Nation during rodeo after the Yakama Village expanding since the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary.

## **7. Cold Weather Shelter Discussion**

Porterfield met with Chair Wachsmith last week about the cold weather shelter progress. Porterfield is currently working on the contract. Porterfield will work with legal to complete contract process. The contract will be for approximately \$70,000 (giving them an extended stay discount). There are a few days that the shelter will need to vacate due to events with prior reservations (February and March). Church groups will host during that time. Rodeo plans to work on the VIP Room expansion project as much as possible while the weather holds. They will not interfere with the shelter operation as most of the work will initially be done from the outside.

## **8. Rodeo Grandstands Project Progress**

New renderings were received just before fair. They have been working to find the most cost-effective designs. The concession stands have been removed (they can easily be done later). There will be much improved ADA access on the concourse and for restrooms.

Commissioner Wright: will the livestock pens be the same? Porterfield: yes, they just aren't shown on the rendering. Porterfield, Patti Stacey (Project Manager), Carl Jensvold (Rodeo) and Brock Alderman (Rodeo) will meet and make sure everyone is on the same page before finalizing.

Vice-Chair Osiadcz: how long will construction take? Porterfield: if started right after fair, the project would be completed by March/April so we could still operate our summer season in the Rodeo Arena

## **9. Admissions and Lodging Tax Discussion**

Porterfield and Cziske have been working together and discussed uses of admissions/lodging tax as revenue sources for the Event Center. Is there a way for admission tax to be used by the Event Center? Chair Wachsmith stated in 2015, there was an ordinance that stated the first \$100,000 of the tax went to the Public Health department. The ordinance should be looked at for possible amendments to funding designations.

Porterfield: will there be an application available for lodging tax funds for this year? Application hasn't been posted on the website yet.

Vice-Chair Osiadcz asked Porterfield to send her and Sue Patterson (Auditor's Office) an email about it; need to make sure the funding request fits the guidelines.

## 10. Other Business - No Action to be taken

Commissioner Wright: How did the livestock sale go? Porterfield: the sale gross was down a bit, back to the pre-COVID numbers after three years of record high-sales when everyone was spending money coming out of the pandemic. Chuck Yarbro Saleeers manageed the sale this year and they were very easy to work with, highly professional, and always willing to problem solve and be flexible when challenges arose. There was not as much volunteer help from the Friends of the Fair Foundation as was expected based on planning meetings, but there are new volunteers stepping up to help enhance special features for the livestock sale next year. There was a 3% commission charged on the sales (but no commission was charged on the add-on donations). Checks will start going out this week to the kids whose buyers have paid in full. This is much earlier than normal, as generally checks don't go out until mid-November.

There was discussion about the 4-H office email-blasting correspondence to all 4-H families and youth organizations. The correspondence came from an outside private entity and was not County business or County directed. This was an inappropriate action by a County department, and especially disappointing due to the misinformation contained in the correspondence. Wright will stop in and speak with the Extension Coordinator on his next trip to KVEC.

Meeting concluded at 10:39am.

  
Kady Porterfield

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
Brett Wachsmith, Chairman