

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners

Date: September 13, 2022 4:00 p.m.

On the above referenced date, the September meeting for the Board of Fair Commissioners was held at Fifty Forward/Knowles Center. Those in attendance were Chair Sheri Weiner, Commissioner Mario Avila, Commissioner Todd Hartley, and Commissioner Anthony Owens. Also, present were Finance and Administrative Manager Satrice Allen and Event Services Manager for the Fair Scott Jones. Executive Director Laura Womack was not in attendance. Metro Attorney Ann Mikkelsen was present. Ed Henley with Pillars Development was in attendance, as well as Ron Gobbell and Alison Poland with GHP. Dirk Melton with Market Street Enterprises was present and Jason Bergeron with the Neighborhood Impact Advisory Committee (NIAC) was also in attendance.

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

There were several comments concerning the cancellation of the Exotic Pet Expo (and some other events) and one comment concerning the neighborhood and noise from the racetrack.

Ms. Allen gave a brief financial report. Commissioner Hartley asked what the largest event(s) for this reporting period was/would be and Ms. Allen stated that she would send that to him. Chair Weiner then moved to the Events Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Jones reported that the Fair was going well and overall, everyone seemed pleased, and the Agriculture Exhibitors were especially happy to be inside. He stated that there had been no major events so far. There were no questions and Chair Weiner stated that there would be no Executive Director's Report. She then moved to the Fairgrounds Improvement Project, Mixed Use, and Infrastructure Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Henley gave a financial report on each Fairgrounds Project. Commissioner Hartley stated that he would love to see a timeline on the movement for Fair Park Phase 2 before the next meeting. Mr. Gobbell stated that they were currently in the evaluation process concerning the rising costs of construction and that they were anxious to get things started as well. Commissioner Hartley then asked for a timeline for when that evaluation process might be complete. Chair Weiner stated that she would get with Mr. Eagles about what that evaluation process looked like and a time frame. Mr. Gobbell then gave a brief report about each project. Commissioner Avila asked for an update at the next meeting about the ADA requests that had been made at a previous meeting. Mr. Gobbell stated that he would look into some of these requests that had not been done. Mr. Melton then gave a quick update on the Mixed Use Project. There were no questions.

Chair Weiner stated that there was no Bristol update to report. She then moved to the Community Impact/Speedway Policy Discussion and Consideration item on the agenda.

Mr. Bergeron asked the Board to please be mindful of cost considerations (whatever was decided) and also asked for honest conversations and transparency concerning the Bristol deal and to please engage with the public. He then referred to a study done in 2016 concerning racing numbers and limits. Chair Weiner then moved to New Business and the Request for Speedway Assessment from Planning item on the agenda.

Chair Weiner stated that she had added this to the agenda herself for transparency and for the respect of the neighbors, taxpayers, and the charter. She stated that there was an obligation to all three. She stated that they could not make a decision without all of the facts on the table and she then asked the Board to join her in writing a letter to

The Administration asking the following: 1) she stated that they had a report from 2016 on the condition of the speedway that lacked inflation numbers and continued use of the property since 2016 - and there is known deterioration - so they must know what to do if the Bristol deal does not go through and what the options are and what the impact will have on the neighbors and taxpayers one way or the other. The Board is asking for a new report based on the 2016 report that takes into consideration inflation and use since 2016. She then asked for a motion so they could discuss. Commissioner Hartley took the motion "as stated" and Commissioner Avila seconded the motion. Commissioner Hartley stated that he felt it made sense to consider options by gathering additional data. Chair Weiner stated that she wasn't sure if this would go to Planning or Finance but that they could put that in the nature of the request. Commissioner Avila agreed and stated that in 2016 the world and racing were in a different place and things had really changed in the last 3 years and an open discussion would be good because of the obligations of the charter. Commissioner Owens asked about the 2016 report numbers and Chair Weiner stated that this report would be sent to the board. Commissioner Hartley stated that it would be good to hear an analysis from Metro Legal of the charter requirements about racing at the facility with details and parameters.

Chair Weiner then asked for a call for the question. Commissioner Hartley asked if there should be a specific time frame and Chair Weiner stated there WOULD be a time frame. Commissioner Hartley said he would call for the previous question on the motion and Chair Weiner asked for a second. Commissioner Avila seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion was passed (to send the letter).

Chair Weiner then stated that the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Chair, Sheri Weiner

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Executive Director, Laura Womack