

## Happy Days Committee Meeting Notes

**Update on COVID-19 Situation:** This is from Emergency Management Director Matt Kohner as of May 12, 2020:

- 120,834 completed tests, reaching the governors goal of testing 5000 Minnesotans/day
- 12,494 confirmed cases, with 8,223 released from isolation (recovered)
- 614 reported deaths; 82 percent from within long term care facilities
- 496 patients currently hospitalized with 199 in the ICU. We remain in good shape with hospital bed capacity
- In Anoka Co there are 596 confirmed cases, 150 recovered and 30 deaths
- 13 congregate care facilities in Anoka Co. have exposures- resident, staff, visitor
- In the City of Ramsey there have been 38 cases confirmed, 15 recovered
- With the increased capacity to test in MN- case numbers will continue to rise and create data that will determine just how widespread this virus is.
- Minnesota continues to see more COVID-19 cases each day and our emergency management team, has worked hard to react quickly to the changes and continue to plan for the long term possibilities, knowing full well that the peak is still coming.
- Of all the executive orders put in place by Governor Walz, the most recent is the Stay at Home order through May 18<sup>th</sup>, with retail, restaurants and bars opening at 50 percent capacity June 1.
- This, by no means, is a signal of life returning to normal. We need to continue focusing on maintaining social distancing guidelines in every part of our lives — not just when going to work at a reopened business, but also when walking through your neighborhood or going to the hardware store or park.
- This concludes the Emergency Management Director's comments. Any questions on that?

**The latest from the Minnesota State Fair Officials:** This is the latest update from State Fair Officials is dated April 23 – almost three weeks ago:

“As stewards of the Great Minnesota Get-Together, it is our duty to do everything we can for as long as we can to ensure that Minnesota has a world class State Fair this year. Central to this year's preparations are the directives of state, national and international health agencies. At this point, the outlook for late summer events remains unknown. As of now, there is no specific date by which a decision to hold the fair must be made. That picture will become more clear in the weeks ahead as we continue to be in contact with our partners that are vital to produce an event the size and scope of the Great Minnesota Get-Together. The fair's success relies on agriculturists, commercial and competitive exhibitors, educators, entertainers, attraction operators, suppliers, contractors and many others who must be at their very best to successfully produce the type of event that Minnesota expects and deserves.

At its heart, the State Fair is a grand celebration where all feel welcome, safe and secure. We are discussing and considering options that will enable us to provide that experience in 2020; however, alternate fair dates, a change in duration of the fair, or significant restrictions are not being considered.”

Beyond this message, State Fair Officials have been pretty tight lipped. The Governor, is doubtful – “It would be difficult to see a State Fair operating.”

### **What are other communities doing?**

- Andover: July 11
- Blaine: June 27
- Champlin: June 13
- Robbinsdale: July 11
- New Hope:
- Golden Valley:
- Stillwater: Summer events cancelled through July 19
- Ramsey County Fair: July 19
- Hennepin County Fair: June 18
- Cass, Freeborn (Aug 3-8), Polk, Aitkin, Kittson, and Pennington Counties.

**Modified Versions of a Festival?** What could this look like? Fireworks still a possibility potentially. Drive up food trucks? Concerts with people watching in cars? State Fair officials will not do modified version. They have stated it’s all or nothing.

**Impacts to City staff:** The City is looking to hire an intern that would either be solely dedicated to planning the Happy Days festival or be dedicated to help with other projects in Planning, Communications and Elections. Typically, the Planning Division has their own intern each summer, but due to budget impacts, hiring one intern to focus on multiple projects seems most viable at this time.

My greatest concern is the governor’s quote about the dial. Last things to return are concerts, sporting events and fairs/festivals. I just don’t see a safe way to do this until we’ve found a vaccine.