

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners
Date: April 10, 2018 8:00 a.m.

On the above referenced date the April meeting for the Board of Fair Commissioners was held in Wilson Hall at the Fairgrounds. Those in attendance were Vice-Chairman Erin McAnally, Commissioner Caleb Hemmer, Commissioner Bonna Johnson and Commissioner Jason Bergeron. Chairman Ned Horton arrived later. Also present were Executive Director Laura Womack, Assistant Director Ken Sanders, Finance Officer Doug Peters and Metro Attorney Susan Jones. Larry Atema and Jonathan Schneider both with Commonwealth Development Group were also in attendance. And Dirk Melton with Nashville Soccer Holdings was present as well.

The meeting was called to order at 8:12 and Vice-Chairman McAnally read the Appeal Announcement. She then moved to the approval of the March Meeting minutes. Commissioner Hemmer made a motion to approve. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion, all were in favor and the minutes were passed. Vice-Chairman McAnally then moved to Public Comment Time.

Mr. Jim Armstrong, a Flea Market vendor, stated that there were still many that believed the Flea Market was closing and he encouraged the Board to show the new plans soon, including the housing that was planned, and he stated that he felt this would help. He also stated that more advertising needed to be done to let everyone know the Flea Market was open. Vice-Chairman McAnally then moved to the Financial Report with Assistant Director Ken Sanders.

Mr. Sanders gave a brief report. He stated that they had started the last quarter of the year in good shape and that this was usually the best quarter of the year. He stated that if they did fall short at the end of the (fiscal) year, they had reserves they could dip into and that the Budget and Finance Committee and the Metro Council knew about this. He added that they would not be asking Metro for a subsidy. Vice-Chairman McAnally then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Womack stated that Council had approved a 4% allocation and that they were given \$100,000. She reported that \$54,000 of this would be going towards a new floor scrubber. Vice-Chairman McAnally then moved to the Fairgrounds Improvement Project Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Larry Atema went over the racetrack grandstand and Fair Park improvements that had been done and that were on schedule to be done. He stated that the biggest racetrack projects were the PA system and the bathrooms. There was a brief discussion about lighting and a few other questions from the Board about other matters. Mr. Atema stated that they should be finalizing these costs numbers soon. Commissioner Hemmer asked Mr. Atema for a line item budget again for the Board packets for the next meeting and Mr. Atema said he would do that.

Mr. Atema then reported that they were still looking at moving the Fairgrounds building to the flat part of the property down by Nolensville Road. He stated that they would be meeting with the Board individually soon about this. There was a question about when Fair Park would be completed and he stated that the whole project should be finished by late Fall and that the hard surface areas should be done by the State Fair. Vice-Chairman McAnally then moved to the MLS Stadium Plan item on the agenda.

Mr. Dirk Melton with Nashville Soccer Holdings stated that they should have something to bring to the Board in two or three weeks. Vice-Chairman McAnally then moved to the Fairgrounds Policies and Procedures item on the agenda.

Director Womack stated that Ken Sanders had been working with HR and Legal to update the employee policy manual. She added that the goal was equity and to have a firm guideline of how to operate moving forward. Mr. Sanders stated that the manual had not been updated since 2011 and that it needed a lot of attention. He stated that it reflected the latest federal guidelines and that it followed the Metro Civil Service Rules in many sections. He added that this was not operating polices but employee policies only. Metro Attorney Susan Jones read to the Board about how to amend or change the rules/policies. It stated that if any changes needed to be made in the future, the Board would be able to do so. She made some other suggestions to the Board concerning this issue and added that the Board would need a motion to make these changes.

Commissioner Bergeron then made a motion stating, *"I make a motion to approve the adoption of the Employee Rules and Policies and further that the Board also authorize the Executive Director and/or the Chair to subsequently make revisions to these rules to account for any typos and non-substantive changes, as well as, any needed changes to comply with state law or other provisions recommended by the Metropolitan Department of Law."* Commissioner Hemmer seconded the motion. There were a few questions and comments from the Board. Ms. Jones stated that she would review about the firearms to make sure it was consistent with state law. Vice-Chairman McAnally then asked for a vote. All were in favor, there were no opposed and the motion was passed. Chairman Horton arrived and then moved to the Slate for Board Commissioners Officers in June item on the agenda.

Ms. Jones started by reading the rules for electing officers. She reminded the Board that they would be nominating for the slate for Chairman and Vice-Chairman today and they would be voting in June. She then read the responsibilities of each of the officers and the floor was opened up for nominations. Commissioner Johnson nominated Ned Horton as Chairman and Erin McAnally as Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Bergeron seconded the motion. There was no discussion and both accepted the slate. Commissioner Bergeron then moved to close the nominations. Vice-Chairman McAnally seconded the motion. Ms. Jones stated that they would vote officially at the June meeting.

Chairman Horton then asked for a discussion about public meetings. There were some questions and a brief discussion about this. Mr. Ateama stated that this was the next step and that they should be doing this soon.

Chairman Horton then asked if anyone wanted to discuss about the State Legislation for the fair. Commissioner Bergeron had several comments about the mis-information and PR battle that was going on and some other things that the Fair Board had not been involved in which he felt they should have. Chairman Horton agreed and stated that he felt it was worth some feedback to some of the articles and information that were not correct. Ms. Jones stated that Legal was reviewing this.. Commissioner Hemmer also had some comments about this issue. Chairman Horton then asked Tennessee State Fair Association Manager, Scott Jones, if he had any comments. Mr. Jones made several comments and stated that he hoped the legislation passed. Chairman Horton stated that he would like to get everyone together to meet at some point and stated that he and Director Womack already had a letter that was drafted before the recent developments. Commissioner Hemmer agreed that a response was warranted. Ms. Jones stated that she didn't see anything that would prohibit them from sending a letter. Chairman Horton stated that they would put this on the next meeting agenda.

Chairman Horton asked about how the races were going and Director Womack and Mr. Formosa both stated that all was going well, even with all of the rain.

Commissioner Hemmer then made a motion to adjourn. Vice-Chairman McAnally seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ned Horton, Chairman

Laura Womack, Executive Director