Nashville Music, Film, and Entertainment Commission

MINUTES

March 3, 2025, 10:30 a.m.
NECAT
120 White Bridge Rd #46, Nashville, TN 37209

Commissioners Present: Max Butler (Chair), Marshall McClarnon (Vice Chair), Jeff Syracuse (Secretary), Jeff Gordon, Michael Montgomery, Peter Kurland, Gina Miller, Stephanie Silverman, Dave Pomeroy, Mo Sabri, Timothy Reid, Jr., Willie Sims, Erika Nichols, Hazel Smith

Commissioners Absent: Meisha Edwards

Ex Officio Members Present: Larry Jirik

Staff: N/A

Guests: Derrick Smith (Metro Legal), Jamari Brown (Metro), Jamie Kent (Backstage Strategies)

1. Call to Order:

Chair Max Butler called the meeting to order at 10:37 AM. He welcomed all in attendance.

2. Public Comment Period:

William Jenkins thanked the Commission. CM Joy Styles addressed the Commission and mentioned the upcoming legislation and explained the intent of her substitute.

3. Contacts and Disclosures:

Commissioner Sims saw Commissioners Miller and Smith but no business was discussed. Chair Butler had lunch and a phone conversation with Commissioner McClarnon, but no business was discussed. Chair Butler saw Commissioner Kurland, but no business was discussed.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Correction to Jan 22, 2025 minutes – Commissioners Gordon and Miller added to abstentions regarding sending letter to Council about pending legislation. Motion also did pass as simple majority was all that was required. Chair Butler wrote letter and sent to Council.

Chair Butler motioned to approve as amended. Commissioner Montgomery seconded. All in favor. No nays or abstentions. Motion passed.

5. Guest Speaker – Jamie Kent with Backstage Strategies

Jamie spoke about the Greater Nashville Music Census. Over 100 organizations participated. Led by Sound Music Cities. Discussed results, including affordability, diversity / equity / inclusion issues, genre representation, as well as opportunities to act based on results. Music

Venue Alliance of Nashville (MVAN) and NCVC partnered to create 615 Indie Live to support local, independent venues and was a big initial success. Partnership with Metropolis to address musician parking issues is also another success. Ongoing issues with Metro controlled on-street parking, but good progress was made to make it more customer-friendly to venues. A working group was created to begin looking at creating action plans based on the recommendations from the Census and the Local Independent Music Venue study. The plan is to do the census again in a few years.

6. Ex Officio Member Reports

Larry Jirik – NECAT on March 22 at 5pm is launching premier called "All Connected" about sustainability at Main Library.

7. Reports from the Chair and Vice Chair

Chair – Chair Butler saw Kurt Willis in Knoxville with their Film Commission, which is housed in their tourism organization (i.e. NCVC). Discussed their local incentive program. Discussed pending legislation and went to the Arts, Parks, Libraries, and Entertainment Committee and Rules Committee at Council. Had email conversations with Dave Rosenberg in Mayor's Office, attached to this Commission agenda documents. Bill was deferred at Council one meeting.

Vice Chair – Commissioner Gordon working on Strategic Business Plan. He reached out to outside organizations as potential consultants for this work. He also followed up on a system that would allow the Commission to communicate legally outside of a Commission meeting. He is advocating at the State Legislature. Also discussed findings of Kentucky's film community organization and incentive programs.

8. Reports from Committees

- **Exec Committee Meeting** – Have not met.

- **Ad Hoc Job Description Committee –** Met prior to full Commission. Commissioner Gordon as Chair reported ongoing efforts to create metrics for candidates.

- **Budget Committee** – Have not met.

- **Bylaws Committee** – Have not met.

9. Unfinished Business

- **Update on Executive Director Position Hiring and Code Amending Legislation** – Mr. Brown updated Commission on process. Chair Butler stated Commission had asked for a Legal review on repercussions on reopening position. Mr. Brown said there are no legal issues to do so, but Legal and HR recommended not reopening. Mr. Smith said the legal risk is low whether it's reopened or not. CM Styles was recognized by Chair Butler for update. She does not suggest reopening posting. She also stated she is recording this meeting so Council can review proceedings. Mr. Brown said one communication piece was sent to applicants and went out to let them know their application is received and the process will be commencing soon. He mentioned that the delay in the process is waiting to align legislative clean-up with the hiring process.

Mr. Brown stated again that there is conflict in current legislative authority with competing interests between Commission and Mayor's Office and reinforced that needs to be resolved. Bill as filed gives final hiring authority to the Mayor. CM Styles described her Substitute proposal that would keep hiring authority with the Commission. Kurland moves to create a letter to Metro Council that Commission recommends to retain final decision making authority of the ED hiring process so that it is not under the Mayor's Office. Commissioner Gordon seconded. Voting – Butler, yes, Gordon yes, Syracuse – abstain, Kurland – yes, Pomeroy – yes, Reid – yes, McClarnon – abstain, Sabri – yes, Miler – yes, Silverman – yes, Sims – yes, Nichols – yes, Smith – yes. Montgomery and Edwards are absent. Motion passes.

10. New Business:

Next Meeting TBD.

11. Adjourn Meeting:

Motion to adjourn at 12:36 by Commissioner Gordon. Seconded by Commission Silverman. All in favor.

APPROVED, this day 19th of March 2025.

Signature on file	Signature on file
Max A. Butler, Chair	Jeff Syracuse, Secretary