

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners

Date: October 11, 2022 4:00 p.m.

On the above referenced date, the October meeting for the Board of Fair Commissioners was held at The Fairgrounds in Expo 2. Those in attendance were Chair Sheri Weiner, Vice-Chair Jasper Hendricks, Commissioner Mario Avila and Commissioner Anthony Owens. Commissioner Todd Hartley was not present. Also, in attendance were Executive Director Laura Womack and Finance and Administrative Manager Satrice Allen. Metro Attorney Alex Dickerson was present. Dirk Melton with Market Street Enterprises and Jason Bergeron with the Neighborhood Impact Advisory Committee (NIAC) were also both in attendance. Ben Eagles with the Mayor's Office was also present.

Chair Weiner read the legal notice and called the meeting to order. She then moved to the approval of the September 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.

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

Ms. Allen gave a brief financial report. Vice-Chair Hendricks asked if the revenue expectations were met for the fair and Ms. Allen stated that they were still getting information but that they should have the final numbers by the end of the month. Chair Weiner then moved to the Events Update item on the agenda.

Director Womack stated that they would be doing a reset concerning events with clear and consistent procedures and processes and added that the Pet Expo would be scheduling for 2023. She stated that they would be looking at past practices and meeting with clients and that she would be presenting that to the Board later. She announced that they had hired 2 new employees that would be working with events and introduced Trina Coble and Marissa Ellington-Catano. She reported they had made an offer on another coordinator position for events services and that they would be starting on Monday and that they still had 1.5 vacancies left in events services. She stated that they were working on final Fair numbers. She reported that they had a few medical calls during the Fair and added that there were no safety issues with rides. She thanked Chief Swan for his support and for his staff's support before and during the Fair. She also thanked the agriculture community/farmers, etc. She then thanked the staffed for all their hard work and long hours for the Fair. Chair Weiner then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Womack stated that her only report was the announcement of the two new employees and so she did not have anything else to add. Chair Weiner then moved to Old Business and the Fairgrounds Improvement Project, Mixed Use, and Infrastructure Update item on the agenda.

Director Womack stated that Mr. Henley and Mr. Gobbell could not attend so she gave a brief report about the projects at the Fairgrounds and the financials. She went over the ADA draft sheet/map that was included in the Fair Board packets and stated that this was not all inclusive of the updates that would be made.

Mr. Melton give a quick update on the Mixed Use/Block C Project. He stated that all was going well, and Fair Plaza should be completed in two years. He reported that the residents should be moving in in about two years from now and added that the garage progress was going very well also. Director Womack added at this point that Wedgewood Ave. would be opening the next day and that Benton Ave. would open after November 1st. Chair Weiner then moved to the Bristol Motor Speedway Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Eagles stated that his office was working on an analysis in response to Chair Weiner's request last month to procure a study to make things safer and ADA compliant at the existing speedway facility. He also reported that they were making good progress with Bristol and that they would hopefully have some documents to view and consider within a month. Chair Weiner then moved to the Community Impact/Speedway Policy Discussion and Consideration item on the agenda.

Mr. Bergeron stated that he was glad to see that the extension to the speedway lease with Track Enterprises would maintain a lot of the same levels as the previous contracts. He also stated his concerns about the Capital Improvement Budget and the 25 million place holder for the true renovation of the track. Chair Weiner then moved to New Business and the Consideration of an Amendment to the Contract with Track Enterprises for the 2023 Race Season item on the agenda.

Director Womack paraphrased the amendment and stated that this was primarily to edit dates and included up to 10 motorsports events which was consistent with past contracts. Chair Weiner stated that she would like to amend the amendment to reference the mufflers specifically and add the language *"to delegate the authority to the Executive Director and Chair in reference to adding language to allow us to tweak this to authorize some sort of better specification and reference to the rules as they rely on enforcement of those muffler regulations"*. She then asked for a motion to amend the rules as shared. Vice-Chair Hendricks stated a motion, *"I move to amend this amendment to include the delegation of authority to Director Womack and the Chair to make the necessary edits to the agreement in order to enforce the regulations."* Mr. Dickerson asked if he wanted to approve the amendment with the addition and Vice-Chair Hendricks answered, "Yes." Commissioner Avila seconded the motion. Commissioner Owens asked about the current ruling on mufflers and Chair Weiner stated that they would get with Bob Sargent on the rules as they stand and make sure they are to the level so that they don't have issues of elevation with the sound level that is counter-productive with what is presented in the rules right now. She added that the enforcement piece was missing, and this amendment to the amendment would reflect that. Director Womack then read a quick statement from Commissioner Hartley concerning this issue since he could not be present. Chair Weiner then asked for a vote. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

Vice-Chair Henricks asked for an update on the Rent Relief Project. Chair Weiner stated that staff would give a report at the next meeting.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

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Chair, Sheri Weiner

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Executive Director, Laura Womack