

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners

Date: March 8, 2022 8:00 a.m.

On the above referenced date, the March meeting for the Board of Fair Commissioners was held in Expo 2 at the Fairgrounds. Those in attendance were Chair Sheri Weiner, Vice-Chair Jason Bergeron, and Commissioner Jasper Hendricks. Commissioner Mario Avila was not present. Also, present were Fairgrounds Executive Director Laura Womack and Finance and Administrative Manager Satrice Allen. Metro Attorney Alex Dickerson was in attendance. Ed Henley with Pillars Development was present, as well as Ron Gobbell with Gobbell Hays Partners (GHP). Mary Cavarra with Nashville Soccer Club (and the Ownership Group) was also in attendance.

Chair Weiner read the legal notice and called the meeting to order. She then moved to the approval of the February meeting minutes. Vice-Chair Bergeron made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Hendricks seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were passed. She then moved to Public Comment Time.

There were no public comments. Chair Weiner then moved to the Financial Report.

Ms. Allen gave a brief financial report. Chair Weiner then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Womack gave an update about the American Rescue Plan for the Flea Market for current and former vendors. She stated that they had sent out about 500 letters to introduce that program to the vendors to stimulate business/rentals and added that they were also focusing on outreach and diversity. She stated that they would be sending out letters to different agencies concerning this outreach soon. Chair Weiner asked if Director Womack would share a list of these agencies to the Board that she would be sending letters to, and Director Womack stated that she would. She reported that they were working on procurement for the new fair on 1) the contract with NAME (North American Midway Entertainment) 2) website and e-ticketing 3) livestock panels for sheds. Chair Weiner then moved to the Events Update item on the agenda.

Director Womack stated that their event calendar was pretty much the same at the last Board Meeting. She introduced the new Event Services Manager, Carla Miller, and added that they were excited for her to be here and that they had a long list of priorities for her. She stated that due to the schedule they had 19 straight days without a break in February and with a light staff due to three vacancies, it took everyone, and she thanked the staff. Chair Weiner then moved to the Fairgrounds Improvement Project, Stadium, Mixed Use, and Infrastructure Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Henley gave a summary of each project. Mr. Gobbell stated that the multi-purpose building was complete and that they were just waiting for the water to be connected to the Infrastructure Project. He reported that the bridge was almost done and that they were also currently working with Bell Construction to review the changes from the original plan for Fair Park Phase 2. Chair Weiner asked if they would share those changes to the Board and Mr. Gobbell stated that they would be happy to do that soon and he did quickly go over just a few of the changes that were being reviewed/discussed. He added that there would be constant modifications throughout the summer and that they would continue to communicate those. Vice-Chair Bergeron asked if they had had conversations about the traffic/parking and moving around the construction during soccer games and racing. Mr. Gobbell stated that they had been working on that with soccer and were starting those conversations with the speedway and that they were trying to make things as smooth as possible with construction going on.

Ms. Cavarra gave an update on the stadium and reported that the stadium was on track on both schedule and cost. She reported again that there had been no injuries since the last meeting and that the DBE/MBE reports would be complete next week and that they were preparing for the opening match on May 1st. She stated that they were refining their parking plan in working with the construction and would be sharing information and maps soon to both this Board and the Sports Authority Board and also to the neighbors. She reported that the mixed-use was going as planned and that Dirk Melton would give them an update soon at a future meeting. Chair Weiner then moved to the Bristol Motor Speedway Update item on the agenda.

Director Womack stated that the report was the same as last month-they were still working on the leases and financial analysis. Chair Weiner then moved to the Community Impact/Speedway Policy Discussion and Consideration item on the agenda.

Vice-Chair Bergeron stated that this would be his last meeting and that he would not be able to finish out the month. He thanked Director Womack, Staff, Legal, and The Board. He then read a letter and had some comments and asked one last time that the Board continue to be diligent about the number of track rentals being limited and other concerns as well that he had mentioned at previous meetings and about the Bristol deal. He also mentioned that a personal threat had been made. Commissioner Hendricks and Chair Weiner both thanked Vice-Chair Bergeron for his dedication and service and both stated that he would be greatly missed. Commissioner Hendricks stated that he had also seen these social media messages and had received a threatening phone call and he had several concerns and added that he would stand with Vice-Chair Bergeron on this matter. Chair Weiner stated that any threats made to the Fair Board would backfire. At this time, Metro Attorney Alex Dickerson stated that any threat to a board member should be sent to the legal department, and they could provide them with guidance. There was a brief discussion about this and also to Commissioner Hendricks' question about how to respond whenever there was a response required by a Board Member to a citizen/constituent. Chair Weiner stated that the response that Commissioner Hendricks was referring to was now in Metro Legal's hands and that they would handle it. She then moved on to New Business and the Discussion and Consideration of Fair Board Meeting Schedule item on the agenda.

Chair Weiner asked The Board their thoughts about changing the meeting date/time and it was decided that they would table this item until they had a full board. Commissioner Hendricks made a motion stating, *"I move to table this discussion until we are able to have a full body"*. Vice-Chair Bergeron seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion was passed.

Vice-Chair Bergeron then made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hendricks seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chair, Sheri Weiner

Executive Director, Laura Womack