

# Promotions & Recreation Committee Minutes

August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The Promotions & Recreation Committee meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Chairman Bruce Heidmann. Members present included: Bruce Heidmann, Larry Kirchman, Scott Jahnke, Dennis Cravillion and Ken Tebon. Also present was Promotions & Recreation Director Dave Myers, Fairgrounds Caretaker Jerry Jonet, and Recording Secretary Jenny Salentine. Guests at today's meeting included: Race Promoter Gene Mathu

Adoption of Agenda & Approval of Minutes: Dennis Cravillion made a motion to adopt today's agenda and approve the July 7<sup>th</sup> Promotions & Recreation Committee Minutes. Second by Ken Tebon. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments: None

Committee Liaison Reports: None

Discuss issuing of a RFP for a race track promoter for 2016 Season: The current promoter is under a one year contract which will end this September. Kewaunee County will need a contract for 2016 in order to move forward. Chairman Heidmann mentioned attendance is down.

Current Promoter, Gene Mathu had the following comments at today's meeting:

- Attendance is down across the Midwest
- Luxemburg Speedway Group LLC is paying the best in Wisconsin
  - Our pay-out is higher for Late Models
- The County Highway Dept needs to come up with a better deal for me
  - The County Highway Dept has done me no favors this year
  - Patrol Superintendent Joe Dax verbally guaranteed to grade on Saturday's for only \$40.00 more which hasn't been the case
  - DOT Grader rates are too high
- Last year, Luxemburg Speedway Group LLC lost \$15,000.00

More discussion took place to include the following comments from the committee members:

- Chairman Heidmann stated the County has spent a great amount of money @ the Fairgrounds with improvements the last few years. He'd suggest the County put out an RFP & see what comes in for interest
- Dennis Cravillion agrees times are tough & added that as a promoter you need to create excitement, you need to be in the paper & on the radio to draw a crowd
- Larry Kirchman stated nothing will change with County Highway Dept billing system. Larry also asked if the deal-breaker was the Highway Dept bills for grading the track, to which Mr. Mathu replied "yes". Larry agreed with the others, it's a tough go right now. Larry stated he feels the current promoter deserves the respect to continue and be given an opportunity to extend the contract. Larry further went on to ask what kinds of changes would Gene expect to which Mr. Mathu replied: grading to no longer be completed by the County Highway Dept, lower weekly tract rent, more "high risk" events (these are events currently listed in the contract as \$400 for rent vs. the \$1,600 weekly rent & is currently limited to 2 events per season), more special events on various week day evenings (other than Friday night)

Larry would like for the department to contact other race tracks in the surrounding areas to verify their rental rates and what is/or is not included in the weekly rent.

Mr. Mathu is interested in a 1-year contract extension and will put together a proposal for review by the Promotions & Recreation Committee prior to their next committee meeting.

No action taken.

Discuss purchasing a new zero turn lawnmower for general park use: One of our existing Cub Cadet mowers has a damaged hydraulic system which has been deemed not cost effective to repair due to the mowers age and hours of use. Current hours are 1100, life expectancy is 1500 hours. Chairman Heidmann feels our department has gone on a staff reduction for 4 months and feels we should get a cut of that pool of money that hasn't been paid out in wages to purchase a mower. Dennis Cravillion suggested we roll the lawns in the spring and would like to see the mower operators slow down a bit. Scott Jahnke commented Zero Turn mowers are designed to be faster than a riding lawn

mower which may be why they seem to be going faster. Dennis also suggested we set aside funds each year to replace mowers every few years. A request for bids was not issued, but several vendors were looked at. The Hustler X1 was deemed to be the most cost effective and durable from the 3 local vendors we checked with. The following motion was made by Larry Kirchman: The Promotion & Recreation Committee recommends the County Administrator do a line item transfer to purchase a Hustler X1 Zero Turn Mower from Luxemburg Implement in the amount of \$8,576.00 with funding to come from our general park labor account. Second by Scott Jahnke. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Discuss possibility of purchasing a replacement truck for County Fairgrounds: The current truck is a 1996 Ford which is unsafe to drive. There's 200,000+ miles on the engine, the breaks are bad, and the steering column is broken. Jerry uses his personal truck for work use at the fairgrounds. County Highway Dept has a truck we could possibly purchase. Bruce recommends Dave talk w/ Commissioner Every in the Highway Dept. It was the consensus of the committee to explore our possibilities.

Discuss current fairgrounds truck status ~ do we want to auction this item or do we want to scrap it? Per the notes from the item immediately above, it is the consensus of the committee to scrap the existing truck which is unsafe.

Discuss possibility of purchasing a central P.A. System for the Fairgrounds: Our office received a request from Darlene Boeder, Fair Board member, for the need to have a P.A. System at the Fairgrounds for the County Fair. This was discussed last year. At the time, it was the consensus of the committee to forward the request to finance. Our dept has no funding for a P.A. system.

Discuss request from 4H/Dairy & Auction Committees to update the office in the livestock barn: The office in the livestock barn is used during the fair to house their electronic equipment. The committees would like to add a concrete floor & ceiling to protect their equipment from dust & dirt. The current structure is just 4 walls with a door, no floor, no ceiling. The committees have secured all donated materials & labor. This improvement would be at no cost to the County. A motion was made by Larry Kirchman to allow the 4H/Dairy & Auction Committees to update the office as mentioned above. Second by Dennis Cravillion. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Discuss adding security system to Bruemmer County Park: This item was tabled from our last monthly meeting. No updated quote was received from *Bee Safe Security*. The last quote received from *Bee Safe* didn't include the trenching. His original quote had the County do the trenching. *Martin Security's* quote was \$2,554.00 and included 2 cameras plus the cost of trenching. Funds have already been earmarked in a non-lapsing account from the sale of the Fox Kits years back. Dennis commented he'd like to allow another few weeks for *Bee Safe Security* to update their quote. No action taken.

Approve Travel Requests: None

Directors Report: Please see the attached Director's Report.

Approve & Sign Vouchers: Motion to approve vouchers as presented made by Ken Tebon. Second by Scott Jahnke. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

Any other business as allowed by law: None

Next Meeting Dates: The committee has decided not to go on a park-tour this summer. The next Promotions & Recreation Committee meeting will be Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 PM, in the Highway Dept Conference Room.

Adjournment: Motion made to adjourn today's meeting by Larry Kirchman. Second by Ken Tebon. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

---

Jenny Salentine, Recording Secretary