

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners
Date: January 8, 2019 8:00 a.m.

On the above referenced date the January meeting for the Board of Fair Commissioners was held at Wilson Hall at the Fairgrounds. Those in attendance were Chairman Ned Horton, Commissioner Bonna Johnson and Commissioner Jason Bergeron. Vice-Chairman Erin McAnally and Commissioner Caleb Hemmer were not in attendance. 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 (GHP) were both present as well. Ed Henley and Connell Anderson with Pillars Development and Roxanne Bethune with Alliance Synergy were also in attendance. Councilman Robert Swope was also in the audience.

Chairman Horton called the meeting to order and then read the appeal announcement. He then moved to the approval of the minutes of the November meeting. Commissioner Johnson made a motion to approve, Commissioner Bergeron seconded, all were in favor and the minutes were passed.

Chairman Horton then moved to the Public Comment Time item on the agenda. Steve Reiter, a local citizen, stated that he was interested in what was happening at the Fairgrounds and he was looking forward to a tour with Director Womack. Chairman Horton then moved to the Financial Report with Ms. Felicia Bowman.

Ms. Bowman went over the financial sheets in the Board packets. She added that the track was up to date on their rent but that they were still waiting on a check for the State Fair. Chairman Horton then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Womack reported that an RFP would be coming out shortly for pouring rights on soft drinks (in cooperation with Metro Parks and the Municipal Auditorium). Chairman Horton then moved to the Fairgrounds Improvement Project Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Ed Henley gave a budget update and an overview of the project. He reminded the Board that the grandstands project was still on hold but stated that the funds were still there. Ms. Roxanne Bethune briefly gave an update on the diversity participation. Ms. Michelle Scopel then gave a quick update on Fair Park and the soccer fields and the grandstands improvements. She also went over some of the power points presentation. Mr. Ron Gobbell then went over the floor plans of the new expo building on the power points presentation. He also reported that Council had approved 25 million for infrastructural improvements to support the stadium and that they were starting to work on this as well. He pointed out that the expo center building would be free standing and would not be dependent on any of these infrastructural projects. Since the MLS Stadium updates had already been covered, Chairman Horton then moved to the Update on Discussions with Formosa Productions and Speedway Motorsports Inc. item on the agenda.

Director Womack stated that they had had an introductory meeting with representatives of Speedway Motorsports. She stated that they would meet again soon to see what was possible. She added that despite what the media had reported, there was NO agreement with Speedway Motorsports and Metro (or the Fair Board) at this time and she wanted to make that clear. Director Womack asked Councilman Swope if he wanted to say anything. Councilman Swope stated, while he could not speak for the Metro Council, the news of Bristol possibly coming to Nashville was tremendous for him personally and he encouraged the Board to seize this opportunity, as well as, any other opportunities for the track that might come up to make the track great. Chairman Horton thanked Councilman Swope.

Commissioner Bergeron asked for an update on the World of Outlaws event and Director Womack stated that they did not have an update yet but that they should know something soon. Commissioner Johnson asked if there was any timeline for an agreement with Speedway Motorsports and Director Womack stated that she hoped that would be coming soon. Chairman Horton then moved to the Approval of Intent to Award for Food and Beverage Services to DD Events item on the agenda.

Director Womack stated that an RFP for food and beverages services went out last year and that Metro Procurement had been handling this and that this had been awarded to DD Events Management. She added that a new contract must be negotiated and that the Board should elect a representative to negotiate this contract. Commissioner Bergeron then made a motion stating, *"I move that Erin McAnally serve as the Fair Board's representative for purposes of negotiating a contract with D&D Events Management."* Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor, there were no opposed and the motion was passed.

Chairman Horton recognized former Board Member, James Weaver, who was in the audience. Chairman Horton then asked Tennessee State Fair Association (TSFA) Fair Manager, Scott Jones, if he wanted to say anything.

Mr. Jones stated his concerns about the mixed use area and the footprint of the Fair, RV sites, parking areas etc. and stated that he was looking forward to meeting with Director Womack to get some answers to some of his questions and to talk about the future. Commissioner Bergeron asked about the status of the State Fair check and Mr. Jones stated that there had been some conflicts in scheduling with members of their Board for a couple of months and that he had missed the December meeting. He added that some of the members were concerned that they did not have the use of the whole property (they did not have Fair Park to park cars) so they wanted to meet and have some discussion before sending the check. Commissioner Bergeron stated that they had a lot of things that needed to be discussed and that the Fair Board was (and had been) ready to talk. He stated again that they would love to see Mr. Rose at their meeting if he could find the time.

Commissioner Bergeron then made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ned Horton, Chairman

Laura Womack, Executive Director