

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners
Date: October 9, 2018 9:00 a.m.

On the above referenced date the October meeting for the Board of Fair Commissioners was held at Wilson Hall at the Fairgrounds. 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, and Metro Attorney Susan Jones. Ron Gobbell and Michelle Scopel with Gobbell Hays Partners were both present as well. Ed Henley and Connell Anderson with Pillars Development were also in attendance.

Chairman Horton called the meeting to order at 9:00 and then read the appeal announcement. He then moved to the approval of the minutes of the September meeting. Vice-Chairman McAnally made a motion to approve, Commissioner Johnson seconded, all were in favor and the minutes were passed. Chairman Horton then moved to the Public Comment Time item on the agenda.

Since there were no public comments, Chairman Horton moved to the Monthly Reports. Ms. Felicia Bowman then went over the numbers in the Board packets and stated that June, July and August were still open so the numbers could change. She reported that the State Fair numbers were not finalized and that there should be about \$100,000 from the fair and also about \$25,000 from the racetrack. Therefore, they would be in the black in October. Commissioner Hemmer asked about the surplus account and Director Womack stated that there was about \$240,000 - \$280,000 left and that she would give them that amount at the next meeting when they went over the (fiscal) year end. Ms. Bowman then finished her report. Chairman Horton then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Womack then gave Corporate Sales Manager, Scott Wallace, the floor to go over some of the events coming up. Mr. Wallace stated that they had been very busy and he quickly went over a few of the events coming up, including the auditions for the Wheel of Fortune and wrestling. He added that they would be busy until Christmas. Director Womack then asked Flea Market Manager, Mary Ann Smith, to give the Board a quick report. She stated that all was well and that they had already rented out 2,003 booths for October and had about 650 dealers. Chairman Horton then moved to the Fairgrounds Improvement Project Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Ed Henley went over the budget and the numbers given in the Board packets. Director Womack added that the Bristol conversations were still ongoing and a decision should be made soon and also about how it might impact the work on the grandstands. Mr. Henley then introduced Connell Anderson, a new member of the project team.

Ms. Scopel then went over the updates to Fair Park and stated that the improvements to the grandstands were on hold for now. She added that they were in the design and budgeting stage for the expo building and sheds. Mr. Gobbell went over what was being done and stated that they were in the final stages of negotiations for the stadium construction manager and that it would need approval from the Sports Authority Board on November 1st. Director Womack added that Walsh Road (connecting Wedgewood to Nolensville) would be closed after the October Flea Market and that they would put up signage for drivers and do a media alert. There were several questions from the Board about the Fair Park opening date, parking off site, and the flood plain areas. Chairman Horton then moved to the MLS Stadium Update item on the agenda.

Director Womack reported that they continued to engage the User Advisory Committee that was made up of different promoters and Flea Market vendors. She stated that they had been getting great feedback from this group about the changes coming. Chairman Horton then moved to the Additional Race Date for 2019 Season item on the agenda.

Director Womack stated that Jason Rittenberry, a local promoter, had approached her about a bringing a dirt race to the speedway and Mr. Rittenberry wanted to ask the Board to consider an additional race for 2019. She then gave Mr. Rittenberry with the "World of Outlaws" the floor. He then introduced Tom Deery, the COO of the "World of Outlaws". Mr. Deery went over some general information about the "World of Outlaws" and the event and stated that this would be a nationally televised event. There were many questions and a lengthy discussion from the Board. Metro Attorney Susan Jones had several questions about fencing, safety, and insurance requirements. Mr. Deery assured the Board that they would have the proper insurance required and that they would do all that they could to make this a safe event or they would not do the race. Mr. Rittenberry also agreed to comply with the current curfew of the speedway. He stated that their proposal to the Formosa's included a one year contract with the option to extend for two years.

Commissioner Bergeron asked Ms. Jones what was the best way to add the additional race and Ms. Jones stated that the Board could do an amendment to the existing contract for the addition and nature of the race. She added that they could either be specific to this “World of Outlaw” race only or they could use language that would allow Tony Formosa to have other events like this and that this would need to be clarified in the motion, which would be needed to allow this race or to amend the contract. There were a few more questions and some more brief discussion. Director Womack stated that she had met with one of the members of the neighborhood group and that she was okay with the addition of the race. Councilman Colby Sledge stated that he also was open to events like this as long as the same guidelines were followed that were with Mr. Formosa’s contract. The Board asked Mr. Formosa to comment and he stated that he was very familiar with this type of racing and that he was excited to bring this type of racing here and he would do everything to make sure the race was safe and the rules were followed.

There were a few more questions and some discussion including total race counts for the year and then Commissioner Bergeron made a motion stating, “I make a motion to approve an amendment to the contract for holding these events with the “World of Outlaws” for 2019 subject to terms of the existing contract with Nashville Motor Sports (Fairgrounds Speedway Nashville).” Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. Ms. Jones explained that Mr. Formosa could not enter into an agreement until the Board approved but that he could do negotiations before and she added that the Board could always make another amendment again, if needed. There was some discussion about only agreeing to the 2019 season for now, since this was a new relationship with this promoter and that they could always change the terms/years later. Vice-Chairman McAnally also asked to address the physical liability concerns for safety since the agreement would be between the promoter and Mr. Formosa and asked how it would affect Metro/The Fair Board. Director Womack stated that there was a term in their agreement with Mr. Formosa addressing any upgrades of the track over \$5,000 stating that these would have to go through Director Womack and she would, of course, notify the Board. It would go through Metro review prior to installation. Chairman Horton asked the promoter to present them with a separate concept of the types of safety measures required for the Board to look at and Mr. Rittenberry said that they could do that prior to the event. Mr. Rittenberry asked, for clarification, if they would need to come before the Board in a year for approval for another year and Commissioner Bergeron answered, “Yes,” and added that the intent of his motion was for only the year 2019. There was a lengthy discussion about this since the promoter was hoping for a contract for 2019 with the option to extend. It was decided that the motion would be only for 2019 so that the promoter could move forward and that they could work out the details later once the Board had more details about the safety upgrades and how they would be funded and about the 2 year option.

Commissioner Hemmer then called the question. All were in favor, there were no opposed and the motion was passed. Chairman Horton then moved to the Recreational Vehicles Rules item on the agenda.

Scott Wallace reported that they had not had any rules written down for RV’s in the past and he had asked Metro Attorney Susan Jones to review the rules. She asked that the Board review the rules as well. There were several suggestions such as stronger rules for picking up after pets, weekday/weekend contacts, privacy, curfews, how to make payments, a no fire policy, and fines, if needed. Mr. Wallace stated that he would make the revisions, send to Commissioner Johnson to review and then circulate to the Board. Ms. Jones stated that a motion would be needed to accept these rules/changes. Commissioner Bergeron then made a motion to accept these rules/changes (once updated). Commissioner Hemmer seconded the motion. All were in favor, there were no opposed and the motion was passed.

Fair Manager, Scott Jones, gave a quick update on the Fair and stated that there were no major incidents or problems or any injuries and that all went well. He reported that attendance was down a little over 5,000. He expressed his concerns again about parking.

Commissioner Hemmer then made a motion to adjourn and Chairman Horton seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ned Horton, Chairman

Laura Womack, Executive Director