

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners

Date: May 10, 2022 8:00 a.m.

On the above referenced date, the May meeting for the Board of Fair Commissioners was held in Expo 2 at the Fairgrounds. Those in attendance were Chair Sheri Weiner, Vice-Chair Jasper Hendricks, Commissioner Mario Avila and Commissioner Todd Hartley. Also, present were Fairgrounds Executive Director Laura Womack, Finance and Administrative Manager Satrice Allen, and Event Services Manager for the Fair Scott Jones. Metro Attorney Lora Fox was in attendance. Ed Henley with Pillars Development was present, as well as Ron Gobbell with GHP.

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

A local disabled citizen and patron of the Fairgrounds made some comments and suggestions about some accessibility needs on the property that would help and she went over a few items where she had issues or concerns. Chair Weiner thanked her for her comments and then moved to the Financial Report.

Ms. Allen gave the financial report. There were no questions, so Chair Weiner moved to the Events Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Jones gave a quick update on the fair planning. Vice-Chair Hendricks asked if they would have a drawing of the layout and parking and Mr. Jones went over where some things would be and stated that they would have some drawings and aerials soon. Chair Weiner then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Womack introduced Todd Hartley as the new Board Commissioner. Commissioner Hartley said a few words. Chair Weiner then moved to Old Business and the Fairgrounds Improvement Project, Stadium, Mixed Use, and Infrastructure Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Henley went over each Fairgrounds project. There was some discussion and questions with Mr. Gobbell about the ADA compliances and accessibility on the property. Mr. Gobbell stated that all that was completed was ADA compliant and that there would be other accommodations added later as construction progressed but that it would take some time before they would be in place. Vice-Chair Hendricks asked what could be done in the meantime and Chair Weiner asked Mr. Gobbell if they could do a tour of the property with Ms. Andal and several parties to go over some of these issues. Commissioner Avila suggested that each board member try to go in person to a game/event and see for themselves to see what some of the challenges might be. Mr. Gobbell stated that he would work on a tour and that they could do some tweaks in the interim period. Mr. Gobbell gave a brief update on the Mixed Use Project. Chair Weiner then moved to Bristol Motor Speedway Update item on the agenda.

Chair Weiner reported that Bristol was still working with (Metro) downtown and the consultant on the draft lease and financial analysis and that they would, hopefully, hear something soon. She then moved to the Community Impact/Speedway Policy Discussion and Consideration item on the agenda.

Director Womack stated that Jason Bergeron was unable to attend the meeting on the behalf of the Neighborhood Impact Advisory Committee (NIAC). She then moved to the Discussion and Consideration of Fair Board Meeting Schedule item on the agenda.

Chair Weiner said she would entertain a motion and Commissioner Avila stated, *"I would like to make a motion to change our meetings to Tuesday-the second Tuesday of the month-instead of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m."*. Commissioner Hartley seconded the motion. Chair Weiner explained that since people were often unable to attend an 8:00 a.m. meeting, it made sense to change the meetings to 4:00 p.m. so more could attend. She then asked for an amendment stating that *"if The Board finds any issues from the Metro side of things such as recording the meeting or any other conflicts that they are unaware of, The Board would be able to come back and revisit the time."* Commissioner Avila agreed to accept the amendment and Commissioner Hartley seconded the amendment. All were in favor and the amendment was passed. Chair Weiner then asked for a vote on the motion on the floor. All were in favor and the motion was passed. Chair Weiner stated that this would be effective for the next meeting.

Director Womack then recognized Ms. Mary Ann Smith for her 21 years of service to the Fairgrounds/Metro and then read a proclamation to honor and celebrate her retirement and presented her with a certificate from the Board of Fair Commissioners. Chair Weiner then moved to New Business and the Consideration of a Recommendation to Extend the Contract with GHP to Serve as Program Manager for Fairgrounds Capital Projects item on the agenda.

Director Womack explained that this was an agenda item to extend the contract with GHP on various projects of the campus. She stated that it was imperative, in her opinion, to keep the continuity and experience for these projects and it would be the best course of action to extend the contract. She added that this extension would include Mr. Ed Henley's company and Ms. Roxianne Bethune's services as well. She then stated that she would recommend an endorsement from the Board to work with procurement to determine the best mechanism to extend the contract and also for the next 2 capital projects and how to do that. Chair Weiner asked for a motion *"to offer Director Womack an endorsement for the ability to go to procurement to identify the best way to get this done."* Commissioner Hartley stated, *"So moved"* and Vice-Chair Hendricks seconded the motion so they could discuss. Commissioner Hartley asked about the incremental budget impact/ramifications if they stayed with GHP. Director Womack stated that she felt there would be much more impact if they decided to switch to another company because of so many parties being involved in the project. Chair Weiner then asked for a vote. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

---

Chair, Sheri Weiner

---

Executive Director, Laura Womack