

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners  
Date: September 11, 2018 9:00 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, Vice-Chairman Erin McAnally, Commissioner Caleb Hemmer, Commissioner Bonna Johnson and Commissioner Jason Bergeron. Also present were Fairgrounds Executive Director Laura Womack, Finance and Administrative Manager Felicia Bowman, Metro Attorney Susan Jones, and Metro Attorney Jon Cooper. Ron Gobbell and Michelle Scopel with Gobbell Hays Partners were both present as well. Mary Cavarra representing Nashville Soccer Holdings was also in attendance and Ed Henley with Pillars Development was present as well.

Chairman Horton called the meeting to order at 9:01 and then read the appeal announcement. He then moved to the approval of the minutes of both of the August meetings. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting and the August 16<sup>th</sup> special meeting minutes. Commissioner Hemmer seconded the motion. All were in favor and both sets of minutes were passed. He then moved to the Public Comment Time item on the agenda.

Since there were no public comments, Chairman Horton moved to the Monthly Reports. Director Womack stated that the financials had not been updated yet and that they would get that to them by the next week. Commissioner Hemmer asked if FY17/18 had been closed yet and Director Womack stated that it had not, but they would get that to them once it had been closed. She added that all was going well. Director Womack then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Womack recognized and congratulated Operations Manager, David Lewis, for his 20 years of employment at the Fairgrounds. She then reported that Abayomi Ojo (Yomi), the budget analyst for the Fairgrounds, had recently left Metro but that Finance was helping them transition downtown. Chairman Horton then moved to The Fairgrounds Improvement Project Update item under Old Business.

Mr. Ed Henley gave a quick overview of the sheets in the board packets and a summary of what improvements had been done. Ms. Michelle Scopel also gave some updates of what had been done and what was ahead. Mr. Ron Gobbell stated that since the Metro Council had approved the expo building, they were proceeding forward. He then gave the Board a proposed schedule of the weeks ahead and what to expect. He added that they had met with some of the State Fair people and the User Advisory Group and would be meeting with them both again throughout this process. There was a brief discussion about the State Fair and some of the changes they were "tweaking". He added that things were moving fast and there would be a lot more to report at the October meeting. There was a quick discussion about the demo of the Election Commission Building. Commissioner Hemmer asked if there was anything else needed specifically from the Fair Board for now and the answer was, "No". Chairman Horton then moved to the All American 400 Date Change and the Addition of One Race item under New Business.

Director Womack stated that Mr. Formosa had requested to move the All American 400 Race to the first weekend in November. He had also requested to keep the original 400 date for a regular race and to add the new November date for the All American 400. She reported that she had discussed this with Councilman Colby Sledge and the neighborhood rep from the Neighborhood Impact Advisory Committee (NIAC) and that they were both okay with the changes. Commissioner Hemmer asked about the improvement construction and Ms. Scopel stated that it would put them back about a month and that the costs would be minimal and they were prepared to accommodate. Metro Attorney Susan Jones added that the speedway contract allowed up to 10 races and that the motion would just need to include that the Chairman and the Director be able to approve and allow for the additional race. Commissioner Johnson then made a motion to approve. Commissioner Hemmer seconded the motion. Chairman Horton then stated, *"to add an additional local race to the (October) 6<sup>th</sup> and to move the All American 400 Race to the first weekend in November"*. There was a brief discussion and some questions and then Chairman Horton called for a vote. All were in favor, there were no opposed and the motion was passed. Chairman Horton then moved to the Bristol Motor Speedway item on the agenda.

Director Womack reported that there had been some correspondence and continued interest with SMI (Bristol) in partnering with the Fairgrounds in bringing improvements to the property and which would add some races to the speedway. She stated that it was very early in the process and they were just waiting to see where it might lead and she just wanted to let the Board know that these discussions were underway. She said the timing was very important with everything else going on. There were a couple of comments from the Board. Mr. Formosa added that they had only had discussions so far. Chairman Horton then asked Fair Manager, Scott Jones, if he had any comments about the Fair going on and he gave a quick update.

Commissioner Bergeron then made a motion to adjourn. Vice-Chairman McAnally seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting was dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Ned Horton, Chairman

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Executive Director, Laura Womack