

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners

Date: September 10, 2019 8:00 a.m.

On the above referenced date the September meeting for the Board of Fair Commissioners was held in Expo 2 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 and Finance and Administrative Manager Felicia Bowman. Metro Attorney Susan Jones was also in attendance. Ron Gobbell and Michelle Scopel with Gobbell Hays Partners (GHP) were present. Ed Henley and Connell Anderson with Pillars Development were also in attendance, as well as Roxianne Bethune with Alliance Synergy.

Chairman Horton called the meeting to order and the Appeal Announcement was read. Chairman Horton then moved to the approval of the July meeting minutes. Vice-Chairman McAnally made a motion to approve and Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were passed. Since there were no public comments, Chairman Horton moved to the Financial Report.

Ms. Bowman went over the Financial Report. She stated that the fiscal year had not been closed yet but added that they should finish at about \$10,000 in the black for the year (this included the \$300,000 subsidy). Chairman Horton then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Executive Director Womack stated that the Ribbon Cutting went well and thanked various people and Metro Departments, as well as some other external groups for everything they had done, especially with such an aggressive time schedule. Chairman Horton then moved to the Fairgrounds Improvement Project Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Henley briefly went over the updates, changes and the demolition schedule for the old existing buildings. Ms. Bethune reported about the diversity business participation and finished by stating that they were on target to exceed their goal. Ms. Scopel went over the power points presentation of the final stages of the expo buildings project. She also went over some of the accommodations that they had made for the State Fair. There were several questions and some discussion about the external fencing, the voting building, the overflow parking lot, events transition, and phase II of the Fair Park Project. Chairman Horton then moved to the MLS Stadium Update.

MLS Soccer Chief Executive Officer, Ian Ayre, gave a brief report on the stadium progress. He stated that they were on target for completion in 2022 and added that they already had a staff of 60 full time employees. He reported that the final construction cost was estimated to be between 325 million to 345 million. Chairman Horton then moved to the Speedway Motorsports, Inc. Update item on the agenda.

Commissioner Bergeron reported that SMI was working on new renderings and that it was not yet clear about the financing for this project and added that this it would be a brand new track. He stated that there were several other things as well that still needed to be worked out such as neighborhood accommodations and community engagement and a community benefits plan. He stated that they looked forward to sitting down with them in October. Director Womack added that they had been very clear about their points of consideration in terms of design and operations and stated that SMI had been very responsive to these points and she felt that they were headed in a good direction. Chairman Horton then moved to the State Fair Update.

Fair Manager, Scott Jones, gave a brief update and stated that all was going well and added that they had a great Ham Breakfast. Chairman Horton asked about the future of the fair staying on the Fairgrounds property and Mr. Jones stated that they were trying their best to stay on the property and make it work. There was a brief discussion about this and Mr. Jones stated that they had asked the Fairgrounds Staff to keep those dates open for a 2020 Fair. Commissioner Bergeron stated that the Fair Board was committed to making it work forever. Director Womack

added that in the discussions with SMI, new designs with the consideration of the Fair in mind could be supported. Chairman Horton then moved to the Updated Flea Market Rules item on the agenda.

Director Womack quickly went over the rules and stated that 95% of the rules were the same. She reported that the main changes were: 1) no smoking due to the new facility and also the LEED Silver requirements. 2) rules regarding animals and pets for a couple of reasons but mostly the health codes because of the restaurant in the facility and to be in compliance with state and federal laws. She added that service animals would be allowed. 3) new rules about food prepared in home/domestic kitchens 4) rules regarding the protection of the Fairgrounds property-surfaces and buildings. What was allowable and what was not allowable. She added that they needed to step up their enforcement on some of these new and existing rules and that they had mailed these rules out to all of the vendors for them to sign off and put in their vendor file. Commissioner Hemmer then made a motion stating, *“I move to approve the use of these rules, acknowledgements, and fee schedules and hereby grant the Executive Director the authority to update, amend, and modify these rules with the exception of the fee schedules, in conjunction with and upon consultation with the Legal Department as may become necessary in the future.”* Vice-Chairman McAnally seconded the motion. All were in favor and there were no opposed and the motion was passed. Chairman Horton then moved to the Contract with Formosa Productions item on the agenda.

Director Womack reported that she had sent another letter to Formosa Productions for past due lease payments and that they had until September 12th to make current. Commissioner Bergeron asked Mr. Jim Roberts, attorney for Mr. Formosa, if there was a desire to discuss renegotiating the contract and he answered that there was that desire. Metro Attorney Susan Jones asked that Mr. Roberts get with her and she would be happy to work on this with him. Director Womack added that staff had sent invoices every month and that this was a 90 day past due notice.

Commissioner Hemmer then made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting was dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ned Horton, Chairman

Laura Womack, Executive Director