

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners
Date: March 12, 2019 8:00 a.m.

On the above referenced date the March 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. Metro Attorney Susan Jones arrived later. Ron Gobbell with Gobbell Hays Partners (GHP) was present and Roxianne Bethune with Alliance Synergy was present, as well as Ed Henley and Connell Anderson with Pillars Development. Councilman Colby Sledge was in attendance also.

Chairman Horton called the meeting to order at 8:03 and read the Appeal Announcement. He then moved to the approval of the minutes of the February meeting. Vice-Chairman McAnally made a motion to approve, Commissioner Johnson seconded, all were in favor and the minutes were passed. There were no public comments so Chairman Horton moved to the Financial Report.

Felicia Bowman reported that the books were not closed yet for February; therefore the numbers were not final. She stated that as of January 31st, the Fund Balance was at zero so they were not in the red or black. She stated that the FY19/20 budget was not finalized yet and they would soon know if they would need a supplement or not. Commissioner Hemmer asked that staff share the budget with the board before it went out to the Council and the budget hearings. Chairman Horton then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Executive Director Laura Womack stated that the food and beverage contract should be finalized that week. She reported that it was similar to the past 5 years and that it was only for the expo and it did not include the stadium. She added that she would put together a term sheet for the Board. She stated that the biggest change with this contract was addressing the corkage fees. Chairman Horton then moved to the Fairgrounds Improvement Project Update item on the agenda.

Ed Henley briefly went over the budget sheets in the Board packets. He stated that the Fairgrounds was now officially in charge of managing the Fair Park project. He reported that the work on the grandstands was still moving slowly. Ms. Roxianne Bethune reported that they would achieve the 20% (and perhaps beyond with a target of 30%) for the diversity participation for the expo and then gave the breakdown of each group which totaled 42.

Ron Gobbell gave a quick update on the expo project and stated that, even with all of the rain, they were still scheduled to be completed by summer. He reported that the stadium was in the design stage at this point. Director Womack stated that the Fairgrounds Staff would be issuing 3 RFP's soon: 1) audio/visual equipment and PA system 2) security 3) kitchen equipment and installation.

Chairman Horton asked if there had been any dialogue with the State Fair and Director Womack stated that staff had met together with them for many hours already and that they were meeting again that day. She added that there had been many accommodations for livestock and that the meetings had been very positive and that they were making progress. Mr. Gobbell stated that he had had several conversations with them and that they had, in fact, worked on this as well. There were a couple of questions from the Board about other matters. Director Womack stated that she had received the approval permits the day before to open Fair Park. Mr. Gobbell stated that the voting machines would not be moved until late summer or fall but that the Election Commission was working on it.

Chairman Horton then moved to the Update on Speedway Motorsports, Inc. item on the agenda. Director Womack stated that there was still no proposal or update on this matter and that they would keep this on the agenda for next month. Chairman Horton then moved to the 2019 World of Outlaws Event item on the agenda.

Mr. Jason Rittenberry from the World of Outlaws stated that they had finalized their safety plan to bring before the Board and then went over that plan and addressed the concerns, as well as other concerns, that were brought up at the last board meeting. There were a few questions from the Board. Metro Attorney Susan Jones asked Mr. Rittenberry to send the wristband waiver for the pit workers, the insurance certificate and the agreement with the Formosa's to her and Mr. Rittenberry said he would. Commissioner Bergeron stated that he would like to see a provision about clean-up work (after the event) in the actual amendment since it was their first partnership together. Ms. Jones stated that she could do that. She suggested that since the amendment was originally not supposed to come back to the Board, the Board could appoint Commissioner Bergeron to represent the Board to approve the changes but that this would require a motion. Commissioner Hemmer then made a motion stating *"I make a motion to have a board representative, Jason Bergeron, to work on this matter."* Commissioner McAnally seconded the motion. There was a little more discussion. Chairman Horton then moved to the Rate Table-Introductory Discussion item on the agenda.

Director Womack stated they were looking at the rates for the new buildings. She went over their approach and thought processes for the new rates and explained that they were working for more equity and standardization in renting spaces with moving to the new buildings. She explained that they needed to be thoughtful and added that one of their strengths was affordability so they would need to be careful to keep this in mind. Flea Market Manager, Mary Ann Smith, went over the current Flea Market rates and current layouts and also added some of her thoughts about increasing rates. There were some questions and some discussion from the Board. Chairman Horton then moved to the Consideration of Updated Smoking Policy item on the agenda.

Director Womack explained that there was a LEED silver requirement that must be met for the new buildings and that the existing smoking policy needed to be updated to be in compliance with Metro's ordinances as well. She stated that she amended their current policy to include the canopies (30 feet from the building) and the arena (but not the sheds). Commissioner Hemmer stated that they needed to make sure the policy was in compliance with the state as well. Ms. Jones stated that she would review this issue and that they could put this on the April agenda.

Chairman Horton asked Tennessee State Fair Association Fair Manager, Scott Jones, if he had any comments or updates. He expressed some of his concerns. He added that the State Commission was having their first meeting coming up that week and he invited the Board. Director Womack stated that they now just needed to negotiate a contract for 2019.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Ned Horton, Chairman

Laura Womack, Executive Director