

Community Services Committee Meeting

Douglas County, Nebraska

Tuesday, March 14, 2017

The meeting convened at 12:50 P.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 March 10, 2017, issue of *The Daily Record*. County Commissioners present at the meeting were Marc Kraft, P.J. Morgan, Chris Rodgers, Clare Duda and Mary Ann Borgeson. Others present during the meeting included Patrick Bloomingdale, Joe Lorenz, Diane Carlson, and Catherine Hall, Administration; Kent Holm, Environmental Services; Scott Olander and Chris Chappellear, Douglas County Fair Board; Zack Carlson, County Attorney's office; and Constance Mierendorf, Douglas County Clerk/Comptroller's office. Marc Kraft chairs the Committee.

A video recording of the meeting is available on the Douglas County Website:

<http://commissioners.douglascounty-ne.gov/board-meetings/videos>

Environmental Services

- Kent Holm said the City is doing a trail extension that will link the Turner Boulevard Trail to the Field Club Trail. This is located along the south side of Pacific Street between 36th Street and Field Club Trail. There is a section of land along the Field Club Golf Course from 38th Street to the Field Club Trail where there is a right of way that was not granted to the City that the County owns.
- Mr. Holm is recommending that this piece of land be donated to the City to obtain right of way and eliminate any maintenance responsibilities that the County might have for the trail. He is working with the County Attorney on a quitclaim deed and awaiting a letter from the City that states it will accept the donated land. This will all come before the County Board for approval.

Fair Board Discussion

- Commissioner Kraft said the County is eliminating the Fair Board as a County department and there is no County administrator for the department. The question is whether there is a need to keep the Fair Board since the group has

now achieved 501c3 status. If there is a need for the Fair Board, what will its function be?

- Commissioner Borgeson asked Scott Olander and Chris Chappellear what the Fair Board members thought about the direction they should take.
- Scott Olander said the Board is still enthusiastic and he believes the Fair is a common denominator between rural Douglas County and urban Douglas County.
- The Fair Board received a lot of feedback from the event held last summer at the Crossroads. Attendees said they wanted dirt and animals. The Board is working on a Progress Show. (This show would be open to young people from surrounding areas; the show allows them to fine tune their skills and prepare for entries into their respective county fairs). Monte Stauffer from UNL said he could provide 60 head of cattle. The Fair is a great community event that promotes family values.
- Chris Chappellear said the Fair Board members want to continue to work with the County and have legal support.
- Mr. Olander said some donors to the Fair wanted to donate to a nonprofit and not to a government entity. The new 501c3 status should help with fundraising.
- Commissioner Borgeson said that the County works with some divisions' foundation boards. For example, she said she sits on the Community Mental Health Foundation Board; its function is to garner private support. She proposed that the Fair Board continue and that the 501c3 be structured like a foundation type body with a Douglas County Board member sitting on that board.
- Commissioner Duda agreed that in order to get the hotel/motel tax dollars (262), the 501c3 is appropriate.
- Patrick Bloomingdale said that the County Board would still need to know what the Fair Board's future plans are. The Fair Board will not have a County employee and it will have to apply for 262 funds as a 501c3 through, what will be for them, a new process with specific new timelines.
- Commissioner Morgan asked what commitment the Fair Board had to the Crossroads, which may soon be under construction.
- Mr. Olander said the Crossroads fair was a one-time event. The Fair Board has been looking at Chance Ridge and has also been approached by the Elkhorn Equestrian Center. Skyline Ranches has been considered for a horse show. There are a number of considerations to be taken into account when selecting a fair location: parking, location, emergency accommodations, etc.
- Mr. Olander added that the Chance Ridge location could possibly allow for parking at Elkhorn High School and Metro Community College with a shuttle service. It might be possible to use the Elkhorn Equestrian Center for some horse events.

- Commissioner Borgeson said the applications for LB 262 funds would be available on March 15 and the application process would begin.
- Commissioner Kraft said the Commissioners would not have to take any action if the County Fair Board remains intact. He raised the question of the membership of the Board being in compliance with state guidelines.
- Commissioner Borgeson requested a list of Board members, their addresses, and their terms of office.
- Catherine Hall said she believed there were a disproportionate number of members from Omaha.
- Mr. Bloomingdale said there were various interpretations of the state guidelines.
- Ms. Hall said that as vacancies arose, appointments were being made appropriately.
- Mr. Olander said he believed 4-5 members of the 9-member Board are from outside of Omaha.
- Commissioner Duda said that when vacancies occur, appointments should be made giving priority to areas that need representation.
- Ms. Hall asked if there should be some formal agreement written with the 501c3.
- Mr. Bloomingdale said the County will not be dealing with funds. All of the money raised by the County Fair will be handled through the 501c3.
- Commissioner Kraft said the High School Championship Rodeo was very successful. The event resulted in a great deal of County recognition.
- Mr. Olander said several people have stepped up to volunteer to help with the rodeo and there has been some discussion about a rodeo school. The Fair Board would like to hold a Rough & Ready Rodeo for special needs children. The Trail Challenge they hold at the end of April has been well received and pays for itself.
- Commissioner Morgan said he believed the Fair Board group is moving in the right direction.
- Commissioner Borgeson said the County Fair Board should look at past applications for 262 funds to help guide them in their application.

The meeting adjourned at 1:22 P.M.