

1 **WASHINGTON COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

2
3 Date of enactment: 9/8/09
4 Date of publication: _____

5 **VOTE**

6 **2009 RESOLUTION 29**

7 **Fair Park Concept Plan**

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10 **WHEREAS**, the Fair Park Study Committee completed its thorough review of Fair Park
11 finances and operations and has developed recommendations compiled in a report dated August
12 28, 2009; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, the recommendations propose ideas for the Agricultural and Industrial So-
15 ciety ("AIS") to continue year-round use of the Fair Park buildings and grounds, as well as the
16 operation of the annual County Fair; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, the Washington County Board of Supervisors has heard the presentation of
19 the Fair Park Study Committee report and has adopted a motion to accept the report; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, since the discovery of the financial difficulties in 2008, several changes
22 have occurred at Fair Park in the area of personnel and financial conditions; specifically, the Fair
23 Park Director resigned and the Fair Manager has assumed operating responsibilities; two County
24 employees have been removed from the AIS staffing plan; the Agricultural and Industrial Socie-
25 ty Board of Directors has strengthened and become more active; the 2009 County Fair had strong
26 public support with prominent sponsorships and donations; and, the requested County financial
27 support for the 2009 County Fair was not needed as the AIS was able to operate the 2009 County
28 Fair within its budget; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, one of the findings of the Study Committee report is that a County operated
31 year-round facility, including the annual county fair is cost prohibitive, especially due to the
32 County's staffing costs; and

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34 **WHEREAS**, the AIS actively participated in the Fair Park Study Committee meetings
35 and has taken steps to identify key aspects of operations and personnel changes required to oper-
36 ate a successful year-round facility; and

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38 **WHEREAS**, it is in the interest of Washington County and the citizens to consider im-
39 plementing the recommendations contained in the report by having the recommendations re-
40 ferred to the relevant county board committee(s) for a more detailed evaluation of each recom-
41 mendation; and

1 **WHEREAS**, it is the consensus of the Washington County Board of Supervisors that it
2 desires more authority over Fair Park buildings and property and also would like to keep Fair
3 Park open as a public year-round facility for a multitude of community and private events;
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5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Washington County Board of Su-
6 pervisors that the general recommendations of the report are adopted as follows:
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- 8 1. That the County continue the mission of Fair Park (to enhance cultural, education,
9 economic, and social opportunities for the people of Washington County) and
10 continue a year-round operation with access for community events, 4-H and the
11 annual County Fair.
- 12 2. That the County develop a financial plan which protects the County's interests
13 while allowing AIS to operate Fair Park through the year 2010. The plan shall
14 address the financial issues of the capital improvements at Fair Park.
- 15 3. That a new lease agreement with AIS is negotiated to ensure greater financial
16 oversight and stronger operations and that mutually agreed upon performance ex-
17 pectations are included in an Operating Agreement between AIS and the County
18 in order to measure the effectiveness of Fair Park operations which will be an-
19 nually evaluated by the appropriate County committee.
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22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board directs the Finance Committee to en-
23 gage in further study and evaluation of recommendation #2 above and bring to the Board a com-
24 prehensive financial statement and proposal to present same at the October 27, 2009 Washington
25 County Board meeting.
26

27 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board directs the Education and Culture, Ex-
28 ecutive and Finance Committees to engage in further study and evaluation of recommendation
29 #3 above and bring to the Board a proposal to implement same at the October 27, 2009 Washing-
30 ton County Board meeting.
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32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that during this time of transition, the Board authorizes
33 the AIS to delay payments of its July 2009 - December 2009 invoices from Washington County,
34 as needed, until February 28, 2010. If the AIS is in default of the lease, the County will give the
35 AIS written notice of the default.
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40 VOTE REQUIREMENT FOR PASSAGE: Majority

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42 RESOLUTION SUMMARY: Resolution recognizing Fair Park Study Committee report and
43 outline of process to implement same.
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1 APPROVED:
2 **(signed by Kimberly A. Nass)**
3 Kimberly A. Nass, County Attorney
4 Dated **9/8/09**
5
6 Considered **9/8/09**
7 Adopted **9/8/09**
8 Ayes **22** Noes **7** Absent **1**
9 Voice Vote _____

Introduced by members of the EDUCATION and
CULTURE COMMITTEE as filed with the County
as filed with the County Clerk.

(signed by Marilyn H. Merten)
Marilyn H. Merten, Chairperson
Education and Culture Committee

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12 (No fiscal effect.)