

## **PUBLIC COMMENT for Public Meeting – Monday, May 12 6:00PM**

**From:** Katie Salsbury [mailto:katies@silverstar.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 09, 2014 11:21 AM  
**To:** Dawn Felchle  
**Cc:** 'Harley Wilcox'; 'Doug Self'  
**Subject:** RE: Comments for the Commissioners regarding the Recreation Master Plan

5/9/2014

To: Teton County Commissioners  
From: Katie Salsbury  
Re: The Recreation Master Plan

Hello all –

I had the fortunate experience to attend the Recreation Master Plan meetings this winter and wanted to highlight some of the great information and ideas that are available in the plan. I have not had the opportunity to run these comments by the fair board, so please read them as my personal opinion and not as the opinion of the board. Participating in the meetings was a valuable experience and it was interesting to see that folks who run programs supporting soccer, horse events, atv users, 4-H and ice skating all have similar challenges and concerns. Development of the Rec Master Plan was a great way to bring the rec community together to discuss our problems and solutions. Thank you for that opportunity!

Improvements at the fairgrounds made the Top Desired Facilities list in the report along with four other facilities (rec center, ball fields, public access improvements, and enclosed ice rink). This was exciting to see. The fair board is focused on bringing our community together to promote our western heritage and rural traditions and the Recreation Master Plan provides a great opportunity for us to grow this part of our mission. The plan recommends the following goals and I wanted to describe how these could benefit the fair board and the fairgrounds.

### **1. Coordinate existing recreation service providers in Teton Valley to maximize available resources.**

*A central group that coordinates the recreation service providers in the valley would be a great asset to the fair grounds. This would allow us to: 1) maximize the use of our facilities, 2) grow our community base and 3) continue to develop the fairgrounds into a valued year-round community asset that provides economic value and promotes our western heritage and rural traditions.*

### **2. Improve the utilization and maintenance of existing parks and recreation amenities.**

*Utilization and maintenance are two areas that the fairgrounds could use support. As we continue to grow and improve the grounds, our need for maintenance increases. Increased utilization and coordination could help offset future maintenance costs.*

**3. Continue to improve public access to National Forest land, BLM land, rivers, and streams.**

*A long term item in our capital improvement plan is to offer camping with horse boarding at the fairgrounds as a source of income. Improved access to forest and BLM land will help draw users to the valley that would value and pay for camping at the fairgrounds.*

**4. Work to establish a Teton County Recreation District to fund, coordinate, and manage existing and future recreation facilities, programs, and services.**

*A Recreation District could benefit the fairgrounds as a source of funding, coordination and staff to help manage and maintain current and future facilities at the fairgrounds.*

**5. Develop a long-range funding plan for recreation facilities and programs.**

*The fair board currently is comprised of 6 hard-working individuals whose plates are full with our current agenda. Participation and assistance in developing a long-range funding plan for our facilities as part of implementing the Recreation Master Plan would help us meet our mission without having to add additional duties to an already maxed board.*

**6. Promote the development of equity partnerships with recreation organizations for the delivery of parks and recreation programs and facilities.**

*Partnerships with other groups in the valley would help us maximize the use of our facilities, generate revenue to offset costs and make us stronger on grant applications to grow and improve our facilities.*

**7. Grow the opportunities for year round indoor and outdoor recreation participation.**

*An organization that is focused on growing opportunities for year-round recreation participation could help us expand the role of the fairgrounds to provide year-round recreation and economic development opportunities for the community. In earlier correspondence, I sent you an expanded list of uses for the fairgrounds. Implementation of the recreation master plan would help us achieve this list without burdening the county with requests for additional funds and future staff.*

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katie Salsbury, Fair Board Member and 4-H Leader  
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