

PLEASE RE-READ THE FAIRGROUNDS MISSION

IF IT'S BROKE, FIX IT!

We love the fair grounds and its location. It has been a stepchild in an unprogressive county, which could have maintained it at a bare minimum. In the sixties, the Commissioners could have joined private interests and volunteers to build an indoor arena, but they refused to seize the opportunity. This maintenance of a public property is unacceptable. The County is experiencing good times, and now it is expedient for the commissioners to fix what it broken.

WHY TAKE BUSINESS AWAY FROM ORCHARD MESA?

If O.M. enjoyed improvements similar to fairgrounds in comparable cities, Highway 50 would be flourishing with businesses. A prosperous and appealing community would greet visitors at the Grand Junction south entrance.

WE DON'T LIKE TO BE BRIBED.

We were told at the meeting, if we didn't approve this promotion, there would be no money for improvements at the end of two years. Run on that one in an election year.

The Fairgrounds is a public entity. It should have a business plan just as any of the other public utilities and activities. It has an economical, educational and recreational potential that no Board of Commissioners has ever had the energy or vision to commit to. It's been sitting there in a no-better location for action for sixty years,

FUNDING

I do not want my tax dollars building or supporting a business wherein a private promoter takes a profit, and that is what is being proposed.

How much money is the promotional team putting up?

How much money is the City-County putting in?

Why doesn't the County put its money into the O.M. grounds and watch it grow under good management?

If the County is serious, why doesn't it offer its land as its part of the investment and build the indoor arena at the fairgrounds?

Several attractive pieces of land are for sale along Highway 50. Will the Fairgrounds sell any better?

WHY WATCH A PRIVATE ENTERPRIZE GO BROKE?

The Glacier will not be able to compete. We love the Glacier and appreciate the tenacity of the people who built it.

LOOK AT THE ENTIRE PICTURE

Putting money into the Fairgrounds helps open a huge area on a main Highway for enterprises which produce tax dollars. New residents would look at Orchard Mesa and therefore provide more property and school taxes. Resident cooperation is in place. Enhance the O.M. community.

RIVERSIDE LOCATION

First, the floodplain. Next, what does a multipurpose building do for that location other than make more congestion, and traffic problems for the busiest connections in the county? Driving in from O.M. Tuesday evening, I contemplated a big truck hauling a trailer with eight horses in it, or a carnival rig negotiating the entrance and parking at this location.

Why would the Riverside location encourage more people or businesses to migrate to Grand Junction than the O.M. ground? Why isn't someone exploring all these entertainment entities which "pass Grand Junction by" every week?

Elizabeth Harris
214 Mira Monte
Grand Junction 81503
Eha7683021@aol.com

Anne K. Coil

247 Red Rim Drive Grand Junction, CO 81503 (970) 245-2486
coil@bresnan.net

March 13, 2008

Tom Fisher, AICP Director
Regional Services Department, Mesa County
P.O. Box 20000
Grand Junction, CO 81502

RE: Feasibility analysis for gaining new facilities for the Mesa County Fair

As an interested party, unable to attend the March 25th meeting, I would like to share my thoughts on one aspect of the proposed Mesa County Fair relocation, specifically the CSU Tri-River arboretum, gardens and offices.

As a Master Gardner I am keenly aware of the current and future water needs of Mesa County. Conservation will be a key strategy in allowing Mesa County to continue to be an economically viable community in the future. A key component to water conservation is public awareness and education-two prime areas of responsibility for the CSU programs. The arboretum and gardens provide dynamic displays for the public to view the latest in xeriscape plantings and water conserving irrigation systems. Classroom space, currently located at the fairgrounds, allows for integration of classroom learning and hands on experiences in the adjacent gardens. Relocating these indispensable assets would severely set back or potentially eliminate these essential conservation resources.

Tens of thousands of volunteer hours and substantial funds have already been expended to develop and enhance these Tri-River research and training facilities. It would be a shame to invalidate those efforts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Anne K. Coil

Cc: CSU Extension-Tri-River Area