

(Draft – Awaiting Approval)

**MINUTES OF THE
STATE FAIR PARK COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, November 30, 2016 – 10:30 a.m. – Room 20 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell, Senate Chair
Rep. Mike Schultz, House Chair
Sen. Luz Escamilla
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
Rep. Sandra Hollins
Rep. Brad R. Wilson

Staff Present:

Ms. M'kynzi Newbold, Policy Analyst
Ms. Christine Gilbert, Associate General
Counsel
Mr. Michael Curtis, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Lori Rammell, Legislative Assistant

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Van Tassell called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

2. Utah State Fair Park Report

Mr. Clay Nielsen, Vice Chair, Utah State Fair Park Board of Directors, distributed "Utah State Fairpark Budget vs. Actual YTD" and presented "Utah State Fairpark, Fairpark Committee, November 30, 2016." He reported regarding provisions and appropriations from 2016 General Session S.B. 173, "State Fair Park Revisions," including how the funding for the new multi-purpose Days of '47 arena at the Utah State Fair Park is being used and what the plans are for the new arena. He responded to questions from the committee regarding features and costs of the new arena. Mr. Nielsen also reported on long-term lease negotiations with Tracy Aviary.

Rep. Wilson raised the issues of costs, parking, and accommodations for the aviary; funding of capital improvements at the fair park; and other possible long-term considerations that the Legislature may need to examine.

Sen. Escamilla discussed the benefits of relocation of the aviary to the state fair park grounds. She said there is interest from the private sector in funding the relocation. Sen. Escamilla responded to questions regarding the location of the aviary within the fair park grounds.

Mr. Nielsen reported on plans for the new Department of Agriculture building. He suggested the space be redesigned to include more square footage and more expo space. He suggested the old Department of Agriculture building be torn down and additional parking be put in its place.

Mr. Nielsen also reported that 2016 fair attendance had increased, concession sales exceeded the prior year by a large margin, and fair revenue exceeded the prior year. He also reported that year-round fair park activation was achieved, and existing buildings around the fair park are currently being renovated and improved. He also discussed the losses the fair park suffered as a result of not having an arena available, including cancellation of contracts and events.

Rep. Schultz raised the issues of relocation of the Salt Lake County Fair to the state fairgrounds, whether agreements are yet in place with the Days of '47 Rodeo, and the lack of representation of the agricultural community on the new Utah State Fair Park Board of Directors.

MOTION: Rep. Schultz moved that the Utah State Fair Park Board of Directors and the Days of '47 Rodeo come to an agreement, before the start of the 2017 General Session of the Legislature, regarding the obligations of both parties for the use of the facilities at the fair park grounds. The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Jenkins moved to adjourn the meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Chair Van Tassell adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.