

Washington Co. Fair site move draws protest

ST. GEORGE — Plans to move the Washington County Fair from its traditional Hurricane site by 1987 brought concerns Monday from leaders who warned that the move would have an adverse economic affect on east county businesses.

Spokesmen Dewey Hardcastle and Joe Campbell of Hurricane, along with representatives from Toquerville and Virgin, told commissioners that moving the fair to the Dixie Downs Race Complex in St. George would result in loss of revenue to the eastern side of the county.

Request

County Attorney Paul Graf said the commission's decision to consider other sites was triggered by the County School Board's request that the fair not be held at Hurricane High School and surrounding school property after 1988. The board, he

said, preferred that the move be made even earlier if possible.

Also, because of a previous accident on school property in 1984, and because the county owns no property at the Hurricane fair site, the county faces a serious liability issue.

Holding the fair earlier each year, re-joined Campbell, makes it difficult to have vegetable produce ready for display. The commission said fair dates are set in an effort to cooperate with the school district on the opening of school, which changes from year to year.

'Peach Days'

Hardcastle asked the commission to suggest ideas how to increase economic development in eastern Washington County, but the commission said it was looking for a development plan from residents

which the commission could assist with.

It also suggested Hurricane return to holding its "Peach Days" celebration and that the Hurricane Senior Citizen Center would be available for that.

Although the fair is set to run in Hurricane in 1986, Commissioner Kurt Young said it would be held at the Dixie Center in St. George in 1987. After that, he said he hoped the Dixie Downs Complex would be ready in 1988.

Responding to a request that a county facility be built in Hurricane, Young said it would be unwise to build two county facilities, and only have a Hurricane building used a few days out of the year. The Dixie Downs Race Complex, he said, will be a multi-use facility which would be used much more than that.

The fair's current location has also prevented holding any livestock exhibits, said County Planner John Willie.

Specific uses

The Dixie Downs Race Complex would solve that problem but no specific uses, other than races, have been listed, Willie said.

He said the race track site and surrounding property was donated to the county by the Washington County Racing Association and the county has a moral obligation to develop that property from funds raised through the selling of some of that excess land.

Spending that money on something else in Hurricane would be a breach of promise to the association, said Willie.

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In other business, based on a request from Pine Valley Mountain Farms residents that neighborhood cluster mail boxes be installed by the U.S. Postal Service on a county right-of-way, the commission approved an easement for the boxes which would replace the existing setup.

The commission also stated that once space was available in the county's building on Utah peak, that St. George-based SMR Telcom Inc., in the process of installing a state-wide mobile telephone system, could move in.

SMR Telcom representative David Smith said the state of Nevada was moving out to build a larger facility, on the same peak, that would be finished this summer.

A lease agreement must be

drawn up by the county attorney with the company to pay \$100 a month per rack space, \$30 a month for a maintenance fee and pay for whatever power they use.

The commission authorized Chairman Jerry Lewis to send a letter to Utah Power & Light Co. requesting its cooperation in relocating a power pole so it would not block vehicle traffic within the Dean Francis Subdivision in Rockville.

Francis was required by the county to make improvements to the roadway fronting his development.

The commission also approved sending a letter, signed by Lewis, to the Utah State Health Dept. in which it assured the state that the county has no intention of creating any development with a county

right-of-way located near a well installed as part of Ted Gubler's Apple Valley development, southeast of Hurricane.

Willie said only one property owner's signature is necessary before plat 2 of the Rockville Roadway is ready for recording.

The commission also approved:

— Hiring Julie Jones as a deputy clerk I in the county clerk's office at \$848 a month. She begins Feb. 18 and will assist with the election processes handled by Deputy Clerk Dorothy Norton.

— Hiring Pamela Humphreys as a county jailer at \$1,018 a month. Humphreys is a former county jail dispatcher.

— A home occupation business license to Todd Humphreys of Winchester Hills for his TEC City Games Division business.