

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners
Date: December 10th, 2019 8:00 a.m.

On the above referenced date, the December 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 Alex Dickerson 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 November meeting minutes. Vice-Chairman McAnally made a motion to approve and Commissioner Hemmer 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 gave a brief financial report of the October numbers and stated that because of the new R12 system, they still did not have the month to month reports available yet from downtown and that they only had the totals. She added that as soon as those were created, she would go back to July and give the Board those reports/numbers. Chairman Horton then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Womack stated that since action had been taken on the speedway contract at the last Board Meeting, a reputable promoter had stepped up to engage conversations for a 2020 racing season. She added that, with the Board's direction, she would be glad to contact them about an entertainment contract. Director Womack reported that events were strong and that they had a strong first quarter of the new year booked. There were brief discussions about Christmas Village, the cell phone reception issue, and food trucks. Chairman Horton then moved to the Fairgrounds Improvement Project Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Henley went over both sheets of the Board packets. He added that the Election Commission should be moving out of the buildings on the property by mid-December. Mr. Gobbell stated that they were finalizing things/monies on the Expo Project and added that they would start after the first of the year on the rest of the project. He stated that MLS design changes were still being made and that the demo plans were being reviewed by the new Administration.

At this point, Director Womack added that, concerning the RFP on Pouring Rights, they were in the process of transitioning from Coca Cola to Pepsi. Chairman Horton then asked Fair Manager, Scott Jones, if he had anything to add about the State Fair. Mr. Jones stated that they were already meeting and planning for the 2020 Fair and that they had talked with the Mayor's Office and that, hopefully, all would work out to have the fair on this site.

Vice-Chairman McAnally 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