

Resolution: Opposition to Bonner County and Sandpoint Community Center Corp. Lease

Resolution #: 2021-012

Presenter and Author: Daniel Rose, Grouse Creek Precinct

WHEREAS, the IDGOP Platform states in Article I. RESPONSIBILITY IN GOVERNMENT Sec. 2. Taxation that “D. We support true government transparency that allows the public to review all local, state, and federal government expenditures, contracts, and audits online..., and

F. We believe voters’ approval should be required prior to approval of debt-financed city projects. Municipal laws that allow public dollars to be converted to private use and government entities to compete against the private sector or divert public money to special projects without support of the taxpayer, must be repealed”, and

WHEREAS, essential members of the county executive branch, including Sheriff Wheeler and Prosecutor Marshall, were never consulted as to the impact on county operations and the public use of county land assets prior to the Board of County Commissioners’ (BOCC) vote on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) / Land-Lease Agreement, and

WHEREAS, A non-binding ballot advisory question has always been available to the BOCC in matters of significant and competing interest between the Bonner County Executive Offices, and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code section 22-204, DUTIES OF COUNTY FAIR BOARD, states that the county fair board shall be charged with the care and custody of all property belonging to the county and used for fair purposes, and there are no fair board minute records found online regarding a proposed lease to the SCCC, and

WHEREAS, Darcy Smith, Fairgrounds Director is not a member of the Bonner County Fair Board, and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code 31-822 prohibits any lease of fairgrounds to any entity other than the State of Idaho or the department of agriculture and only permits sale of county fairground property to a fair district, and

WHEREAS, the Sandpoint Community Center Corporation (SCCC) President outlines at sandpointice.org a list of revenues, most of the list being current county revenue, it calls into question Fairground Director Smith’s claim “this project will not impact the county or fairground budget,” FN1, and

WHEREAS, to the extent that the county’s 99-year land lease provides the SCCC a foundation for fundraising, it conflicts with the IDGOP platform in “allowing public dollars to be converted to private use,”

WHEREAS, a conservative principle of appropriate county governance does not include subsidy funding of a private corporation, as the SCCC’s financial viability relies on a condition where “a mortgage is avoided,” and

WHEREAS, there is a foreseeable negative impact of this lease on a potential expansion of the safety complex and/or other county uses of this land for public purposes, since such expansions or other public uses may require further land acquisition costs since this leased parcel would be unavailable for those uses,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Bonner County Republican Central Committee appeal to our elected Board of County Commissioners to rescind this Memorandum of Understanding.

ADOPTED this 16th day of November, 2021



BCRCC Chairman – Scott Herndon



BCRCC Secretary – Kathy Rose

FN 1: <https://bonnercountydailybee.com/news/2021/oct/27/bonner-county-approves-ice-rink/>