Community Redevelopment Authority (CRA)

Wednesday, March 10, 2021
Regular Meeting

Item X1

State Fairgrounds Master Plan

Staff Contact:

NEBRASKA STATE FAIR 1868 FOUNDATION

February 1, 2021

Mr. Chad Nabity
Regional Planning Director
Regional Planning and Community Development
100 E. First Street – City Hall
Grand Island, NE 68801

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Lindsey Koepke,
Executive Director

Dear Chad,

It has been a pleasure to visit with you about opportunities for growth and expansion of Grand Island's beloved and the largest annual statewide celebration, the Nebraska State Fair. We discussed a variety of issues the fair is facing as well as a number of elements and advancements that will be critical to the future of the fair in the coming years.

The 1868 Foundation has been working in concert with the State Fair Board and key Staff to identify elements that are essential for the continued growth of the annual fair and the facilities and grounds in which it operates on. Together, we all believe that formulating a long-range Master Plan is of critical importance for not only the State Fair, the 1868 Foundation, but for Fonner Park and all of the community and stakeholders involved.

In working with the State Fair Board and key Staff, we've identified qualified prospective sources to assist us with this long-range plan effort and anticipate the cost for such a plan to be roughly $135,000. Additionally, and equally as important, is that we have been working closely with Fonner Park to put together this plan proposal so that our efforts compliment their future goals as well.

This is where we are in need of your assistance. We have identified roughly 80% of the anticipated funding and are asking for the support of the Community Redevelopment Authority Board to respectfully consider assisting with funding this effort with a pledge of $50,000 to be directed exclusively towards the Master Planning Purposes of the Nebraska State Fair.

We are more than happy to meet with you and your Board to answer any questions or to provide insight and encouragement about the future of your Nebraska State Fair. We believe the time is right and the leadership structure of the State Fair is in a right place to really move the direction of the State Fair forward.

The mission of the Nebraska State Fair 1868 Foundation is to raise funds and resources for the future of your Nebraska State Fair. We are a proud charitable 501(c)3 organization. We truly appreciate your support and your respectful consideration of this request. Should you have any questions, you can always reach me at 402-432-1393 or email lkoepke@statefair.org.

With sincere appreciation,

Lindsey

Lindsey Koepke
Executive Director

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