City of Grand Island
Tuesday, February 9, 2021
Council Session

Item C-1

Update Concerning Heartland Events Center Operations

Chris Kotulak, Executive Director and Mark Landis with the Heartland Events Center will update the Mayor and City Council on the events that have taken place at the Heartland Events Center.

Staff Contact: Jerry Janulewicz

HEARTLAND EVENTS CENTER

GRAND ISLAND CITY COUNCIL UPDATE
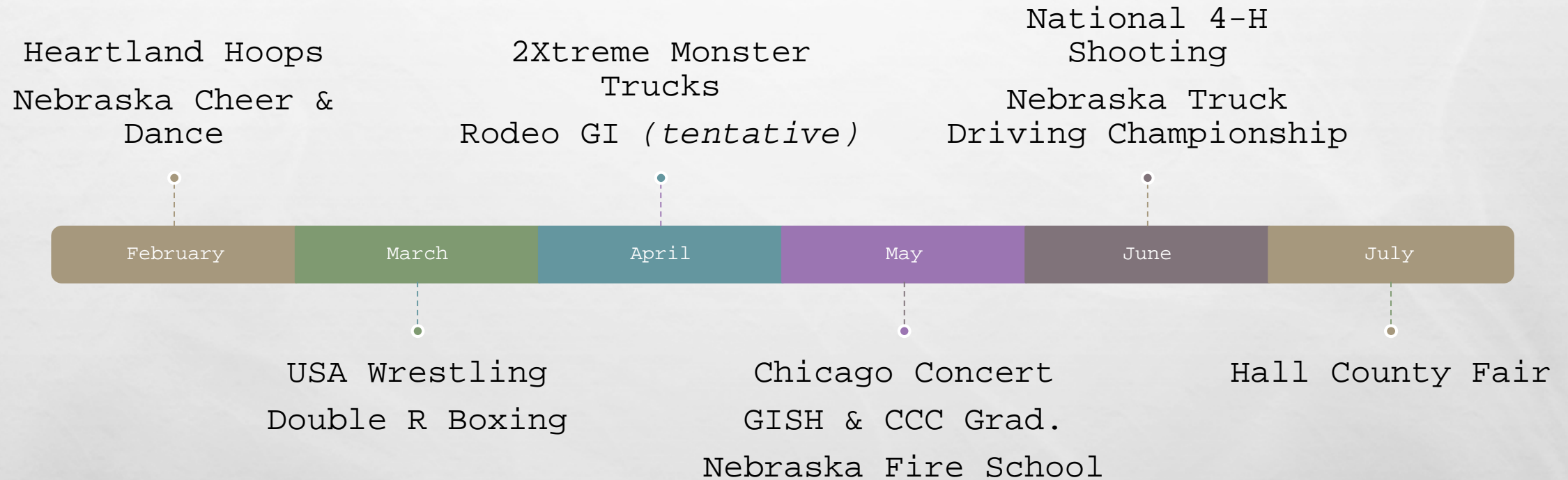
FEBRUARY 9, 2021

PROGRAM

- Events since last update (October 2018)
  - Upcoming events
- Effects of Covid
  - Cancelled events
  - Covid relief
- The Future of HEC and Fonner Park
  - Bond repayment completion
  - Repairs and improvements

	Concerts	Community Events	Sports Events
2019	Little Big Town Brett Eldredge Mannheim Steamroller Maren Morris Trace Adkins	GISH Graduation Shrine Circus CCC Graduation GIPS Gear Up Nebraska Nat'l Guard Send-off	USA Wrestling Nebraska Cheer & Dance Heartland Hoops Harlem Globetrotters Nebraska Danger
2020	PJ Masks Hairball		

MAJOR EVENTS – 2019 AND 2020

MAJOR UPCOMING EVENTS - 2021

Heartland Hoops

Nebraska Cheer & Dance

2Xtreme Monster Trucks

Rodeo GI *(tentative)*

National 4-H Shooting

Nebraska Truck Driving Championship

February	March	April	May	June	July

USA Wrestling

Double R Boxing

Chicago Concert

GISH & CCC Grad.

Nebraska Fire School

Hall County Fair

COVID CANCELLATIONS & POSTPONEMENTS

Concerts	Community & Trade Shows	Sports Events
Chicago	Nursing in Nebraska Conference	Flatwater Fracas
Cirque Musica	GISH Graduation	Husker Volleyball
#IMomSoHard	Husker Harvest Days Reception	USA Wrestling

Events stopped booking in second quarter of 2021

COVID-19 RELIEF

- HEC has received two sources of federal Covid-19 relief:
  - A Payroll Protection Program loan that has been forgiven
  - A CARES grant administered through the State of Nebraska's Events Center and Sports Arena Stabilization Program

- HEC also appears to qualify for Shuttered Venue Operations relief as passed in the most recent federal stimulus package
  - Final SBA guidance has not yet been issued

HEC AND THE FONNER PARK CASINO

- Nebraska voters have approved casino gaming at racetracks
  - Fonner Park intends to build a "destination" casino that will attract visitors from the region to Grand Island
    - Fonner Park is still in the process of selecting a casino operator
    - Construction on the casino will not start until after the 2021 Nebraska State Fair at the earliest

- The Heartland Events Center will be a part of the overall experience for visitors
  - Concerts and events may be held at HEC in conjunction with the casino
  - Events held in HEC will be completely separate from the casino gaming floor

BOND PAYMENTS AND BUILDING TRANSFER

- The last Hall County bond payment will be made in March of 2021

- The city continues to make bond payments twice per year
  - One payment is made each June for half the interest for the year
  - A second, much larger payment is made each December for the remaining interest plus the principal for the year

- The last city payment occurs on December 15, 2024
  - After this payment, the building transfers back to the city
  - Fonner Park Exposition and Events Center will still own most of the equipment (audio/visual equipment, video monitors, signage, concession equipment, etc.) that is inside the building

MAJOR RECENT REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS

- Boiler replacement (2 boilers)

- Concession area cooling system

- Mobile electronic signs

- Bosselman Conference Center ceiling repairs

- Sidewalk de-icing system

- Glycol piping replacement

- Parking lot repairs

- And several others

MAJOR IMMINENT REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS

- Primary and secondary entrances; walkway and precipitation issues; windowpanes

- Boiler and water heater repairs

- Lighting upgrade to LED

- Flooring upkeep/cleaning and repair

- Seating maintenance and improvements

- Roof repair and replacement

- Parking lot repair and resurfacing

- Total quoted costs of these repairs: over $3.5 million
  - For comparison, total city bond payments were about $7.5 million

THE FUTURE OF HEC?