

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners
Date: January 14th, 2020 8:00 a.m.

On the above referenced date, the January meeting for the Board of Fair Commissioners was held in Expo 3 at the Fairgrounds. Those in attendance were Chairman Ned Horton, Vice-Chairman Erin McAnally, Commissioner Bonna Johnson and Commissioner Jason Bergeron. Commissioner Caleb Hemmer was not present. Also present were Fairgrounds Executive Director Laura Womack and Finance and Administrative Manager Felicia Bowman. Metro Attorney Alex Dickerson was also in attendance. Ron Gobbell and Michelle Scopel with Gobbell Hays Partners (GHP) were present. Connell Anderson with Pillars Development was in attendance, as well as Roxianne Bethune with Alliance Synergy. Bob Sargent with Track Enterprises was also present.

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

Bill McDonald, a Nashville Resident and Chairman of Region 3 of Life Long Tennessee gave a brief history of cycling with the Harpeth Bicycle Club and the Tennessee Bikers Association at the Fairgrounds and stated that they would like to continue to rent the racetrack on a weekly basis now that a new promoter would be operating the track. Chairman Horton then moved to the Financial Report.

Ms. Bowman gave her report and added that she was finally able to give the Board a monthly breakdown thanks to their Budget Analyst, Richie Swiger. She reported that there was \$2,634 left over in the Fund Balance at the end of FY2019. She added that staff was working on the budget for next year and also the year-end projections, which were both due to Finance soon. Chairman Horton then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Womack reported that there was a contract issue with our food and beverage concessionaire, D&D Events. The State indicated that the Fairgrounds, as a municipality, did not have the authority to collect revenue on beer and alcohol sales. She stated that they had amended the contract and had removed those references to receive revenue but because it would greatly impact their commission on food and beverage revenues, they were trying to get this prohibition lifted. She stated that they were working on legislation (along with the Mayor's Office and Metro Legal) through a resolution with the state and that this would come to the Board for endorsement soon.

Director Womack stated that the termination letter that was sent to the Speedway was now 30 days out. She reported that there would be a walk through in February before the offices/track were vacated. She added that they were still working towards receiving any outstanding payments and that they had not received any of the December 31st payment. Chairman Horton then moved to the Fairgrounds Improvement Project Update item on the agenda.

Connell Anderson gave a brief update and reported that there had been none of the 1.8 million spent yet for the demolition and that NES poles should be removed soon. He finished by stating that the Election Commission was in the process of moving out of the existing building on the property. Michelle Scopel reported that they were finalizing things with the Expo project and that there should be some minor activity soon once the Election Commission was out. Commissioner Bergeron asked about Fair Park Phase II funding and Ms. Scopel stated that there was no news about that yet. Ron Gobbell added that the funding was included in the Capital Improvement Budget. He also stated there wasn't much to report about the stadium and that discussions were continuing. Since the Contract with Formosa Productions item had already been covered, Chairman Horton moved to the Introduction of Bob Sargent item on the agenda.

Bob Sargent introduced himself as the new promoter for the racetrack for the upcoming season. He stated that he planned on having 7-10 races on the schedule, 3 special events which would be car events (not music events) and local racing for the other 6 or 7. He reported that the drivers meeting was well attended and added that this would be their 6th year for the ARCA Race. There was some discussion about engaging the community about curfew, mufflers, practice dates, etc. and Director Womack stated that they were working with Councilman Sledge about recruiting members for the Neighborhood Impact Advisory Committee. Councilman Bergeron suggested that they expand this group to include other neighborhood areas as well and asked that this be considered at the next meeting.

Commissioner Johnson then made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Bergeron seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting was dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Horton, Chairman

Laura Womack, Executive Director