

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners
Date: September 12, 2017 8:30 a.m.

On the above referenced date the September meeting for the Board of Fair Commissioners was held at Fifty Forward Knowles Center. Those in attendance were Chairman Ned Horton, Commissioner Caleb Hemmer, Commissioner Bonna Johnson and Commissioner Jason Bergeron. Vice-Chairman Erin McAnally arrived later. Also present were Executive Director Laura Schloesser, Assistant Director Ken Sanders, Finance Officer Doug Peters and Metro Attorney Susan Jones. Councilman Colby Sledge, as well as, Monica Fawknoston with the Sports Authority, and Terri Troup and Michelle Lane with Metro Procurement were all present, as well. Larry Atema and Jonathon Schneider with Commonwealth Development Group were also in attendance.

Chairman Horton called the meeting to order and then read the Appeal Announcement. He then moved to the approval of the August meeting minutes. Commissioner Hemmer made a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Bergeron seconded the motion, all were in favor and the minutes were passed.

Chairman Horton started the meeting by stating that there had been a lot of feedback and talk and many discussions with Director Schloesser and added that the Board had been very accessible concerning the issues of the Fairgrounds and the track. He then suggested that they have another informational meeting by the end of the month, perhaps after work. There were no public comments so Chairman Horton then moved to the Financial Report with Finance Officer, Doug Peters.

Mr. Peters briefly went over the financial numbers. He reported that the 2017 fiscal year would close in October and Director Schloesser stated that they would give the Board a run down for 2017 once it was available. Chairman Horton then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Schloesser reported that there was some flood damage from the August 31st storm. She stated that the back pit area of the racetrack down by Brown's Creek had the most damage but that fences, asphalt, ticket booths, etc. had also been damaged. She stated that she would give the Board an estimate of the damages via email. Chairman Horton asked Mr. Atema and Mr. Schneider with Commonwealth Development Group to comment on the damages and Mr. Schneider stated that there was debris in the creek which was pretty typical for this amount of flooding and that they were mostly concerned about the bridges, especially bridge #4, but that there was no major damage. Chairman Horton then moved to the Improvement Project Update item on the agenda under Old Business.

Mr. Schneider reported that they were wrapping up the painting project and that nine buildings had been painted. Commissioner Hemmer asked about the cost and Mr. Schneider stated that it was about \$189,900. Chairman Horton then moved to the RFP for the racetrack item on the agenda.

Ms. Michelle Lane and Ms. Terri Troup, both with Metro Purchasing, gave a review of the RFP and Ms. Lane went over the process for the racetrack RFP over the last few months. She then gave some information regarding the four proposers. Ms. Lane then stated that, contingent on the action of the Board; the Evaluation Committee recommended that the RFP be awarded to Fairgrounds Speedway Nashville. There were some questions from the Board about moving the deadline a couple of times and some of the scores for some of the proposers. Ms. Troup stated that the committee went strictly by what was presented in the proposals and added that some of the proposers were missing some things. Ms. Lane added that they were evaluated and scored only by what was presented and offered, and not by their name or brand. Commissioner Hemmer thanked all the participants and stated that they would have time to discuss and have questions later after contracting. Ms. Lane agreed that after contracting would be the best time to discuss details. She finished by stating that the most favorable one rose to the top. Commissioner Hemmer asked if they needed a motion and Metro Attorney Susan Jones answered, "Yes, if the Board agrees, and it would be contingent upon successful negotiations." Commissioner Hemmer then made a motion stating, "*I make a motion to approve RFP #968645 with the Fairgrounds Speedway Nashville, contingent on successful contract negotiations.*" Vice-Chairman McAnally seconded the motion. All were in favor, there were no opposed, and the motion was passed.

Chairman Horton then deferred the Fair Park MOU item on the agenda to the next board meeting so that they could hear the feedback from the informational meeting that was to be scheduled in the near future. There were some questions from the board about the MOU and at this point, Ms. Jones read the specific rule about deferring and stated that the Board would need a motion to defer this item. Chairman Horton then made a motion stating, "*I make a motion to defer this ongoing item on the agenda until an informational meeting can be held.*" Commissioner Hemmer seconded the motion. All were in favor, there were no opposed and the motion was passed. Mr. Shane Smiley requested also for a follow up meeting after the informational meeting. Chairman Horton stated that there had been/would be many "meetings" to address concerns and that he appreciated the feedback. Commissioner Hemmer asked Councilman Colby Sledge if the meetings

were appropriate for the neighborhoods (what they needed) and Mr. Sledge said they did seem appropriate. Chairman Horton then moved to the Rental Fee Increase item on the agenda under New Business.

Director Schloesser explained the spread sheet in the Board packets and gave a little history about the past increases and fee studies. She stated that she felt the customers would appreciate a long term (3 year) rate plan so that they could plan for their budget and she recommended this. She stated that the 2% increase would be approximately \$25,000 extra for them. She added that this was just for the Corporate Sales side and that it would not include the Flea Market vendors. There was a brief discussion about this. Chairman Horton then suggested that they build in an escalator clause in the contracts and also suggested seasonal rates. He then asked for this to be put on the agenda for October. He stated that this was an operational issue for staff and there was no need for a vote from the Board. There were a couple of questions and then Ms. Jones reminded them that the fee increase could only be for new entries and Director Schloesser agreed. Chairman Horton then moved to the Flea Market Rules item on the agenda.

Director Schloesser stated that they were constantly looking at the rules and that they had done some background research for other Flea Markets. She stated that they often walked the crowd to make sure the vendors were representing what they were selling and to make sure there was a family friendly atmosphere. Therefore, she had proposed some edits and she went over the list. She also mentioned a "catch all" option, as well. Commissioner Johnson asked about recall items and there was some discussion and some questions about recall items and food and expired food. Commissioner Bergeron challenged everyone to "call it out" when they saw anything inappropriate. Vice-Chairman McAnally asked about the repercussions of breaking the rules and Director Schloesser stated that she had not found a lot of resistance from the vendors about taking down inappropriate merchandise. However, if the vendors were to put the merchandise back out, then Flea Market Manager, Mary Ann Smith, would then get involved which could result in suspension or being asked to leave for good. She added that sometimes the vendors were simply unaware. Vice-Chairman McAnally asked if these rules would apply to Corporate Sales and Director Schloesser stated that she and Scott Wallace, Corporate Sales Manager, had talked about it. Commissioner Johnson asked how they planned to notify vendors of the new rules. Director Schloesser stated that there was a monthly newsletter to the vendors, quarterly vendor meetings and that they were working on a mass email list and that the communication with the vendors was good.

John Rose, Chairman of the Tennessee State Fair Association (TSFA), gave a quick Fair report. He stated that the Fair had gotten off to a great start and that the Monster Mayhem event had definitely increased attendance. He finished by stating that the Ham Breakfast had raised over \$50,000 for the FFA (Future Farmers of America). Mr. Scott Jones, TSFA Fair Manager, was asked about ride inspections and he stated that the midway company (North American Midway Entertainment) and the TSFA both split the cost of an independent inspector and that safety was the number one issue.

There was a motion to adjourn and a second. All were in favor and the meeting was dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Horton, Chairman

Laura Schloesser, Executive Director