

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
SKAGIT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Saturday, January 18, 1986

10:00 a.m. Public Meeting - Fair Relocation - Hearing Rooms B & C, County Administration Building.

The Skagit County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Saturday, January 18, 1986, with Commissioners Rohrer, Vaux and Walberg present.

PUBLIC MEETING - FAIR RELOCATION.

Chairman Rohrer asked those to speak who favored sites other than Fredonia and Northern State as a new location for the Skagit County fair.

Jack Crawford, of Mount Vernon, favored the current site with more efficient administrative cooperation. He felt that this option would avoid the tremendous expense of relocation.

Charles Waltner, of Mount Vernon, concurred and stated that location is the most important factor to be considered. He favored the current site over relocation.

Kate Yarbrough read a letter from Jean Smith, a 4-H leader, who was opposed to the Northern State site because of access problems, old buildings, and a number of other reasons.

Robert Hart, of La Conner, felt the Mount Vernon site could be continued to be used if the County Commissioners were to become more involved in the fair.

Phil Mihelich, of Citizens for Northern State, read some statistics of the Thurston County fairgrounds. He felt some economic advantages of the Northern State site included: expansion possibilities, availability, publicly owned land, and the proximity of the Job Corps to help renovate the site.

Chairman Rohrer read a phone message from Bill Fisher, who felt the fair site should have plenty of room to expand.

Chairman Rohrer also noted that he had received a phone message from Jack Wiley, who also favored leaving the fair at the current location (Mount Vernon).

Ed Breckenridge favored the 70-acre Fredonia site. He pointed out that the Lynden fair is only 33 acres in size. Mr. Breckenridge felt there would be no unresolvable problems with regard to power, sewer, drainage, floodplain, etc. The assessed value of this property is \$1,225,000, and it is owned by Norm Dahlstedt. Mr. Breckenridge concluded that he would also support Jack

Crawford's suggestion to leave the fair where it is in Mount Vernon.

Dave Hough, Senior Planner, reviewed the specifications regarding the Fredonia and Northern State sites, for the benefit of those people who were not present at the last meeting. The Fredonia site, consisting of 70 acres, would cost approximately \$1,900,000 for relocation of the fair. The Northern State's 400 acres being considered would cost approximately \$1,765,000 for relocation of the fair.

Commissioner Vaux reported on Willard Lyon's findings on the cost of buildings to run the fair for the next 20 years. Mr. Lyon estimated it would cost approximately \$1.5 million to construct 145,000 sq feet of buildings under roof.

Mike Crawford, Port Commissioner, District #3, favored the Northern State site, and explained why he did not favor the Fredonia site.

Mert McKee, of Chuckanut Drive, concurred with Ed Breckenridge and Jack Crawford's comments. He supported the Fredonia site, as opposed to the Northern State site.

Walt Schuh, of Bow, stated that he is superintendent of FFA Division of the Skagit County Fair. He recommended that the Commissioners contact Roger Roberts of the State Fair Commission and State Department of Agriculture regarding advice and suggestions.

Norm Brann supported the relocation of the fair to the Fredonia site.

Walt Hudson, of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce, supported the Fredonia site.

Chairman Rohrer stated that he was in receipt of a letter from the Anacortes Chamber of Commerce supporting Northern State.

Roger Anderson, of Sedro Woolley, pointed out that Anacortes is probably one of the most distant areas from Northern State, however, the Anacortes Chamber supports Northern State.

Danny Noel stated that he just completed a three-year term on the Skagit County Fair Board. He advocated the relocation to Northern State, due to the lack of space at the current site.

Tony Breckenridge stated that he had a degree in law enforcement. He felt that the fair's relocation to the Northern State site near the Job Corps participants and the Indian Reservation would not be a smart move.

Dr. John Dugaw, of Sedro Woolley, stated that he is a contract physician for Job Corps. He stated that he sees these young people who appear to be from a

cross section of society. He stressed the encouragement of the Sedro Woolley community for the relocation to the Northern State site.

June Johnson, of the Skagit County Fair Board, supported the Job Corps, as well as the Northern State site.

Commissioner Vaux stated that the Board was not opposed to the Job Corps. He asked that Mr. Breckenridge's comment not be addressed any further.

Ken Fritsch, of Sedro Woolley, stated that a site would need 90 to 100 acres for an adequate motor sports facility. He therefore favored the Northern State site.

Howard Miller, of Sedro Woolley, felt the Northern State site did not pose any insurmountable problems.

Hugh Ridgway, of Sedro Woolley, stated that he called Roger Roberts of the State Fair Commission, and was informed that the State Fair Commission does not offer criteria for planning a fair site. He encouraged the use of the Job Corps in the construction of the facility at the Northern State site. Mr. Ridgway also pointed out that a fair is a destination site.

John Abenroth, of Sedro Woolley, favored the Northern State site due to its size.

Roger Anderson, of Sedro Woolley, noted that the Upper Skagit Tribe invites the relocation of the fair to the Northern State site.

Commissioner Vaux stated that he needs more information on costs, before he can make a decision. He also felt additional consideration needs to be given to the administration of the fair in the future. He cited economics, location and support as being major factors for consideration. Commissioner Vaux felt a decision could be reached in approximately 30 days.

Commissioner Walberg felt a decision would take slightly longer than 30 days, due to the need for an environmental impact statement (EIS) on the matter.

At Chairman Rohrer's suggestion, the Board authorized Dave Hough to begin EIS procedures on the following three sites:


1. Fredonia
2. Northern State
3. Current Mount Vernon location


Willard Lyon, of Mount Vernon, expressed appreciation for the Board's cooperative work on this matter.

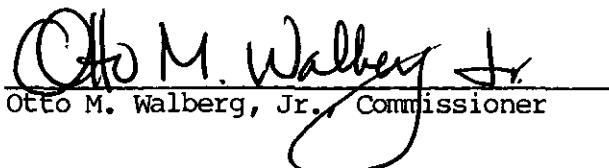
ADJOURNMENT

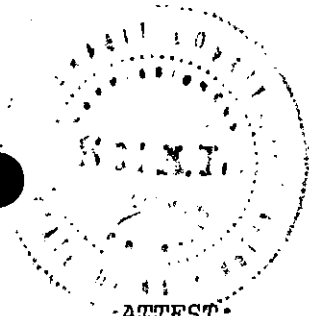
Commissioner Walberg motioned to adjourn the proceedings. Commissioner Vaux seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SKAGIT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
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Dave Rohrer, Chairman

  
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W. W. Vaux, Commissioner

  
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Otto M. Walberg, Jr., Commissioner



  
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Megan Cheney, Clerk  
Skagit County Board of Commissioners