

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners  
Date: June 12, 2018 8:00 a.m.

On the above referenced date the June 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 and Commissioner Jason Bergeron. Commissioner Bonna Johnson arrived later. Also present were Executive Director Laura Womack and Metro Attorney Susan Jones. Assistant Director Ken Sanders was not present. Jonathan Schneider with Commonwealth Development Group and Ed Henley with MCC Finance were both in attendance. Ron Gobbell and Michelle Scopel with GHP Environmental and Architecture were both present as well. Mary Cavarra with MLS2Nashville and Kim Hawkins with Hawkins Partners were also in attendance. And Councilman Colby Sledge was present.

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 and Chairman Horton read the Appeal Announcement. He then moved to the approval of the May 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.

Shane Smiley, a local citizen, expressed a safety issue about a concrete truck and expressed concerns about the vote before them. Wanda West with the Flea Market Vendors Association brought documentation of their non-profit group and, again, wanted to make sure that no other group associated with the Flea Market was speaking for them. Virginia Russell, a local citizen, expressed her concerns about the changes coming at the Fairgrounds. Rick Williams, a local citizen, also expressed his concerns about the changes to the Fairgrounds. Anne McKinney, with Christmas Village, stated that she was glad about the new changes coming and thanked the Board for listening to their input. George Gruhn, a local resident and business owner, asked for the public comment time to be changed and also stated that the other Flea Market vendors group that had recently formed was also a non-profit group and that Ms. West's group wasn't the only group. He also expressed his opinion about the merchandising policy and stated his concerns about the changes at the Fairgrounds, as well. Steve Reiter, a local citizen, also expressed some concerns about the Board ignoring the charter and his concerns about the Master Plan at the Fairgrounds. Chairman Horton then moved to Monthly Reports.

Director Womack stated that they would have a more completed financial update in July and explained that without a Finance Officer and with Ken Sanders being out, they were currently understaffed. She reported that they had 74 applications for the Finance Officer position and that they had been interviewing candidates and would, hopefully, have someone soon. She introduced Grace Babalola as a new intern that would be helping with some accounting and finance over the summer. She also introduced 2 interns, Nicole Falodum and RonDarius Hayes, who were working through the Metro summer program, *Opportunity Now*, that would be helping with Corporate Sales and the Flea Market. She reported that the draft for the report from the Nashville Design Center was not finished yet, but that she would send it to the Board once it had been finalized. She finished by stated that there had been some incidents since the last meeting and that while it had been a distraction, she stated that she would not tolerate bullying and that they were taking these incidents very seriously and that they were unacceptable. Chairman Horton then moved to Fairgrounds Improvement Project Update item under Old Business.

Mr. Jonathan Schneider with Commonwealth Development Group gave a quick update on the speedway grandstand and the Fair Park project. Director Womack reminded everyone that no buildings would be demolished without Council approval. He then addressed the safety issue with the concrete truck mentioned at the Public Comment Time. Commissioner Bergeron asked about the equipment that had been tampered with after hours at Fair Park. Mr. Schneider stated that some water pumps and UTV's had been tampered with and that the ignition had been ripped out of one. He also mentioned that someone had cut through the chain at the Bransford gate but explained nothing had happened since then.

Mr. Ed Henley then went over the project funds with the Board. Vice-Chairman McAnally asked if they had an estimate on the damaged equipment that had been tampered with and Mr. Henley stated that they were tracking them and that he would get them an estimated value. Chairman Horton then moved to the MLS Stadium Update item on the agenda under Old Business.

Mr. Ron Gobbell reported that the process was continuing and that they were in the final stages of selecting an Architectural and Engineering firm. Ms. Cavarra with the MLS2Nashville group stated that they were working on the leases and integrating all of the uses of the Fairgrounds and that they were looking forward to this project. Chairman Horton then moved to New Business and the Election of Board Officers.

Commissioner Johnson made a motion to vote for the slate which was Ned Horton as Chairman and Erin McAnally as Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Hemmer seconded the motion. All were in favor, there were no opposed and the motion was passed. Chairman Horton then moved on to the Merchandising and Display Policy item on the agenda.

Director Womack explained that there had been some discussion in the past about some culturally insensitive material and that it might be time to revisit this. Commissioner Bergeron stated that he was aware that some vendors were still sneaking in materials and stated that he would like to adopt a policy to address this. He stated that there should be a ban on racist materials and wanted legal to look into this. There was a brief discussion and Metro Attorney Susan Jones stated that the Board was allowed to adopt policies and procedures and rules for the Fairgrounds. She read from the current policies that were in place. There were a few more comments and questions. Ms. Jones stated that legal would look into this some and get back to the Board. Chairman Horton then moved to the Association and/or Membership Group Formation and Affiliation item on the agenda.

Director Womack stated that they could just review the materials that Ms. West had presented. Chairman Horton then moved to the Recommendations From Public Engagement and Consideration of Site Plan item on the agenda.

Ms. Kim Hawkins with Hawkins Partners then went over the power points presentation (see attached) concerning the public engagement meetings and the site plan for the Board's consideration. She went over a brief time line and added that the traffic and parking plan done by Kimley Horn had not been completed yet, but that it should be done soon. There were several questions from the Board and a lengthy discussion. Chairman Horton then asked for a motion.

Commissioner Bergeron then made a motion stating, "I move for the approval of the Fairgrounds site plan, as presented, contingent upon future approvals and/or acceptable agreements that may be required by the Board of Fair Commissioners, the Sports Authority, and the Metro Council, and also hereby authorize the Executive Director and the Chairman of the Fair Board to approve final site plan details with the understanding that there may be shifts within the designated blocks as building construction and topography may necessitate." Commissioner Hemmer seconded the motion. There were several questions and comments and a few concerns that the Board didn't have some of the details yet. Commissioner Bergeron stated that his motion would cover the contingencies and that this was the expectation and his intent. Ms. Jones added that it was not uncommon for other boards to approve a concept so that things could move forward with the details being worked out later. She stated that she agreed that Commissioner Bergeron's motion encompassed those ideas and "tweaks". Commissioner Bergeron then read the motion again and Chairman Horton called for a vote. All were in favor. There were no opposed and no one abstained and the motion was passed.

Director Womack then announced that Jonathan Schneider would be leaving and thanked him for his work over the past two years. Commissioner Hemmer made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Bergeron seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Chairman, Ned Horton

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Executive Director, Laura Womack