

Still no decision on Fair

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ST. GEORGE - Emotions ran high at the Washington County Commission meeting Monday, as the commission heard a proposal by the City of Hurricane to keep the Washington County Fair in its city.

But before the meeting was over, Commissioner Kurt Young became obviously frustrated and vented his feelings saying that he has been through the fair issue for six years and had had enough. His frustrations over the proceedings prompted him to rescind an earlier motion he made to have the commission study the Hurricane City proposal before taking any action on it, and then in a stern voice he proposed a motion to move the Washington County Fair to the Dixie Center.

Neither Commissioner John Whitney nor Jerry Lewis, both of whom remained calm throughout the proceedings, would second the motion, though, as Whitney said, "No peace treaty has ever been signed in the heat of battle."

The commission then refused to take any action on the issue, and Lewis said the commission would

discuss the matter later and make a decision on it.

The meeting started out quiet as Doug Bringhurst, a spokesman for Hurricane City, presented data supporting keeping the fair in Hurricane.

A letter of intent has been filed to move the fair to St. George and hold it at the Dixie Center, according to Young. But Bringhurst said as far as he was concerned no contracts or commitments have been made with any facility in St. George for the 1987 County Fair. After he spoke, Fair Chairman Cleo Atkin said the fair had indeed signed an agreement with the Dixie Center and produced a copy of the document for Bringhurst.

Bringhurst presented other information to the commission in support of keeping the fair in Hurricane. He said the school board is willing to work with county officials and the Fair Board in the use of the school facilities. He pointed out that a proposed fair site at Dixie Downs will not be ready to host the County Fair by 1988 as advertised. Bringhurst also said the city of Hurricane is committed to bettering the fair for all county citizens.

Part of Bringhurst's proposal

would be for the Hurricane City Council to take full responsibility of the fair. Bringhurst said the City Council would appoint a chairman and utilize people from throughout the county.

Bringhurst's proposal also included a provision to keep the fair budget at its present level for the next five years. It would also develop livestock shows and exhibits. Bringhurst said he wanted to bring "County Fair" atmosphere back into the fair and better utilize existing facilities as well as the High School.

After a few comments from concerned citizens, Young proposed his first motion to accept the proposal for study, but before the commission voted Cleo Atkin asked if she could make a statement to the commission.

She refuted a survey earlier discussed by Bringhurst that stated 83 percent of the county wanted to leave the fair in Hurricane. Atkin stated Bringhurst's survey wasn't scientific and was not accurate. She said she has been involved in three different scientific studies that showed a 10-1 ratio of people in the county wanted the fair moved from Hurricane.

Atkin also said she has had trou-

ble getting people in Hurricane to volunteer to help with the fair. She said one of her aides called 100 people and only three volunteered to help. Atkin also said because of the growth of the county and the fair, the Hurricane site is not big enough to handle the fair anymore.

"We are having terrible growing pains," Atkin said. "We need to move the fair to a bigger facility such as the Dixie Center. It can then become a bigger and better fair."

Atkin said there is just no end to the trouble she has had in putting the fair together in Hurricane. "It is time we come of age and see that it is not a Hurricane Fair," she said. "It is a County Fair and all cities should be represented."

Gail Hardcastle, the wife of Hurricane Mayor Dewey Hardcastle, took exception to some of Atkin's comments and spoke to the commissioners. "I object to the closed door meeting over finances." She then went on to say, "The east end of the county needs to grow. St. George doesn't need the fair. The county isn't St. George. Hurricane needs the fair."

Hardcastle went on stating, "Why can't we develop the east end of the County?" Young responded with a stern comment to the effect that the people in that part of the county should take it upon themselves to develop the area and not rely on the county. Young went on to say he has gone over the issue time and time again and he had enough. He then made his motion to hold the fair at the Dixie Center.