

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners

Date: August 11, 2020 8:00 a.m. (Electronic Meeting)

On the above referenced date, the August meeting for the Board of Fair Commissioners was held electronically. Those in attendance were Interim-Chair Erin McAnally, Commissioner Caleb Hemmer, Commissioner Jason Bergeron, and Commissioner Sheri Weiner. Also present were Fairgrounds Executive Director Laura Womack, Finance and Administrative Manager Satrice Allen, and Corporate Sales Manager Scott Wallace. Metro Attorney's Alex Dickerson was also in attendance. Ron Gobbell and Tim Debus with Gobbell Hays Partners (GHP) were present, as well as, Ed Henley with Pillars Development. Mary Cavarra with the Nashville Soccer Club and the Ownership Group was in attendance. Bob Sargent with Track Enterprises and Randy Dyce with DD Events were present as well. Renee Pratt with the Metro Social Services and Bill Phillips with the Mayor's Office were also at the meeting.

Chairman McAnally took attendance and then called the meeting to order. She announced that the public could call in with their comments to the live call-in line. Chairman McAnally then made a motion stating, "*The proposed agenda constitutes essential business and meeting electronically is necessary to protect the health, safety, and well-being of Tennesseans in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.*" Commissioner Hemmer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was passed. Chairman McAnally read the legal notice and then moved to the approval of the July meeting minutes. Commissioner Weiner made a motion to approve and Commissioner Hemmer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were passed. She then moved to Public Comment Time.

There were no public comments at this time, but Chairman McAnally kept the public comment time/line open. She then moved to the Financial Report.

Ms. Allen gave a brief financial report. She reminded the Board that the books from the last fiscal year had not closed yet but should be closing soon and she would present those once they were done. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Womack thanked the staff for adapting to working from home and keeping things running. She reported that soccer goals were up and there had been activity on the practice fields. She stated that the virtual Flea Market would be launching at the end of August and again thanked the staff for all of their hard work to get this going. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Election of Board Officers item on the agenda.

Director Womack explained that once a year the Board elected officers for the coming year but since they did not meet in June they needed to catch up and vote for officers. Metro Attorney Alex Dickerson stated that they would need to do a simple vote to suspend the rules to permit an August election and Commissioner Weiner made a motion stating, "*I move to suspend the rules for the entertainment of the August slate of officers.*" Chairman McAnally seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion was passed. There was a brief discussion and then Commissioner Hemmer made a motion stating, "*I make a motion for Erin McAnally to serve on the slate as Chairman and Jason Bergeron to serve on the slate for Vice-Chairman.*" Commissioner Weiner seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was passed. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Fairgrounds Improvement Project Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Henley gave his report and there were a few quick questions from the Board. He went over the warranty period for the new expo building, the Fair Park project, the grandstands project, the multi-purpose building, and demolition as well as a few other things. Chairman McAnally then moved to the MLS Stadium Update item on the agenda.

Ms. Cavarra reported that the league had announced that the teams could return to play and that in September the remaining schedule for the season should be announced. She stated that the team had been busy and that they were continuing to support the citizens of Nashville in several ways. She reported that they would be going to the Sports Authority Board later that month for their approval and added that the DBE commitments were on track. She stated that weekly updates were given to the neighborhood concerning construction. She reported that they were still looking at a target date of mid May 2022 to open and so far they were on track for that. Commissioner Hemmer asked about a formal ground breaking ceremony and she stated that because of COVID-19 and mass gatherings, they had postponed that for now but that there would be advance notice to everyone once that was scheduled. Chairman McAnally stated that she wanted to go out of order to allow Ms. Pratt to do her presentation so she then moved to the Shelter Status item on the agenda.

Ms. Pratt thanked Director Womack and the Fairgrounds staff for everything they had done for the shelter and that she appreciated their partnership. She stated that everything was going well at the Fairgrounds and the homeless guests had been very welcomed there. She reported that they had moved the women to the Municipal Auditorium and added that the Governor's Office, Council Members, the Mayor's Office, the CDC, FEMA, and some other groups had been to the Fairgrounds to see how things were set up as a model for the whole country. There were several questions from the Board. She reported that they were working on a draft now for an RFP concerning a winter shelter and she would try to find out and let the Board know when the guests would be going either back to the mission or somewhere else so that the Fairgrounds could make plans for events.

Commissioner Bergeron had a quick question about the Infrastructure Project and Mr. Gobbell gave the Board a brief update. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Bylaws item on the agenda.

Director Womack stated that since it had been a while since the bylaws had been reviewed, she thought it might be good for the Board to see if they had anything they wanted to add or change. It was decided that each Commissioner would get with Director Womack individually about any changes they might want to make and Mr. Dickerson could then bring a redline with edits back to the Board at the next meeting for them to discuss and vote on. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Event Update item on the agenda.

Director Womack stated that they had had another race and that there were no changes made to COVID protocol. Mr. Dyce reported that all went well and car participant attendance and crowd attendance were both good. There were a couple of questions and comments from the Board. Mr. Wallace reported that most of the promoters had moved their events until the end of the year or to next year. He went over a few possible outdoor events that they were working on. He stated that they needed an official answer as soon as possible about when they might be re-opening so they could begin booking events and added that they were getting many requests for the RV park as well for 2021 so they needed to know if they could start booking RV's also. Director Womack added that COVID protocol would be part of the contract process for the promoters once they started booking events.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Erin McAnally, Interim Chairman

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Laura Womack, Executive Director