

## FSMG Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

County PSC Building, CR 623

Attendees: Scott Horenstein, Sharon Crouch, Chris Palmer, Mark McCauley, Justin Kobluk, John Morrison, Laura Pedersen

Meeting was called to order at 7:30. Mark McCauley began the meeting by distributing minutes from the March 10 meeting. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Mark began new business by reminding the group of the effort to revise the Fairgrounds Master Plan. He then introduced Laura Pedersen, who is serving as project manager for the effort, to explain the process. She has pieced together a team comprised of Justin Kobluk, John Morrison, Chris Horne from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and Alan Boguslawski from the Community Development Department. The plan is to redesign the plan, have it reviewed in turn by a Fair Board committee, the full Fair Board, Commissioner Boldt, and finally the full Board of County Commissioners. We will require some formal engineering work by Olsen Engineering, but we are working to minimize the cost. We are pursuing a developer's agreement which will maximize the amount of time we will have available to execute the master plan. We believe that by breaking the current master plan into smaller, less expensive phases that we can continually find smaller amount of funding and improve the site.

Justin Kobluk, Event Center Executive Director, then updated the group on the following items:

- Justin discussed our continuing efforts to interpret Conditional Use Permit and lease language. He believes that collectively we have been far too strict in our interpretations of the language in these documents. There seems to be agreement that we have much more flexibility than previously thought. We are working to meet with Dan Braun with the Amphitheater to share these interpretations with an eye to improving opportunities for additional activity on the site.
- Justin moved on to discuss fair entertainment---specifically that entertainment we are working to book in the Amphitheater. He reported that we were still working to book the first night, Monday, but that things were looking fairly promising. The big issue is routing—the groups have a hole in their schedule and are looking to plug that hole with something to the east., so they have a show on either side of our show. Efforts will continue to lock this in, but we are dependent on how negotiations go for them elsewhere.

- John Morrison, Fair Manager gave a report on fair preparation readiness. Preparations are looking better every day. The big issue remains sponsorship. Looks like the presenting sponsor is waffling and wants to lower the cost of the sponsorship.
- Justin then shared a general Event Center booking report which reflected the same decline in bookings over the previous year.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5th in PSC Conference Room 623.

Meeting was adjourned.