

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners

Date: January 9, 2018 8:00 a.m.

On the above referenced date the January 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 Schloesser, Finance Officer Doug Peters and Metro Attorney Susan Jones. Assistant Director Ken Sanders was not present. 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 8:02 and Chairman Horton read the Appeal Announcement. He then moved to the approval of the November meeting minutes (there was no December meeting). Commissioner Hemmer made a motion to approve. Vice-Chairman McAnally seconded the motion, all were in favor and the minutes were passed. Chairman Horton then moved to Public Comment Time.

Anne McKinney with Christmas Village made some comments about Christmas Village including revenues generated for the city and amounts of donations that were provided by their event. She added that last year was their 50th year at the Fairgrounds. She requested that since they were such a long standing customer of the Fairgrounds and since they used all 6 buildings, that Christmas Village be included in the strategic planning meetings. She then thanked the Board and Chairman Horton moved to the Financial Report with Mr. Doug Peters.

Mr. Peters gave a brief report and reminded the Board that all of the numbers for December were not in yet. Commissioner Hemmer asked a few questions. Chairman Horton then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Schloesser stated that as soon as the MLS announcement was made staff sent correspondence out to the vendors and promoters emphasizing our commitment to them and to encourage them to participate in moving forward. She added that the interest had been great. She also reported that she would be making several trips to other venues throughout the region to see their facilities and to get their input. Chairman Horton then moved to the Fairgrounds Improvement Project Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Jonathan Schneider stated that they had completed all of the bridge repairs on the property. He reported that they had already started meeting about the Speedway improvements to the concourse bathrooms and the PA system. He stated that they had received a permit to begin grading on Fair Park and they were just waiting on good weather to begin. He then gave the floor to Mr. Larry Atema for the MLS Stadium Plan item on the agenda.

Mr. Atema started his report by stating that they were trying to put all of the "parts of the puzzle" together and, along with the Master Plan, were focused on trying to get everything to fit together. He stated that they were also concurrently diving into the utilities such as sewer, gas, electric, water, along with the road system and were working on a master plan for the utility infrastructure. He added that they were also starting on concepts for buildings and were trying to mature plans to move forward. He stated that an RFQ for design for the stadium would possibly go out in January and would then be followed by an RFQ for construction of the stadium. He went over a few more details and finished by stating that there was a lot happening and that Director Schloesser would keep the Board updated. He added that as soon as they had details and costs they would share that with the Board. There were several comments and questions from the Board concerning the 12 million and funding sources, parking, traffic, and time lines and Mr. Atema addressed each question. Chairman Horton then moved to the Speedway Contract item on the agenda.

Director Schloesser stated that Mr. Tony Formosa was still reviewing the contract so the Board would not be able to vote today. There was some discussion about whether or not to have a special meeting and Metro Attorney Susan Jones stated that before the contract could be executed it would need Board approval. It was decided that a special meeting would be called, if needed. Chairman Horton then moved to the Metro Parks MOU item on the agenda.

Director Schloesser went over the terms of the MOU draft (see attached). There was a lengthy discussion about the terms and several questions from the Board. Chairman Horton asked if they were ready to make a motion and Commissioner Hemmer stated, *"I make a motion to approve the MOU as presented."* Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor, there were no opposed and the motion was approved. Director Schloesser stated that the MOU would now go to the Parks Department to approve.

Chairman Horton then asked Fair Manager, Scott Jones, if he had anything to report. Mr. Jones stated that the TSFA (Tennessee State Fair Association) was still concerned about the parking but that they looked forward to working together and requested also to be included in the meetings about the stadium and improvements. Commissioner Hemmer asked if there were any updates concerning the State Commission and the location of the fair in the future and Mr. Jones said he did not know of anything definite but that they would be meeting on January 23rd at the Ellington Agricultural Center if anyone wanted to attend. He added that the TSFA considered the Fairgrounds as their home for the fair. Commissioner Hemmer asked Director Schloesser if she would give the Board an update after that meeting. Chairman Horton asked Councilman Colby Sledge if he had any comments and Councilman Sledge stated that he felt everything had been covered and that he was glad all was moving forward and felt that the traffic and access issue could be resolved. Chairman Horton then moved to the Nashville Flea Market Vendors Association item on the agenda under New Business.

Wanda West of the Flea Market Vendors Association stated that they had their ears open and that they would try to be helpful relative to the vendors and they were there to help make things better for everyone. Director Schloesser stated that they had met with five members of the Vendors Association Board and that they had all been very supportive. She stated that staff would be working very closely with this group, as well as the vendors and the customers, and would be looking for all of their feedback. One of the vendors that was present at the meeting asked if they would be getting rid of the outdoor spaces and Director Schloesser answered, "No" and added that this was an important atmosphere for many vendors. Commissioner McAnally asked if they would be able to utilize the stadium and Director Schloesser stated that the Fairgrounds would have access to the concourse for different uses.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Ned Horton, Chairman

Laura Schloesser, Executive Director