

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners

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

On the above referenced date, the December 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. 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.

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 reminded everyone that they must identify themselves when speaking and then called the meeting to order. She then read the legal notice. Chairman McAnally moved to the approval of the November meeting minutes. Commissioner Weiner 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 but there was a public comment that had been emailed ahead of time from a local resident, Mr. Martin, that was included in the Board packets addressing the impact of events in the neighborhood. Director Womack stated that she had already had a good conversation with Mr. Martin and added that this might be a good start in forming the new Neighborhood Impact Advisory Committee (NIAC) that had previously dis-banned and that they would be working to reform this group soon, along with Councilman Sledge. Chairman McAnally then closed the public comment time and moved to the Financial Report.

Ms. Allen gave a brief financial report. There were a few questions from the Board concerning budget cutbacks due to COVID-19, LOCAP, insurance costs without events, and reimbursement for the homeless shelter. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Womack reported on the homeless shelter expenses/invoices and Metro's plan for reimbursement. She stated that the cold weather shelter for the homeless had already started, which was separate from the COVID shelter, and that all was going well. She added that Social Services was operating this shelter as well. Chairman McAnally then moved to Old Business and the Fairgrounds Improvement Project Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Henley was not present so Mr. Gobbell gave a brief report on each of the projects. He added that the contractor had been selected for the Infrastructure (Sports Authority) Project and that they were in the permitting stages now. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Stadium Update item on the agenda.

Ms Cavarra gave a quick update on the construction project and the soccer club. She presented some pictures of the stadium construction progress and added that the steelwork should begin sometime late January. She reported that they would be having their Quarterly Neighborhood Meeting the next day. Commissioner Hemmer asked if Ms. Cavarra would send them the link to the internal stadium renderings that was presented to the Sports Authority and she stated that she would. Chairman McAnally then moved to the 2021 Speedway Contract item on the agenda.

Director Womack stated that the 2021 contract was substantially similar to the previous contract with only minor substantive changes and date changes. Chairman McAnally asked for Director Womack to walk them through the changes. There were also some comments from Vice-Chairman Bergeron. Commissioner Weiner stated that she had some concerns about approving an incomplete draft and asked if they could either delay the approval until it was as complete as possible or if they approved it now, could the Board be sent a final copy? Director Womack answered, "Yes" and added that she would be happy to send the Board the final draft. Chairman McAnally then made a motion, stating, "*I move to approve the 2021 Speedway Contract with flexibility to add non-substantive changes and new race dates under Director Womack's guidance.*" Commissioner Hemmer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was passed. Chairman McAnally then moved to the Event Update item on the agenda.

Director Womack started (addressing Mr. Martin’s public comment concerns) by stating that the promoters for **Jingle Beat** had been extremely cooperative and responsive in trying to minimize the impact of the event and noise going on. She then gave the floor to Corporate Sales Manager, Scott Wallace, who went over some COVID safe outdoor events that they had been pursuing such as drive-in movies, a truck show, a log home event, an RV show, and a March of Dimes event. Several Board Members agreed that more of these types of events would be good to schedule.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Chairman, Erin McAnally

Executive Director, Laura Womack