

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners
Date: July 11, 2017 8:00 a.m.

On the above referenced date the July meeting for the Board of Fair Commissioners was held in Wilson Hall. Those in attendance were Chairman Ned Horton, Vice-Chairman Caleb Hemmer, Commissioner Erin McAnally, Commissioner Bonna Johnson and Commissioner Jason Bergeron. Also present were Executive Director Laura Schloesser, Finance Officer Doug Peters and Metro Attorney Susan Jones. Councilman Colby Sledge, as well as, Larry Atema and Jonathon Schneider with Commonwealth Development Group were also in attendance as well.

Chairman Horton called the meeting to order and then read the Appeal Announcement. Chairman Horton then moved to the approval of the minutes. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner McAnally seconded the motion, all were in favor and the minutes were passed. Chairman Horton then moved to Public Comment Time.

There were no public comments so Chairman Horton then moved to the Financial Report with Finance Officer, Doug Peters. Mr. Peters briefly went over the financial numbers and there were a couple of questions from the Board. Vice-Chairman Hemmer asked about China Lights and Director Schloesser stated that the show was profitable and that she felt that they had also exposed the Fairgrounds to a new audience, therefore, accomplishing two different goals that they had established. She added that they would be looking at other events to add, as well. Chairman Horton then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Schloesser started by announcing that Mary Ann Smith had been appointed the new Flea Market Manager. She explained that Ms. Smith had been the Interim Manager for over a year now and she congratulated Ms. Smith. Director Schloesser then introduced Marena Mikael, the intern from the Opportunity Now Program started by Mayor Barry and thanked Marena for all of her work. She added that the Fairgrounds would be hosting the Intern "wrap up" party for this program on Friday.

Director Schloesser reported that they were currently in the True-Up process and that the budget for 2018 was approved by Council. She stated that revenues had decreased slightly from last year but that the expenditures had remained flat. She reported that the Fairgrounds was participating in the HUB Nashville Project which was a constituency management software that Metro had implemented and she gave a few more details about the program. Commissioner McAnally asked a question about the Aging Report. Chairman Horton then moved to the Evaluation and Site Improvement Study Update item under Old Business.

Jonathon Schneider with Commonwealth Development Group started his report by stating that painting was currently being done on the existing buildings and that it was going well and that the buildings looked much better. He reported that they had received approval on the storm water variance that they were seeking from the Storm Water Management Committee on the Fair Park Plan which had taken about 6 months. He stated that this would allow them to proceed and added that they would try to break ground as soon as the State Fair was finished. There were a few questions from the Board. Chairman Horton then moved to the Speedway RFP Update item on the agenda.

Director Schloesser reported that this was still in active procurement and that they were still evaluating so there was not much to update. Chairman Horton then moved to the Parks/Fairgrounds MOU item under New Business.

Director Schloesser stated that they were waiting on a draft from Metro Legal and that she would get that out to the Board as soon as she could. She stated that the Board would need to consider and approve the MOU, hopefully, at the next Board Meeting. Chairman Horton then moved to the Neighborhood Impact from Events item on the agenda.

Director Schloesser stated that she felt there should be the opportunity to openly discuss the impact of events in the neighborhood and to give them an opportunity to address the Board concerning noise and traffic. She then gave the floor to Councilman Colby Sledge. Councilman Sledge stated that predictability seemed to be the main overall concern of the neighborhood such as extended event times or changes in event times. He stated that racetrack practice times were a concern as well. Heidi Basgall Favorite, a local resident and also on the Neighborhood Impact Advisory Committee (NIAC), also spoke to the Board about neighborhood concerns. She agreed with Councilman Sledge and stated that communication had been good between the Fairgrounds and the neighborhood. She stated that Mr. Formosa, the racetrack operator, had been good to work with as well, but also agreed with Councilman Sledge that practice times, which were often louder and several times a week, seemed to be going beyond the times they were supposed to. She also mentioned the ARCA races being very loud. She mentioned decibel levels for the racetrack and concerts. She then thanked the Board for their time.

Director Schloesser stated that the current contracts did already have a financial penalty to go past their event time but that it might need to be monitored better by staff. She stated that staff was working on making the contracts more clear on this issue. Metro Attorney Susan Jones stated that she would check with the Parks attorney about this issue. There were several suggestions and some discussion from the Board about how to address this issue.

Tennessee State Fair Association (TSFA) Chairman, John Rose, gave the Board a brief summary of what had transpired over the last few years concerning the fair and the State Commission and the TSFA. He then gave an update on the 2017 State Fair and the events. He explained that the State Commission might possibly be looking for the best site to hold the fair in the future and that the State Commission did make a decision to invite proposals (informally) across Tennessee to see if anyone would like to be a host site. Chairman Horton stated that the State Commission made a motion at their meeting to continue the event at the Fairgrounds for two more years (length of contract) and to, also, by the end of the year report to the Governor. Chairman Horton pointed out that the State Commission had not ruled out Davidson County as a future site but had just opened up to all 95 counties in Tennessee for their thoughts and input. He stated that things were still vague and a lot still needed to happen and they would just have to wait and see. Mr. Rose continued to tell the Board what he would like to see for the State Fair in the future. Commissioner McAnally asked Metro Attorney Susan Jones if the Board was legally bound to have a fair. Ms. Jones stated that under the Private Act the Board was only required to have a divisional fair. However, she stated that it was a complicated issue and that she would get back with the Board about the charter provision and the different interpretations and possibilities. She stated that State Law would supersede the Metro Board and it must be considered but that there was also a Private Act to be considered. She stated that while they might have to have some sort of fair, it might not have to be a State Fair. She added that she would take a closer look and get back with them.

Commissioner Bergeron left. Chairman Horton then moved to the Approve New Metro Pay Plan for Use for Employees item on the agenda.

Director Schloesser stated that the Mayor had proposed a 2% increase for fiscal year 2018 in the pay plan and while the Fairgrounds was not bound to this they tried to follow Metro's pay plan. She asked the Board to approve the 2% cost of living increase for the employees (staff) for FY 2018. Vice-Chairman Hemmer then made a motion to approve the Metro Pay Plan for Use for Fairgrounds Employees (Item C on the agenda only). Commissioner McAnally seconded the motion. All were in favor, there were no opposed and the motion was passed.

Vice-Chairman Hemmer then made a motion stating, *"I make a motion to approve the cost of living adjustment for the Executive Director (2% same as employees)"*. Commissioner McAnally seconded the motion. All were in favor, there were no opposed and the motion was passed. Chairman Horton then moved to the Election of Officers item on the agenda.

Director Schloesser reminded the Board that they had nominated Ned Horton for Chairman and Erin McAnally for Vice-Chairman for the slate. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the slate with Ned Horton as Chairman and Erin McAnally as Vice-Chairman. Vice-Chairman Hemmer seconded the motion. All were in favor, there were no opposed and the slate was passed.

Chairman Horton suggested that the State Fair discussion be on the next agenda.

Chairman Horton made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ned Horton, Chairman

Laura Schloesser, Executive Director