

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners

Date: April 13, 2021 8:00 a.m. (Electronic Meeting)

On the above referenced date, the April meeting for the Board of Fair Commissioners was held electronically. Those in attendance were Chairman Erin McAnally, Vice-Chairman Jason Bergeron, Commissioner Caleb Hemmer and Commissioner Sheri Weiner. Also present were Fairgrounds Executive Director Laura Womack, Finance and Administrative Manager Satrice Allen, and Corporate Sales Manager Scott Wallace. Metro Attorney's Alex Dickerson and Tom Cross were also in attendance. Ron Gobbell and Tim Debus with Gobbell Hays Partners (GHP) and Ed Henley with Pillars Development were present as well. Mary Cavarra with the Nashville Soccer Club (and the Ownership Group) and Dirk Melton with Market Street Enterprises were in attendance. Bill Phillips with the Mayor's Office was present as well as Jerry Caldwell with Bristol Motor Speedway (Speedway Motorsports). Chief William Swann with the Metro Fire Department was also in attendance.

Chairman McAnally took attendance and then announced that the public could call in with their comments to the live call-in line and announced the live call-in line phone number. Chairman McAnally then made a motion stating, "*The proposed agenda constitutes essential business and meeting electronically is necessary to protect the health, safety, and well-being of Tennesseans in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.*" Commissioner Weiner seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was passed. Chairman McAnally then called the meeting to order and read the legal notice. Chairman McAnally moved to the approval of the March meeting minutes. Vice-Chairman Bergeron made a motion to approve and Commissioner Hemmer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were passed. Chairman McAnally then moved to Public Comment Time.

There were several live comments concerning the Letter of Intent (LOI) to the city from Speedway Motorsports and the concerns of the expansion of the racetrack and how it would affect the neighborhood. The time limit for public comment expired and Chairman McAnally stated that there would be a public hearing next month for anyone that did not get to comment at this meeting and that also anyone could email the Board. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Financial Report.

Ms. Allen gave a brief financial report. She added that Council had approved an approximate 2.1 million dollar subsidy for the coming year to cover expenses due to the inability to hold events and functioning as an emergency shelter for the homeless during the Pandemic. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Executive Director's Report on the agenda.

Director Womack stated that they were working on an outdoor only Flea Market for May which would be modified to keep within the COVID restrictions. She also reported that they were getting a new software system for vendor and event management and would, hopefully, have this in place by the time they re-opened the indoor events. This would give them more functionality and flexibility. Chief Swann was having technical issues so Chairman McAnally then moved to Old Business and the Fairgrounds Improvement Project Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Henley went over each project. Mr. Gobbell gave a brief update on the Infrastructure Project and the Multi-Purpose Building. Chairman McAnally then moved to the MLS Stadium and Infrastructure Update item on the agenda.

Ms. Cavarra gave an update on the stadium and the soccer team. She stated that the stadium project was on schedule and then went over the construction slides of the stadium. She added that April 17th was the season opener at Nissan Stadium. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Bristol Motor Speedway Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Caldwell stated that they were continuing to focus on 1) community engagement 2) viable and stable financial plan away from Metro Taxpayers 3) long term plan for the city and the Fairgrounds. He then elaborated on each of these a little. He stated that they were doing a lot of listening and added that there had been some good conversations so far. There were a few questions from the Board concerning the number of events, track rentals/testing dates, state legislation regarding sales tax and when that legislation might pass, recent legislation regarding exclusivity and discrimination, a community benefits agreement, financial impact information and plan, sound mapping, and consistency regarding all leasees.

Chairman McAnally then went over the process of the public engagement. May 11th at 5:00 p.m. would be the first public hearing and presentation (in person meeting) at Music City Center (MCC) with open public comment time and the regular Fair Board Meeting immediately following. The next tentative meeting would then be planned for June 8th where the deal draft would be presented and there would be time for public input. And then July 12th (a day earlier than the usual Fair Board Meeting), the deal draft would be considered by the Board. She added that if a special meeting was needed between the May and June meeting, then they could certainly do that and that past the May 11th meeting everything was tentative. There was a little discussion and the members agreed that by May 11th, the Board would hopefully have more information to base their decisions on going forward. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Shelter Update item on the agenda.

Chief Swann reported that the shelter had already started the "phasing out" process and was scheduled to close on July 1st, depending on the vaccination levels at that time. He reminded everyone that the Fairgrounds would then need approximately 6 -8 weeks to clean up and do damage repairs and scheduled warranty work. He went over some of the objectives of the shelter and then also what the shelter at the Fairgrounds had provided to the homeless community over the last year. There were a couple of questions from the Board. Director Womack stated again that they would need a 6-8 week window to clean and sanitize and inspect the facility and consider the scope of work needed to be done. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Event Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Wallace gave a quick review of upcoming outdoor events. Commissioner Hemmer suggested that the staff send something out to announce about the July 1st closing of the shelter and the re-opening of indoor events coming up soon. Mr. Wallace stated that they would do that. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Community Impact Discussion item on the agenda.

Director Womack explained that this was a standing item on the agenda for the Board to discuss anything specific concerning/addressing community impact. Vice-Chairman Bergeron went over his concerns again about the speedway facility and its impact and asked everyone to consider all things such as rain outs and make up dates, etc. He also expressed his concerns about the tension between local racing and NASCAR and how it would affect this decision. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Slate of Board of Fair Commissioners Officers for Vote in June item on the agenda under New Business.

Chairman McAnally and Metro Attorney, Alex Dickerson, both went over the slate process. Commissioner Hemmer made a motion to keep the same slate of officers with Erin McAnally as Chairman and Jason Bergeron as Vice-Chairman. Chairman McAnally seconded the motion. Chairman McAnally and Vice-Chairman Bergeron both stated that they would be glad to serve again. All were in favor and the motion was passed with the vote to be held at the June meeting according to the bylaws.

Chairman McAnally asked for a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Weiner stated, "so moved." All were in favor and the meeting was dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chairman, Erin McAnally

Executive Director, Laura Womack