

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners

Date: November 10, 2020 8:00 a.m. (Electronic Meeting)

On the above referenced date, the November meeting for the Board of Fair Commissioners was held electronically. Those in attendance were Chairman Erin McAnally, Vice-Chairman Jason Bergeron, Commissioner Caleb Hemmer 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 with Gobbell Hays Partners (GHP) was 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. Tom Sharp with the Metro Health Department and Bill Phillips with the Mayor's Office were also at the meeting.

Chairman McAnally took attendance and then announced that the public could call in with their comments to the live call-in line and announced the live call-in line phone number. 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.*" Vice-Chairman Bergeron seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was passed. Chairman McAnally called the meeting to order and then read the legal notice. She then moved to the approval of the October meeting minutes. Vice-Chairman Bergeron made a motion to approve and Commissioner Hemmer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were passed. Chairman McAnally then opened the floor to public comment time. There were no callers so Chairman McAnally closed the public comment time. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Financial Report.

Ms. Allen gave a brief financial report. She added that the books had not closed yet on the last fiscal year and that she would give the Board an update once that had been done. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Womack reported that she had reached out to the State Commission for an update on whether or not the State Fair would be relocating so that staff could be working on an RFP, if needed, and that she would let the Board know. Commissioner Hemmer suggested getting timelines from other fair promoters for the Board so that they would not be just waiting on the State Commission to make a decision since they had gone back and forth so much in the past. He also asked for guidance from legal about what a "divisional fair" should be. Director Womack agreed and added that they needed to move quickly and asked the Board to get with her about any ideas they might have for a fair. Vice-Chairman Bergeron invited Scott Jones or John Rose to come to the next Board Meeting if a decision had not been made by then. Director Womack finished by stating that she felt it would be good to have someone come from the State Commission and again that she had already reached out to State Commission and would follow up to the Board once she had heard from them. Director Womack then reported that Finance and Administrative Manager, Satrice Allen, had been working on identifying all reimbursable expenses for the shelter-what was eligible and assigning it to the correct fund. She stated that Ms. Allen was also working on an audit of the sales tax and cleaning up to make sure the software was charging correctly and appropriately which would make things more efficient and she thanked Ms. Allen for all of her hard work on these issues. Chairman McAnally then went out of order and moved to Old Business to the 2020 Racing Season Update and 2021 Racing Season items on the agenda. Director Womack stated that the All-American 400 was a wonderful event and week and she then gave the floor to Bob Sargent and Randy Dyce.

Mr. Sargent stated that they had a good season and 400 Race despite the COVID challenges and thanked everyone for their patience. Mr. Dyce stated that they had a great night at the Hall of Fame Reception and Pre-Race Welcome Party. He also reported that the Monster Truckz event was a success and that even though attendance was a little low this year probably due to COVID, overall, they had had a great year. Mr. Sargent added that they were already working on the schedule for next year and Mr. Dyce stated that he would get that to Director Womack to review. Director Womack stated that they were working on the extension of the 2020 contract for the 2021 season (for one year) with the intent of an RFP for a speedway promoter moving forward. She added that the draft extension would be at the next meeting and that there were some changes. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Fairgrounds Improvement Project Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Henley gave a brief report on each of the projects. Mr. Gobbell added that the infrastructure project design was 95% complete and that they hoped to start construction in late January. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Stadium Update item on the agenda.

Ms Cavarra gave an update on the construction project and the soccer club. She stated that they were continuing the weekly meetings with the neighborhood and that the next neighborhood quarterly meeting would be December 9th. Commissioner Hemmer asked if Ms. Cavarra could send the Board the video clip that was shown at the Sports Authority meeting which included stadium renderings and she stated that she would. She added that the Sports Authority did approve the issuing of revenue bonds again at their October meeting and then quickly went through the process that had/would occur since that happend. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Event Update item on the agenda.

Director Womack addressed the rodeo event where they had some issues with the crowds not social distancing and wearing masks and what they had learned from that event. Chairman McAnally stated that she was uncomfortable having events of this size and asked for other input from the Board. There was a discussion about promoters following protocols. Several Board Members expressed that they would like to be notified and more involved if any other events of this type were scheduled and Chairman McAnally stated that she would like for there to be more oversight and contact with the Health Department. Director Womack stated that they must, of course, have strict protocols in place and that staff knows what to do for proper protocols but added that the attendees must also follow the rules to be safe so she had serious reservations with any outdoor events other than car only events. It was decided that, for now, everyone should be aware of these types of events coming up in the future and to stay in touch about such events. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Bylaws item on the agenda.

Director Womack went over the changes that had been made to the Bylaws draft. Commissioner Hemmer made a motion stating, *"I make a motion to adopt the Bylaws."* Vice-Chairman Bergeron seconded the motion. At this point, Commissioner Weiner lost contact with the meeting and was having trouble reconnecting and Metro attorney, Alex Dickerson, stated that the Board only needed 3 votes to pass the motion. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Chairman McAnally announced that there was no other New Business so Vice-Chairman Bergeron made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hemmer seconded the motion, all were in favor and the meeting was dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chairman, Erin McAnally

Executive Director, Laura Womack