

Fair vote requested

by Alleen Sorenson
Staff Writer

ST. GEORGE — Calling for a public vote on the location for the Washington County Fair, 35 people crowded the Washington County Commission meeting today.

After hearing all arguments on whether to move the fair from Hurricane to St. George, commissioners voted to table the issue until the next commission meeting, Oct. 6, and agreed to look into the legal aspects of putting the issue on the ballot in November.

"I think this fair should grow like our area is growing," said Dean Terry, a member of the Dixie Center control board, who said he represented a vote from the board to push for moving the fair to St. George.

Terry asked the commission to consider the needs of all of the county noting "for the betterment of the county I think it (the fair location issue) should be put on the ballot.

"You need to consider the needs of the entire county," said Dan Page, a member of the Dixie Downs Homeowner association involved with researching the feasibility of moving the fair from Hurricane to the west end of the county.

"The County Fair needs to continue to grow in size and quality," he

said, noting that although the fair has grown, a proposal by Doug Bringham to keep the fair in Hurricane will stifle continued expansion of the event. Page added that the proposal to house the 1987 fair in the Dixie Center would help ensure this growth.

But Garth Last, newly appointed commissioner, said the economic impact of the fair is only one reason Hurricane residents want to keep the fair in the east end of the county, noting "it's something that's traditionally been there."

"We don't need another celebration in St. George," he said, noting if the fair continues to be held in Hurricane "It's not going to be a big thing, but it's not going to be lost in the cracks like it would be in St. George."

Responding to Last, Royce Jones, St. George Chamber of Commerce president, said "St. George needs not be penalized because it is doing so well."

He noted the fair would not be "just another event" to St. George, and said that because the major population of Washington County is in or around St. George, there would be more people available to volunteer time for the event.

In addition, Jones said, St. George is a midway point between outlying communities such as Ivins, Santa Calra and Enterprise.