

July 14, 2016

Dear County Commissioners and administrative officers:

I arrived during exciting, and uncertain times regarding the future of our fairgrounds. We have now established major program elements for the site, and are at the fine tuning stages of a guiding plan. I have made many presentations recently, and witnessed not only general community support, but also renewed confidence in the future of the Fair and grounds. We have made many improvements to the facility and operations, and I am especially proud of our success in increasing safety and accessibility for visitors (parimutuel building is looking awesome BTW ☺). I feel we have passed the crux in our pursuit to put the fairgrounds on the path to future success, and know renovations will continue until completion. Ironically, knowing the future of the fairgrounds is secure, allows me to make the difficult decision to end my time as Missoula County Fairgrounds Director, effective no later than August 19, 2016.

Decisions are personal, and I am happy to meet individually and provide more insight, but briefly; it is imperative for me to have greater flexibility in my schedule. I am thankful for this job opportunity, and knew, for example, that months such as August demand full commitment to tasks. I enjoy the fair, and spending abundant time on these increasingly wonderful 46 acres, but now need more flexibility than before, thus my difficult decision to depart Missoula County. Making this announcement during July provides a preferred timeline for you to fill this position, while ensuring success with the Fair and other summer events. Thanks to your support, I was able to hire several new people this year and we have more staff than past few years; they are a great team, all believing in our mission and quality customer service. Even with my departure and likely vacancy while you do a search, the fairgrounds will have several more staff this fall than past years.

Thank you for this opportunity and your amazing support of the fairgrounds.

Sincerely,



Todd Garrett