

## **METRAPARK PA PROPOSAL**

Board of Yellowstone County Commissioners:

MetraPark does not have a formal public address system that can reach across the entire outside campus. This is both a public safety and customer service concern. Our current practice of alerting the public with bullhorns is inadequate. In addition to alerting people to threats, we will also be able to thank sponsors, announce schedules and remind patrons about special offers during the fair.

With current advances in speaker technology, we can correct this with two speakers, one mounted on the roof of the Arena and the other on the roof of Cedar Hall. These two speakers will give us coverage over the entire campus. We had this confirmed by a demonstration where a single speaker was elevated on a lift by the pond, and we were able to walk the grounds and hear it clearly all over. The reason for a second speaker is to give coverage to the upper lot.

Our plan is to mount admin phones in the Arena, Expo and Pavilion to allow access to the system from any one of the three. The admin phones can be used for pre-programmed announcements or announcements on demand, both of which we anticipate using.

Your approval to allocate funding and issue an RFP are both necessary for this project to proceed.

In terms of funding, we need your approval to reallocate the remaining amount left in the upper lot resealing budget, a little more than \$100,000.00, and to reallocate \$50,000.00 out of contingency for a total project cost of \$150,000.00. This will likely require a commitment to purchase prior to the mid-year budget, when we will formally make the request, as lead times on ordering the equipment are generally at least 16 weeks and we must also go through the RFP process as well. We would like to include the RFP for approval at the 12/23 board meeting.