

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners

Date: May 14, 2019 8:00 a.m.

On the above referenced date the May meeting for the Board of Fair Commissioners was held in Wilson Hall at the Fairgrounds. Those in attendance were Chairman Ned Horton, Vice-Chairman Erin McAnally and Commissioner Jason Bergeron. Commissioners Caleb Hemmer and Bonna Johnson were not present. Also present were Fairgrounds Executive Director Laura Womack and Finance and Administrative Manager Felicia Bowman. Metro Attorney Quan Poole was also in attendance. Ron Gobbell and Michelle Scopel with Gobbell Hays Partners (GHP) were present. Ed Henley and Connell Anderson with Pillars Development were also in attendance, as well as Van Maravalli and Caroline Vincent with Metro Arts. Jerry Caldwell with Speedway Motorsports Inc. was in attendance. Councilman Robert Swope and Councilman John Cooper were present also.

Chairman Horton called the meeting to order and read the Appeal Announcement. He then moved to the Financial Report.

Ms. Bowman gave a brief breakdown of the financial numbers. Chairman Horton asked about the marketing budget.

Chairman Horton then moved to the approval of the minutes of the April meeting. Vice-Chairman McAnally made a motion to approve, Commissioner Bergeron seconded, all were in favor and the minutes were passed. Chairman Horton then moved to Public Comments.

Shane Smiley, a local resident, stated his concerns about the Wingrove gate being closed during the last Flea Market and also about a recent story about the racetrack that somehow got leaked to the Tennessean. Chairman Horton then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Executive Director Womack reported that various event templates would be posted on the website so that promoters would have some idea of different set ups in the new buildings and added that they had already booked six new events in the new expo so far (events that they would not have been able to secure with the old facilities). She stated that staff was working hard on Flea Market booth reassignments. She stated that the bad weather in the past few months had affected both the track events and the Flea Market. Also, the NFL draft weekend (and the other events that went along with it) also had an effect as well. She reported that there was a slight adjustment to the State Fair term sheet and that all was moving forward. She stated that they had their Council Budget Hearing coming up soon and then went over the \$300,000 supplemental amount that they would be requesting from Metro Council. Chairman Horton then moved to the Fairgrounds Improvement Project Update and the MLS Stadium Update items on the agenda.

Ed Henley went over the budget sheet and Michelle Scopel went over the photographs of the expo project both of which were in the board packets. Ms. Scopel gave a brief overview of the onsite work. Ron Gobbell stated that they should be getting more information about the stadium project in the coming weeks. Chairman Horton then moved to the SMI Presentation item on the agenda.

Jerry Caldwell with SMI gave a quick introduction and he then went over their presentation. He stated that they still needed to figure out some of the land issues and financial issues and added that they would be happy to work with all parties to do so. They asked for input from the Board and also asked that they might be able to continue conversations to move forward. There were a few questions and some comments from the Board about traffic and flow concerns, track rentals, private events, and sound barriers. Director Womack stated that in the past the board would usually nominate and vote on someone to represent the Board's interest. Chairman Horton nominated Commissioner Bergeron to be the representative. Vice-Chairman McAnally seconded the motion. All were in favor

and the motion was approved. Chairman Horton then moved to the Smoking Policy Consideration item on the agenda.

Director Womack stated that this policy was introduced at the March meeting and it had now been updated to include language concerning the canopies for the whole campus. Metro Attorney Quan Poole stated that he felt good about the policy and that it was in agreement with the State Law. Commissioner Bergeron then made a motion to approve. Vice-Chairman McAnally seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was passed. Chairman Horton then moved to the Presentation by the Arts Commission item on the agenda.

Executive Director Caroline Vincent gave a brief introduction of the Metro Arts Commission and also their selection process for projects. Van Maravalli, Public Art and Placemaking Manager, then went over the power points presentation for the future art project(s) at the Fairgrounds. She added that they hoped to release an RFQ for the first phase by early summer and for the second phase in the fall. There were no questions from the Board. Chairman Horton nominated Vice-Chairman McAnally to work with the Arts Commission and to represent the Board on this project. Commissioner Bergeron seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Commissioner Bergeron 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