

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners
Date: February 13, 2018 8:00 a.m.

On the above referenced date the February 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, Commissioner Caleb Hemmer, Commissioner Bonna Johnson and Commissioner Jason Bergeron. Also present were Executive Director Laura Womack, Assistant Director Ken Sanders, Finance Officer Doug Peters and Metro Attorney Tom Cross. Larry Atema and Jonathon Schneider with Commonwealth Development Group were also in attendance. Councilman Colby Sledge was also present.

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 and Chairman Horton read the Appeal Announcement. He then moved to the approval of the January Meeting minutes. Vice-Chairman McAnally made a motion to approve. Commissioner Hemmer seconded the motion, all were in favor and the minutes were passed. Chairman Horton then moved to Public Comment Time.

Ron Hirst, President of the Music City Chapter of the Train Collectors Association International, who has been with the Train Show for 24 years, expressed concern about the traffic problem during his show. He stated that there was very little police to direct traffic and only one ticket person on duty. Director Womack stated that she would look into it. Chairman Horton then moved to the Financial Report with Finance Officer, Doug Peters.

Mr. Peters gave a brief report. Executive Director Womack stated that they would ask Metro Council in March for an increase in spending authority. She added that they might have to dip into the reserve fund and that worst case would be approximately \$250,000. She discussed the Dashboards briefly and then Chairman Horton moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Womack first introduced their new Budget Analyst, Yomi Ojo. She then started her report by announcing that this year (in May) would be the 50th year that the Flea Market had opened and that they wanted to acknowledge that milestone and do a celebration to honor the Flea Market. She reported that they had already started on this. She stated that they were also working with the Flea Market Vendor Association to strengthen that relationship and to start a membership drive. She reported that their food and beverage contract would be expiring at the end of June of 2018 and stated that they had several options. She stated that they were working on an RFP that included a two-year term with 3 one-year extension options. She finished her report by stating that there was a house bill (House Bill 1602) to be considered in the General Assembly regarding gun shows. This bill would propose that any government facility that is a rental facility must make their property available to do gun shows. She added that they would be keeping an eye out to see what happened about this. Chairman Horton then moved to the Fairgrounds Improvement Project Update item on the agenda.

Jonathon Schneider, with Commonwealth Development Group, reported that they were making progress on Fair Park but that it was slow going because of the weather. He stated that they finally got their final fielding permit that they had been working on since last August, so they would be allowed to do more than grading now. He stated that they had developed plans for the speedway restrooms and costs would be coming in for that soon. He stated that they were also working on the PA system and the costs should be in for that soon as well. He finished by stating that the installation of plumbing and electricity for the construction trailers (which would serve for the improvements for Fair Park and later on for any construction up on the hill) had already started. He then gave the floor to Mr. Larry Atema.

Mr. Atema, also with Commonwealth Development Group, reported that the stadium and Fairgrounds Master Plan were progressing and that they were working on utilities and electric capacities and also the overall footprint and grading. He stated that they were focusing on the one hundred or so square foot building to be constructed and that they did not like the first numbers, so they were working on those numbers some more and hoped to have some (costs) numbers for the Board at the next meeting. He added that they were trying to scope out a master budget. He finished by stating that they were just about done with the RFQ that they had been working on through the Purchasing Department for the stadium design and, hopefully, by the end of the week they would have that done and that an RFP would soon follow after that.

Executive Director Womack reminded everyone that they had not forgotten that several groups had expressed an interest to be involved in some of the input concerning the design and that once it got to a certain point, they would make sure that these groups and their input were not overlooked. Chairman Horton then moved to the MOU with Metro Parks item on the agenda.

Executive Director Womack stated the Parks Department had asked that the Fair Board reconsider a clause concerning the utilities. The original clause stated that the Parks would be responsible for the utilities of Fair Park and Parks had asked if the Fair Board would reconsider that. She went over the revenue shares and explained some of the costs of the utilities. There were a few questions from the Board. Executive Director Womack stated that they would need to approve this revised version of the MOU and it would then go back to Parks for their approval. Commissioner Bergeron made a motion to approve the revised

MOU and Commissioner Hemmer seconded the motion. At this point, Commissioner Bergeron asked Metro Attorney Tom Cross to explain about the MOU and if there was an issue concerning the construction starting before the MOU was passed.

Mr. Cross explained that there was no issue and since two Metro departments cannot contract with one another in a way that the document would be enforceable in court, the MOU was only an informal arrangement between the two departments. He stated that the fact that the work had already started was irrelevant to the effectiveness of this document (the MOU). He stated that the MOU only needed the approval of both the Fair Board and the Parks Board.

There were several questions from the Board concerning the utilities and the costs. Executive Director Womack reminded the Board that the MOU could be revisited at any time, if needed, in the future. Chairman Horton then asked for a vote. All were in favor, there were no opposed, and the motion was passed. Chairman Horton then moved to the Speedway Contract item on the agenda.

Executive Director Womack stated that the contract was still with Mr. Formosa and that it should be finalized within the next week or so. Commissioner Bergeron stated that this really needed to get done as soon as possible. Chairman Horton then moved to the MLS Stadium Plan item on the agenda.

Executive Director Womack stated that there were no new updates on this item. Therefore, Chairman Horton moved to the Policy and Procedures Manual item on the agenda under New Business.

Executive Director Womack stated that they were updating the Policies and Procedures Manual and that it had not been updated in quite a long while. She reported that the draft was done and that HR and Legal would review it and then staff would bring it to the Board to approve soon. She explained that even though the Fairgrounds was not Civil Service they were using the Civil Service Rules as a base and that, except for a few policies/procedures; it mostly followed Metro's Civil Service.

Commissioner Hemmer asked about the State Commission meeting that took place back in January. Director Womack reported that the State Commission Board voted to approve to issue an RFP concerning operating the State Fair which should be out in about March. They also discussed whether or not the Fairgrounds property was optimal for a State Fair. She added that there was some discussion about only non-profits being able to bid, so they talked about changing the state statute so that for-profit agencies and public /private partnerships could bid. She stated that she did not know the results of that discussion and that she had asked but had not received an answer back yet. Chairman Horton stated that the Fairgrounds should submit a response or a letter to tell them the Fairgrounds was interested. There was a brief discussion and a few questions about this. Commissioner Hemmer asked that Director Womack send that (RFP) draft to them once it became available and she said she would.

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