

KITTITAS COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMISSIONERS AUDITORIUM  
SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY

2:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 17, 2013

Board members present: Chairman Obie O'Brien; Vice-Chairman Paul Jewell and Commissioner Gary Berndt.

Others: Julie Kjorsvik, Clerk of the Board; Brenda Larsen, Fire Marshal; Jeff Watson, Staff Planner; Matt Anderson, Facilities Maintenance Director and approximately 20 members of the public.

PUBLIC HEARING

AMEND RATES AT EVENT CENTER

FAIR

At 2:00 p.m. **CHAIRMAN O'BRIEN** opened a Public Hearing to consider amending rates and fees associated with the Kittitas Valley Event Center and Kittitas County Fair.

**MATT ANDERSON, FACILITIES MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR** reviewed the proposed rate structures for the Kittitas Valley Event Center and the Kittitas County Fair. He said their review was under the direction of the Board of County Commissioners in order to continue to find ways to keep revenues in line with their increasing expenses. The fees were based on current demand, market conditions and expenses for the operation. He noted the proposed increase in the daily fee for Fair parking as well as a reduction in the week long fee for parking.

**THOSE PRESENT & TESTIFYING: MIKE ALBERG** expressed his opposition in raising the fees. He felt it was a beneficial place for 4H groups and other riders to go and would like to see his taxes go towards paying for the facilities. He felt if the County raised their fees it may bring down the rentals and in the end the County would end up losing money. **JORDAN ALBERG** said he was a 4H member and spoke against raising the fees. He said they use the facilities frequently and if the fees are raised he would not be able to use it as much. **SHANNON PATTERSON** said she was a member of the Barrel Club and the facility already has a bad reputation because of the ground in the arena. She said if they had better ground they would be able to bring in more events to the community. She said she chooses not to ride her horse in Bloom Pavilion because they get hurt and does not want to take the chance. **MARSHA JENSEN** said she was a barrel racer and thought it

2013-12-17 MINUTES

APPROVED  
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was a good facility, but did not want to see the rates raised. She felt the rodeo has been depleting over the past few years and would like the rates to stay the same as they are now. She thought there was a lot of potential for the facility, which could result in bringing in more activities. **CATHERINE CLERF** questioned if a cost analysis had actually been done and the Board should look at cost versus benefit. She said there was compost dumped at the arena which could not sell by the Solid Waste Department. **TERRY POWERS** said he has used the rodeo grounds and Bloom Pavilion for many years and is concerned that the locals were not going to be able to afford to use the facilities, if the rates were increased. He thought the County should use public taxes towards improving the facility to bring in more events instead of raising the rates. **LONNIE MEACHEM** said they use the facility at least 10 months out of the year and if it gets too cost prohibitive, they will not be able to use the facilities. **MIKE HANEY** encouraged the Board to look at it as a business and the only reasons to raise rates were either due to increased operating costs or if they are running at capacity. **BILL LOWE** recognized all of the local groups that volunteer and work hard every year during the Fair and Rodeo. He said he was not in favor of raising the rates and questioned what the compost was that had been put on the arena grounds.

**MR. ANDERSON** spoke of the compost materials that were added to the grounds and said it was fine, ground organic material to assist in retaining moisture in the soil. He said they had consulted with various people including the Rodeo Board before bringing in the materials in October so it had time to break down over the winter. He noted direction had been given by the Board to use the material from Solid Waste.

**COMMISSIONER JEWELL** explained what the green waste material obtained from the Solid Waste Department is essentially yard waste (grass, branches, etc.) broken down and ground together.

**BOB CROWE** spoke of the camping fees and how the volunteers used to be able to come in the Sunday before rodeo and leave the Tuesday after rodeo, and now it changed Tuesday to Tuesday and each additional day is another \$75.00. **THERE BEING NO ONE OTHERS REQUESTING TO TESTIFY THE PUBLIC PORTION OF THE HEARING WAS CLOSED.**

**MR. ANDERSON** reviewed their operational costs and revenues. He said their revenue is approximately \$750,000.00 and their expenses are \$925,000.00. **COMMISSIONER JEWELL** reviewed the

additional money the facility receives from the Hotel/Motel fund. He noted how the County had acquired property for additional parking, and they are aware of the value of the facility and have been reinvesting in it as well. He said it's a constant struggle of where the revenue comes from without raising taxes and there are always things going up whether it's insurance, unfunded mandates put on by the State, all which affect the General Fund.

**COMMISSIONER JEWELL** moved to approve Resolution 2013-148, as presented. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

**COMMISSIONER BERNDT** moved to approve Resolution No. 2013-148, as presented, however leaving the rates the same for Bloom Pavilion. **CHAIRMAN O'BRIEN** seconded.

**COMMISSIONER BERNDT** said all he heard during the Public Hearing was concerns relating to the rental of Bloom Pavilion. **MR. ANDERSON** said the majority of the time Bloom Pavilion is rented by locals and not too much from the outside. He noted how they could not enforce a group rate because they don't have staff to stay after hours and count the amount of people. He suggested if the Board chooses to stay at the flat rate then make it a per hour fee and eliminate the number of people in a group.

**COMMISSIONER BERNDT** moved to amend the Resolution leaving the Bloom Pavilion rate at \$35.00 per hour and not count per person. **CHAIRMAN O'BRIEN** seconded.

**COMMISSIONER JEWELL** noted there would be a reduction in their revenue projection from the 2014 budget which they recently passed and was not sure where it's going to be made up.

**COMMISSIONER O'BRIEN** noted how the rental of Bloom Pavilion was almost at capacity. **COMMISSIONER JEWELL** said the proposal looked at all of the rates and the County revenue forecast was based upon that. **COMMISSIONER BERNDT** said he would accept responsibility for trying to find a way to make up the shortfall, which was approximately \$1,700.00 for the year.

Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC HEARING                      WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE CODE      FIRE MARSHAL

At 3:24 p.m. **CHAIRMAN O'BRIEN** opened a Public Hearing continued from December 3, 2013 to consider the adoption of the Wildland Urban Interface Code. He noted the written comment deadline was December 16, 2013 at 4:00 p.m.

**BRENDA LARSEN, FIRE MARSHAL** said she had not received any additional comments since the previous Public Hearing. She provided an alternative map for the Boards review and noted it was based upon the Central Washington Homebuilders pre-designated areas. She explained how they would not be conducting site assessments in the red zones however they would be required to obtain the normal building inspections.

**COMMISSIONER JEWELL** noted the heading of the document should be changed from Resolution to Ordinance.

ORDINANCE 2013-013      WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE CODE      FIRE MARSHAL

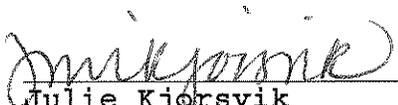
**COMMISSIONER JEWELL** moved to strike the title from Resolution and replace it with an Ordinance, Amending Title 14, 16 and 20 of the Kittitas County Code, Modifying the Mapped Boundaries of the Wildland Urban Interface Designations in Kittitas County and Adopt the WUI Designation Map. **COMMISSIONER BERNDT** seconded.

The Board of County Commissioners thanked staff for their work.

Motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

CLERK OF THE BOARD

  
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Julie Kjorsvik

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
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Chairman Obie O'Brien