



CONTACT: Aaron Evans
Email: aevans@lovecomm.net
Phone: (801) 519-8880

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**UTAH STATE FAIRPARK BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCES RENOVATION PROPOSALS WHICH
INCLUDE A REAL SALT LAKE MINOR LEAGUE SOCCER STADIUM**

—

Soccer stadium, new expo building and updated rodeo grounds would help fulfill goal to be a year-round, sustainable facility

SALT LAKE CITY – Friday, July 18, 2014 – The Utah State Fairpark Board of Directors announced proposals to enhance and renovate the Fairpark. The cornerstone of the proposed renovations will include a 5,000- to 8,000-seat, multi-use sports stadium. The announcement came in response to a recent study commissioned and prepared by the State Division of Facilities Construction & Management (DFCM) and CRSA, Zions Bank Public Finance, Integra Realty Resources, Ensign Engineering and Landmark Title.

“We thoroughly reviewed the study and it is our position that investing in the Fairpark is the most economically and culturally prudent approach to ensure the Utah State Fair and the Fairpark continue to contribute to the community for future generations.” said Roger Beattie, chairman of the board. “Construction of an exposition building, improving and expanding the rodeo grounds, and adding a multi-use sports stadium to the Fairpark would be strong assets to the Fairpark’s success; and we are pleased to announce that a proposal for the stadium has already been received.”

Real Salt Lake owner, Dell Loy Hansen, has submitted a proposal to the Utah State Fairpark Corporation to form a public/private partnership to construct the stadium. The new stadium would be the home field for Real Salt Lake’s minor league (USL) affiliate. The goal is to have the stadium completed in time for the 2016 season.

“We are excited about the possibility of Mr. Hansen bringing a new team and stadium to the Fairpark,” said Michael Steele, executive director of the Utah State Fairpark. “A stadium and team at the Fairpark would be an incredible addition to the community.”



CRSA’s recent study on the Fairpark presented four scenarios the state could explore: 1) moving the Fair to a new, permanent location at a cost of approximately \$160 million; 2) improving the existing Fairpark with a series of renovations to existing buildings totaling approximately \$35 million; 3) adding additional facilities, including an expo center, expanded rodeo facility, and sports stadium for approximately \$44 million and 4) what CRSA coined as the “Highest & Best Use”, selling the Fairpark to real estate developers for \$18.1 million.

“The Utah State Fairpark Board of Directors urges the State of Utah to invest in the Fairpark to preserve this invaluable economic and cultural resource and allow the Utah State Fair to become self-sufficient as mandated by the state,” said Beattie. “Those who come to the Fair and other events at the Fairpark understand the great benefits the Fair and Fairpark bring to the entire State of Utah, and we invite those who haven’t visited the Fair or the Fairpark to come experience it this year.”

#