

Community Services Committee Meeting

Douglas County, Nebraska

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

The meeting convened at approximately 9:06 a.m. in Room 903 of the Omaha-Douglas Civic Center, 1819 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE 68183. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is located on the wall near the entrance of the room. A notice of the meeting was published in the April 12, 2016 issue of *The Daily Record*. The County Commissioner present at the meeting was Marc Kraft. Others present at the meeting were Patrick Bloomingdale, Chief Administrative Officer; Diane Carlson and Joe Lorenz, County Administration; Scott Olander, President, Chris Chappellear, Vice President and Rita Clark, Manager, Douglas County Fair Board; William Ouren, Douglas County Attorney's Office; and Constance Mierendorf, Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller's Office. Commissioner Kraft conducted the meeting.

1. Fair Board budget discussion

- Scott Olander and Chris Chappellear presented the Fair Board's Proposed Budget (See Attachment A). Mr. Olander said that the \$125,000 from Visitor Improvement Funding (262 funds) from the County was not enough and an additional \$67,500 in revenue from sponsorships, donations, concessions, tickets, etc. will have to be raised. The total budget is \$192,500.
- Commissioner Kraft asked whether the Fair Board had approached a major television station for sponsorship.
- Mr. Olander replied that Rita Clark, Fair Manager, was in conversations with WOWT and RFD TV.
- In the past 10-11 years, the Fair has not had booths, vendors and sponsors. The Fair Board is broadening its horizons. This year it is holding 3 different events: the Fair, the High School Rodeo and 3 Trail Challenges over the course of the summer.. The Fair Board is hoping for broader community involvement. Physicians Mutual Insurance is interested in a partnership with the Fair Board.
- Mr. Olander said that 4H would also like to hold a 4H only rodeo; they would use the rodeo course and the only cost to the Fair Board would be volunteer time.
- Patrick Bloomingdale commented that the County wants to make sure the \$125,000 in 262 funding that was discussed at the April 5, 2016, Finance Committee meeting was sufficient. This was the amount that had been agreed to in that meeting. Initially, the request was for \$100,000 and Commissioner Kraft asked for the additional \$25,000. There was no opposition from the Fair Board to that number at the Finance Committee meeting. The County does not want the Fair Board to come back to ask for more funds to cover costs that have not been met by raising outside funds.

- Mr. Olander explained that the Fair Board was working with a system of checks and balances to insure that it did not exceed available resources. The \$125,000 in 262 funding is what the Fair Board will work with. The Fair Board is confident that they will cover their expenses.
- Scott Olander said that the Fair Board did hold 3 events last year and the High School Rodeo raised money through scholarships.
- Commissioner Kraft added that the Fair would always be raising money and that it is growing slowly.
- Mr. Olander and Mr. Chappelle had some talking points that will be discussed with the County Board of Commissioners, but among those questions was what the relationship should be between the County and the Fair Board. Should it be a County Department or should it be an independent 501c3 non-profit organization?
- Mr. Bloomingdale said that the County Board of Commissioners would have to make the final determination about the relationship of the Fair Board to the County; however, he felt strongly that the Commissioners would like the Fair Board to be an independent 501c3 non-profit organization and not a County department.
- Commissioner Kraft commented that he believed the community would be more likely to embrace the Fair and its other activities if it were a 501c3 as opposed to a government entity.
- Rita Clark joined the meeting at approximately 9:17 a.m.
- Mr. Bloomingdale stated that Rita Clark would have to be made a temporary County employee. As such, she would have to be assigned an hourly rate. He proposed \$15/hour for 25 hours/week for a total salary of \$19,500.
- Ms. Clark agreed that this would be acceptable. She also said that ideally the Fair Board would be dissolved into a 501c3 that would partner with the County and apply for 262 funds like other entities.
- Eventually the Fair Board will need a full staff.
- Patrick Bloomingdale suggested that since the July deadline for the Fair is fast approaching, the Fair Board should delay their non-profit filing until after the Fair. At that time, the Fair Board could present its plan to become a non-profit organization to the County Commissioners.
- Ms. Clark suggested a possible August date to present to the County Commissioners, once the Fair was over.

2. Other Business

- There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.