



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Council Session

Item G-6

Approving Request of Fonner Park Exposition and Events Center, Inc. (Heartland Events Center) for Ratification of Nomination and Election of Board of Directors

At the December 21, 1998 City Council Meeting, Resolution #98-332 was adopted supporting the application of Fonner Park to the Internal Revenue Service for a 501(c)(3) exemption for construction and operation of an Exposition and Events Center. This approval created the formation of the Fonner Park Exposition and Events Center, Inc. The Internal Revenue Service requires the election of the members of the Board of Directors of Fonner Park Exposition and Events Center, Inc. be ratified by the Grand Island City Council. The appointments of Jim Cannon, Steve Dowding, Steve Kunzman, Roger Luebbe, and Cindy Johnson to the Board of Directors for the Fonner Park Exposition and Events Center, Inc. are recommended.

Staff Contact: Mayor Roger Steele



SMITH, JOHNSON, ALLEN,
CONNICK & HANSEN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ESTABLISHED IN 1929

PARTNERS

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A.J. LUEBS (1903-1996) | D. STEVEN LEININGER (RETIRED)
BRUCE I. SMITH (RETIRED) | DANIEL M. PLACZEK (RETIRED)

July 29, 2021

Mayor Roger G. Steele
City of Grand Island
City Hall Building
100 E. First Street
Grand Island, NE 68801

COPY

Re: Fonner Park Exposition and Events Center, Inc.

Dear Mayor Steele:

Please have the City Clerk of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska ("the City") place the following matter on the agenda of the meeting of the City Council of the City scheduled for August 10, 2021:

"Fonner Park Exposition and Events Center, Inc. /Ratification of Nomination and Election of Board of Directors"

Hall County Livestock Improvement Association ("Fonner Park") held its annual meeting on July 28, 2021, one (1) of the purposes of which was to elect directors of Fonner Park Exposition and Events Center, Inc. ("Heartland").

Heartland is a nonprofit corporation formed under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code for the purposes of lessening the burdens of government. Specifically, Heartland was formed to lessen the burdens of the City in planning, constructing and operating an agricultural exposition and events center in the City.

The Board of Directors of Heartland consists of five (5) members. As a condition to obtaining exemption under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, the Internal Revenue Service required that the following provisions be included in the Bylaws of Heartland:

- (1) You, as the Mayor of the City, nominate one (1) member of the Board of Directors of Heartland and your nominee shall be elected; and

- (2) The election of your nominee and the remaining four (4) directors as the members of the Board of Directors of Heartland is submitted to the City Council of the City for ratification.

Because Heartland was formed for the purpose of lessening the burdens of government, the Internal Revenue Service imposed the foregoing requirements on Heartland so that there would be an opportunity for oversight by the City in regard to the election of directors of Heartland.

The following director was nominated by you and elected in compliance with the requirements of (1) above.

Cindy Johnson

The following four (4) directors were also elected:

Jim Cannon
Steve Dowding
Steve Kunzman
Roger Luebbe

The election of your nominee and the remaining four (4) directors as the members of the the Board of Directors of Heartland should now be submitted to the City Council of the City for ratification in compliance with the requirements of (2) above.


Please submit to the City Council of the City for ratification the election of your nominee and the remaining four (4) directors as members of the Board of Directors of Heartland in compliance with the requirements of the Bylaws of Heartland.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

SMITH, JOHNSON, ALLEN,
CONNICK & HANSEN



MICHAEL L. JOHNSON
MLJ/par

cc:  Ms. RaNae Edwards, City Clerk
Mr. Chris Kotulak
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