

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners

Date: July 8, 2019 10:00 a.m.

On the above referenced date the July 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 Fairgrounds Executive Director Laura Womack and Finance and Administrative Manager Felicia Bowman. Metro Attorney Susan Jones 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.

Chairman Horton called the meeting to order and read the Appeal Announcement. Chairman Horton then moved to the approval of the May meeting minutes. Vice-Chairman McAnally made a motion to approve and Commissioner Hemmer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were passed. Since there were no public comments, Chairman Horton moved to the Financial Report.

Ms. Bowman stated that the books were still open for June so the numbers reported were from May 31st. She then went over the monthly financials. She reported that they did get approved for a \$300,000 subsidy from Metro Council for 2019 year end. Director Womack later added that all in all they were on budget. Chairman Horton then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Womack welcomed Richie Swiger, the new budget analyst for the Fairgrounds. She reported that they had hosted the Shriners Convention which was a large event and that all went well. She also announced that a long time employee, Teresea Barrett, had passed away. Chairman Horton then moved to Old Business and the Fairgrounds Improvement Project Update.

Mr. Henley reviewed the financials and also the diversity business numbers in Roxianne Bethune's absence. Ms. Scopel went over the power points presentation of the expo area. Mr. Gobbell stated that final inspections for the expo would be coming up soon. He then gave a stadium update and reported that demolition was scheduled for after the State Fair and would take about 3 months. He added that surveyors would be on the property preparing for the stadium build and things were progressing to be on track for 2022. There were a few questions and some discussion about phase II of Fair Park and the Greenway. Director Womack stated that the Greenway should be about 1.3 miles when it was finished. Chairman Horton then moved to the Speedway Motorsports, Inc. (SMI) item on the agenda.

Director Womack stated that they had met with SMI twice and that the meetings had gone well and that they had made a lot of progress. She added that they should be meeting again soon. Commissioner Bergeron agreed and that, while the neighborhood conversations still needed to take place and a lot still needed to be decided, it was all going well. There was a brief discussion.

Director Womack gave a quick State Fair update and stated that they had agreed on the final terms which the Board had as a draft in their packets. This included a rent reduction (same amount but a shift in the payment schedule) and a race that was moved from September 7th to August 31st. Director Womack went over some other points and there was some discussion with the Board and Metro Attorney Susan Jones about some of the details of the contract and what would need to be done before this contract could be finalized. Additional parking during the Fair was discussed also.

Commissioner Bergeron then made a motion stating, *“I move to approve the contract as presented in substance while also giving the Director of Insurance final authority of approval in reference to Exhibit B that was discussed and also giving the Executive Director final authority on Exhibit C to finalize that exhibit and finally giving the Executive Director and our legal representative authority to make final revisions and edits for non-substantive changes to the contract.”* Vice-Chairman McAnally seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved. Chairman Horton then moved to the Request by Formosa Productions Regarding Added Motor Sports Event item on the agenda.

Mr. Formosa asked the Board about adding a new event and stated that he would make sure the Board got an email copy of the rules within 48 hours. He stated that with all of the cancellations due to the weather, he would like to add another event called the 2019 Grocery Getter which would include about 60 or 70 cars. He stated that the noise would be minimal since it was an endurance event and race cars would not be used. He added that he had already talked to Director Womack about this event and that they would have liability waivers for everyone to sign. He went over some more of the details and the Board asked several questions. Susan Jones stated that they needed to see a contract as soon as possible so she could review it and added that they would have to draft an official amendment to the contract so it was decided that this would be pushed to the next meeting.

Director Womack reminded them about the slate in April that took place for the Election of Officers which would be Ned Horton for Chairman and Erin McAnally for Vice-Chairman-in other words, there were no changes. Commissioner Hemmer then made a motion stating, *“I make a motion to nominate Ned Horton as Chairman and Erin McAnally as Vice-Chairman.”* Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion was approved.

Scott Jones, Fair Manager with the Tennessee State Fair Association, stated that he did not have an update and added that they were just moving forward and hoping for good weather. Commissioner Johnson then made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hemmer seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting was dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ned Horton, Chairman

Laura Womack, Executive Director