



FAIR BOARD MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, Jan 19, 2021
 TIME: 5:30 pm
 LOCATION: **Building 1**

- ATTENDEES:**
- Jackie Foote, Chair
 - Molly Taylor, Vice Chair
 - JaNaie Godin
 -
 - K.C. McLaughlin
 - Tawnya Dykstra
 - Sue Shockley
 - Scott MacFarlane (Commission Liaison)

AGENDA: (subject to change at the discretion of the Board)

Time	Topic	Presenter
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5:30 pm	<p>1.0 Welcome – Attendees are reminded that the meeting is being recorded for public record.</p> <p>1.1 Attendance for the record – Quorum or No Quorum Jackie Foote, Molly Taylor, JaNaie Godin, Sue Shockley in attendance – No Quorum</p> <p>1.2 Pledge of Allegiance</p> <p>1.3 Review & Approval of Minutes for 11.17.2020 Chair deferred Approval of Minutes to approval via email to board from Chair or to next meeting.</p> <p>2.0 Call for Public Comment None</p> <p>3.0 Presentation –</p> <p>3.1 American Legion Baseball Facility Update Chris Tariboucha, Garrett Schulz Chris recapped recent improvements to the field, improvement in financial situation and goal to involve more youth. Garrett commented that they currently have 4 teams and over 400 youth involved. The facility would have six cages which is more than the teams need so they would offer it to softball groups, facility size would be 108’ x 80’x 18’. No plumbing is intended pending approval from city. Have fund raised 20% of project. The project would stay inside existing footprint. Confirmed that Bozeman Baseball would like a fair board recommendation in the affirmative to proceed with an indoor batting facility. They are at the initial stage of fundraising and the approval is required. They would like to modify existing lease to allow year round use of facility. Dennis advised the board that the page from the contract referencing alterations to the leased premises had been included in their board packet, that the project had been presented to the Commission at the weekly work session earlier that day, that the Commission motioned for approval pending the fair board affirmative recommendation with the caveats that the county would not be required to insure the facility and, as result of no impact to fairground operations, would not seek an increase in rent. Dennis confirmed that the contract stipulates that the leased area be used for ‘youth baseball’. Dennis advised the board that the baseball group had requested that the existing contract be renegotiated to assist in creating donor confidence in the longevity of the project but that he advised against that. Molly asked if the use would just be for baseball instead of the lacrosse and softball as Chris and Garrett had indicated. Dennis confirmed that the existing contract stipulates ‘youth baseball’. Chris responded that the expanded use would be advantageous to making the facility a revenue source to support the needs of the community. Chris indicated that it was not Bozeman Baseball’s intent to set up shop as a rental facility but more to meet the needs of the community. Bozeman Baseball would like the language modified to allow that expanded use.</p>	
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Molly indicated that meeting the needs of the community is a part of the fairgrounds use and asked Dennis for clarification and referenced Commissioner MacFarlane comments about the Commission's decision to not allow the use of a portion of the Tamarack Lot for a hotel offsite valet parking service because that use wasn't community wide. Molly indicated that the more users the better it would be. Molly expressed concerns about no plumbing facilities – Garrett responded that with this type of facility not having plumbing was not uncommon but could be addressed with portables. Molly asked about other batting facilities – Garrett indicated that there were smaller facilities. Molly asked if softball was covered under the current contract – Garrett said he thought it could be and that recreation and high school teams could be contacted.

Dennis advised Chris and Garrett that the request for use outside of the existing contract had not been presented to the Commission and was not part of the motion. If that was Bozeman Baseball's intent, the project would have to be re-presented to the Commission.

Chris commented that it might be better if the use of the facility was limited to baseball for the term of the existing contract and then be addressed when the contract came up for renewal. Dennis agreed.

Jackie asked what the timeline for the project is – Chris responded that they want to be open by October.

Molly asked when the Commission could re-consider this project – Dennis responded that the work session takes place weekly and that it could take two weeks to get on the agenda.

Molly commented that she would like to suggest that the Commission reconsider the project with the offer of facility use for rent to other entities not currently allowed in the contract.

Dennis asked Chris/Garrett if they had a business plan or Pro Forma for this project – Chris responded not currently.

Jackie indicated that the board will address the recommendation as soon as possible and have Dennis contact Bozeman Baseball.

4.0 Gallatin County Commission Report

Scott MacFarlane

None

5.0 4H Report

Ja'Nae Godin

JaNaie reported that people are still registering. JaNaie indicated that they are still working with the Health Dept to allow club / project meetings. Rachel asked if she had reached out again – JaNaie responded that she had in December. Rachel advised her to reach out again.

Jackie welcomed JaNaie to the board and indicated that they were lucky to have her involved.

6.0 Manager Report

Dennis Voeller

6.1 Comments on staff reports

Dennis asked if there were any questions on the staff reports.

Finance – none

Marketing – Amanda reported and presented on the awards the Fair had received from the IAFE contests. Advised the board that tickets will go on sale for the Fair on March 5 2021.

Jackie asked where we were on sponsorship – Amanda responded that we were ahead on cash. Jackie asked if Amanda had a Sponsor Packet she could look at.

Operations - none

6.2 Comments on Fair programming

Dennis commented, regarding Bozeman Baseball project, that if Bozeman Baseball was going to pursue facility use from other entities, the Fairgrounds should receive a piece of that given the Fairgrounds mandate to become self-sufficient. Dennis advised the board that the Commission's approval was predicated on the use addressed in the current contract. Dennis advised the board that he supported the project within the current contract parameters or the contract should be renegotiated to address the expanded use.

Molly commented that she understood that the Fairground's mission was to serve as much of Gallatin County as possible but understands that the Fairgrounds may have additional costs. Dennis responded – yes and that's not what baseball wants. Dennis advised the board on the funding of the Fairgrounds philosophy and that there was a meeting planned with the Commission to discuss the future of the Fairgrounds. That meeting was called by the Commission.

Dennis commented that staff, per Board directive at the November 2020 meeting, was planning for a full open fair with consideration to some distancing or reduced capacity order being in place. Commercial booth applications were open, Operations was arranging for supplies to address sanitization protocols and tenting. Dennis advised the board that the tent used for the livestock shows had been re-rented from a local vendor who had purchased it from the vendor who had it in previous years and had gone out of business in 2020.

Jackie asked about the carnival – Dennis responded that they had committed to our dates but with a smaller show due to labor.

Molly asked if health department had approved that operation – Dennis responded that staff is moving ahead with the plan submitted which allows for distancing and sanitizing.

Molly asked about cancelling contracts with concert acts – Dennis responded that we can cancel but the acts are requesting a non-refundable deposit if due notice isn't given.

Dennis advised the board of a conflict in the use of the Haynes Pavilion between the Art of the Cowgirl event and Farmer's Market for the weekend of June 26 2021. Fair staff has offered Farmer's Market the area on each side of the Gate A road for their use on that day at no charge and if that is not acceptable to Farmers Market to not make that date available to Farmers Market. Board concurred.

7.0 Business Items –

Chair deferred addressing of Business Items to approval via email from Chair to board or to next meeting.

Discussion on how to amend Bylaws to allow for a majority of board members in attendance to make/pass motion.

Sue commented that the history of use at the Gallatin County Fairgrounds included football games, baseball games, auto racing and other activities that support ag programming.

Dennis confirmed that is the intent of management.

- 7.1 Election of Chair
- 7.2 Election of Vice-Chair
- 7.3 Appointment of Secretary
- 7.4 Approval of Bylaws
- 7.5 Review and Policy discussion
- 7.4 Confirm board meeting on February 16 2021
- 7.2 Other

8.0 Adjournment

6:37 PM Meeting Adjourned