

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners

Date: July 11, 2023 4:00 p.m.

On the above referenced date, the July meeting for the Board of Fair Commissioners was held in Expo 1. Those in attendance were Chair Sheri Weiner, Vice-Chair Jasper Hendricks, Commissioner Anthony Owens (arrived later), and Commissioner Diego Eguiarte. Commissioner Todd Hartley was not present. Also, in attendance from the Fairgrounds were Executive Director Laura Womack, Finance and Administrative Manager Satrice Allen and Event Services Coordinator for the Fair, Melissa Borgmeyer. Metro Attorney's Terri Costonis and Erica Haber were present. Ed Henley with Pillars Development was in attendance and was also representing GHP. Dirk Melton with Market Street Enterprises and Mary Cavarra with Nashville Soccer Club (and the Ownership Group) were also both present.

Chair Weiner read the legal notice and called the meeting to order. She then moved to the June meeting minutes. Vice-Chair Hendricks made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Eguiarte seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were passed.

She then moved to Public Comment Time. There was one public comment. Chair Weiner then moved to the Financial Report.

Ms. Allen gave a brief financial report. She added that they had received a check for \$18,281 for the parking share from the recent concert at GEODIS Park and they were still waiting on the supporting documentation. Chair Weiner had a question about the Aging Report and then moved to the Events Update item on the agenda.

Ms. Cavarra gave a brief report about the soccer and non-soccer events. She introduced Lindsey Paola as the new Chief of Staff for the Nashville Soccer Club and added that Ms. Paola would be giving reports to the Board from this point on. Vice-Chair Hendricks asked Ms. Cavarra if they could meet with the appropriate person from the Nashville Soccer Club concerning the opposing position for the renovation of the track by Bristol and Ms. Cavarra stated that she would be happy to meet with him separately. Director Womack went over the events for the next few months and then gave the floor to Ms. Borgmeyer for a fair update. Ms. Borgmeyer gave a quick summary of some of the activities and events coming up for the fair. Chair Weiner then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Womack stated that they were wrapping up the current rent relief program for the Flea Market and that they were hoping to get another 12 months extended. She reported that the Fairgrounds would be getting 50% of the property taxes generated from the Mixed-Use Development soon (for 2022) and that this issue had been resolved. She added that this would be set aside for future capital investments and savings and that they would show their plan to the Board soon. She also thanked the Metro Legal team, Metro Finance, and Ms. Gilmore at the Trustee's Office for all their hard work on this resolution. Commissioner Eguiarte asked about the mechanical/legal process for that fund and Director Womack explained that the resolution was very clear on what the money could be spent for and that she could do a proposed procedure and present it for discussion to the Board. Director Womack then introduced Ryan Jensen, the new Event Services Manager, and welcomed him to the team.

Director Womack then gave a recap of last month's meeting concerning her Open Range increase. She stated that the Board had voted last month to do a 7% increase and then another 3% increase would be contingent based on information received from Shannon Hall Metro HR Director. This information was received and then distributed to the Board. As part of that discussion last month, based on this information received from Director Hall, the Board Members could then request a special meeting if they felt it was necessary. However, no one requested to meet. Therefore, Director Womack asked the Board to reaffirm and to have on record that decision as clarification for HR. Chair Weiner added that Director Hall had requested a more definitive motion and then Commissioner Eguiarte made a motion stating, *"I make a motion to approve the increase of 10%."* Vice-Chair Hendricks seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. Chair Weiner then moved to Old Business and the

Fairgrounds Improvement Project, Mixed Use, Fair Park Phase II, and Infrastructure Informational Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Henley gave a brief financial report about the projects at the Fairgrounds and also did a brief report on the progress of the projects since GHP was not able to be at the meeting. Mr. Melton gave an update on the Mixed-Use Project and added that they were looking to have their first resident soon. Chair Weiner then moved to New Business and the Discussion on Updating Bylaws to Clarify Open Meeting and Public Comment Procedures item on the agenda.

Director Womack stated that it seemed prudent to look at the current bylaws to be consistent with some of the changes of the state laws concerning open meetings and public comment times and then suggested a few changes. These changes were: 1) changing the total public comment time to 16 minutes 2) public comment time must relate to an actionable item on the published agenda 3) public comment time will not be held for any meeting where no actionable items are on the agenda 4) public comment time sign up sheets will be provided no later than 30 minutes before the meeting for the public to record their own name 5) adding that the Fair Board shall take all practicable steps to ensure opposing viewpoints are presented fairly 6) on procedure of public hearings removing item 2c which allows back and forth dialogue 7) on procedure of public hearings adding item 2e which asks for a show of hands before the start of the public hearing for those opposing and support of an item before receiving comments. There were several questions and a brief discussion about some of the changes and also about some of the rules for public hearings and the differences for the two types of meetings. Chair Weiner asked for a motion and Vice-Chair Hendricks made a motion stating, *"I move that we amend the bylaws with the recommended changes that we have just received and discussed."* Commissioner Eguiarte seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

Chair Weiner suggested at this point that once the policy/procedure about the capital budget that was mentioned earlier was addressed, to include that in the bylaws under item "H" (Capital Budget section). She then asked for a motion to adjourn, and Vice-Chair Hendricks made a motion. Commissioner Eguiarte seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting was dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chair, Sheri Weiner

Executive Director, Laura Womack