

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: September 2, 2014

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3A

APPLICANT: Roger Moellendorf, Parks & Recreation Director
Marena Works, Deputy City Manager

REQUEST: Discussion only regarding an update on the NV 150 Fair.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Deputy City Manager Marena Works will provide an update of the NV 150 Fair which was held July 30 – August 3, 2014 at Fuji Parks and the Carson City Fairgrounds. Ms. Works will be bringing late material for the Commission as part of her update. From a Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Department perspective the Fair seemed to be a complete success. The event was well attended and the Fair provided a nice diversity of entertainment which included everything from musical concerts to a carnival to a rodeo and a livestock auction. The grand opening featuring the Governor Sandoval and Mayor Crowell arriving on a stage coach was a great way to kick off the Fair. After some initial confusion and some complaints about restricted parking the Fair goers seemed to find the shuttle service from the Fandango to be convenient, efficient, and enjoyable. In addition, the park and the fairgrounds benefitted from the completion of some nice improvements including pathway lighting along Clear Creek , an animal wash rack near the dog park, and a new picnic pavilion on the east end of the fairgrounds.

The only negative aspects was the breaking and falling of a very large limb from large cottonwood located in Fuji Park, and a single complaint from a dog owner from Gardnerville that the dog park was closed for the Fair. Fortunately, the limb fell from the tree at approximately 3:00 a.m. and while it didn't cause any injuries it did damage a picnic table and the Panda Express concession tent. The Public Works Department tree crew did spend a couple of days before the Fair performing safety pruning on the large cottonwood trees in the park, but it is impossible to ensure that limbs are not going to drop from the large mature trees. Staff believes the complaint about the dog park is invalid in that notices were published in the newspaper and signage had been placed well in advance of the Fair at the dog park warning the public that the dog park would be closed during the Fair. The signage also provided information as to other dog friendly parks dog owners could take their dogs to.

Ms. Works will be providing the Board of Supervisors with a financial report of the Fair at a future Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: This is a discussion only item; therefore, no action can be taken.

Fair reviews pretty fair, not partly cloudy

Fair to middlin' fair despite prospects for fair to partly cloudy. In the end, those who put themselves on the hook avoided a bomb by pulling it off with aplomb.

The Nevada Sesquicentennial Fair at Fuji Park and Fairgrounds over the weekend was branded a success by people who put heart, soul and the place where saddle sores go on the line to get it done in a relatively short time frame. There were more than a few hurdles to clear. Those involved deserve credit for a creditable first-time event.

"I think the turnout for the fair met our expectations," said City Manager Nick Marano. Looking forward, he said, there is potential "for some type of a repeat." He said there were good comments from folks in the community, vendors, exhibitors and most participating who offered up an opinion. Marano, who became city manager June 2, in less than two months saw eight or nine months of work come together well.

"All in all," he said, "I think it was a great community event and I want to congratulate Marena." That's Marena



John Barrette
Scene In Passing

Works, the deputy and former interim city manager who shepherded the event along from the idea's inception last autumn through Sunday's final night at Fuji. The new city manager also gave credit to Susan Taylor, the California fair consultant and manager brought in to oversee the complexities of this first fair in the state capital.

Works and Taylor got kudos from Ronni Hannaman, Chamber of Commerce executive director, whose own role to push the event wasn't small. Hannaman, a Redevelopment Authority Citizens Committee member, had advocated using redevelopment funds to upgrade the park and fairgrounds to handle the fair and future events for which the grounds may be rented.

"Two women did this," said Hannaman, naming Works and Taylor.

"It was two women who pulled this off with a lot of volunteers." She also tossed a bouquet to the Fandango Casino and Galaxy Theater complex for providing parking so the city could shuttle fair patrons from their vehicles to the fairgrounds and back.

The Chamber sponsored David John and the Comstock Cowboys, music headliners, for a stellar Friday night arena stage performance despite electrical Rice Krispies — the periodic snap, crackle and pop of a haywire sound system. David John channeled Johnny Cash at one point, but offered plenty of his own songs as well. The group's final flourish for the audience of 500 was a rousing twin fiddle rendition of Orange Blossom Special.

Reports are arena seats were packed even more for Ranch Rodeo performances, and the midway drew good weekend crowds. Works, meanwhile, declared herself "really pleased" and said she walked around at times "almost in awe" because people of all ages were having fun. "There were so many families there," she said, branding the fair "absolutely, hands down" as a success.