

1 **FAIR PARK STUDY COMMITTEE**

2
3 Government Center
4 West Bend, WI

May 11 2009
1:00 p.m.

5
6 Committee Members Present: Herbert Tennes, Dan Anhalt, Dennis Boese, Tony Warren, James
7 Core, Todd Healy, Rick Gundrum, and William Meyers.

8
9 Also Present: UW-Extension Community Development Educator Paul Roback, Administrative
10 Assistant for Administration and County Board Judy Steinert, Administrative Coordinator Doug
11 Johnson, Finance Director Susan Haag, County Attorney Kim Nass, County Clerk Brenda
12 Jaszewski, Sheriff Dale Schmidt, Fair Park Deputy Director/Fair Manager Sandy Lang, Fair Park
13 Accounting Manager Debbie Hoefert, Supervisors Charlene Brady, Roy Justman, Marilyn Merten,
14 and Carol Puerling, AIS Board Members Mary Krumbiegel, Dan Dineen, and Richard Roembke.

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16 The meeting was called to order by Chairman Herb Tennes and the affidavit of posting was read.

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18 **MINUTES**

19 Moved by Mr. Gundrum, seconded by Mr. Warren to approve the April 1, 2009, Fair Park Study
20 Committee minutes. Motion carried.

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22 **COUNTY OPERATION OF FAIR PARK CONSIDERATIONS**

23 Administrative Coordinator Doug Johnson presented information on the considerations of the
24 County directly operating Washington County Fair Park. The three main issues to consider are:
25 staffing costs, building ownership, and organizational features. Staffing costs were calculated using
26 similar positions to the current AIS operations. For the same core staffing plan, county operations
27 would require approximately \$89,000 more annually. For building ownership, the County currently
28 owns only the Pavilion building with AIS owning the Ziegler Center, storage building, restroom
29 building, stage and donated structures. Government and private non-profit organizations would
30 provide differences in organizational features, which would impact the operations at Fair Park.
31 Specific issues considered were accountability structures, pay plans, fee setting, payroll and
32 administration. The committee members were asked to consider which organization would be best
33 suited for operating a fairground, for building ownership and care, and whether the added cost of
34 direct county operation would provide enough value to justify the change.

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36 **FINANCIAL REVIEW OF 2006-2009 AND MONTHLY PATTERNS**

37 Finance Director Sue Haag reviewed information provided on the Fair Park 2006-2009 Income and
38 Expenses, Monthly Revenues and Expenses by event type for 2008, and the 2008 Washington
39 County Fair Income Statement by Day.

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41 **RESEARCH OF OTHER COUNTY FAIR OPERATIONS**

42 Mr. Roback presented responses received from a survey of six other county fair operations.
43 Responses were received from Dodge, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Langlade, Walworth and Waukesha
44 Counties. Information received included: ownership and operation of the fairgrounds, mission
45 statements, year-round facility or not, number of staff, attendance figures, admission fees, county
46 levy amounts, number and types of events, 4-H usage, and other revenue sources.

1 **IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL ALTERNATIVES FOR**
2 **CONSIDERATION**

3 The committee was asked to consider additional alternatives for operations at Fair Park. Other
4 alternatives to look at include; county ownership of all buildings and contracting with AIS for
5 operations, and seasonal operations of the facilities.
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7 **NEXT MEETING DATE**

8 The next meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the County Courthouse, Government
9 Center. The following meeting will be August 10, 2009, at 1:00 p.m. at the County Courthouse,
10 Government Center.
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12 Moved by Mr. Anhalt, seconded by Mr. Boese to adjourn the meeting at 2:57 p.m. Motion carried.
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Brenda Jaszewski, County Clerk