

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners

Date: January 10, 2023 4:00 p.m.

On the above referenced date, the January meeting for the Board of Fair Commissioners was held at the Fairgrounds in Expo 3. Those in attendance were Chair Sheri Weiner, Vice-Chair Jasper Hendricks, Commissioner Mario Avila, Commissioner Todd Hartley, and Commissioner Anthony Owens. Also, in attendance were Executive Director Laura Womack and Finance and Administrative Manager Satrice Allen. Metro Attorney Ann Mikkelsen was present. Dirk Melton with MarketStreet Enterprises was present, as well as Matthew Kuhn with Bristol Motor Speedway. And Jason Bergeron with the Neighborhood Impact Advisory Committee (NIAC) was also in attendance.

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

There were several comments in support of the Bristol Proposal and one citizen representing SNAP (South Neighborhood Action People) opposing the Bristol Proposal. Chair Weiner then moved to the Financial Report.

Ms. Allen gave a brief financial report. Commissioner Hartley asked if the Fairgrounds was on track or off track on this year's revenue projections and Ms. Allen answered that they were on track. He then asked how amounts for the subsidy were generated when creating the budget and Director Womack stated that they used historical data and projections. She added that this past year was different since they had the first fair and there was a subsidy upfront. Commissioner Owens asked, when receiving a subsidy, what if they did not use it all and Ms. Allen briefly explained how a subsidy worked with the Fairgrounds being an enterprise fund. Chair Weiner added that if all the money was not spent, they did not get to keep it. Director Womack quickly went over the Aging Report. Chair Weiner then moved to the Events Update item on the agenda.

Director Womack went over January and February's events and added that they were working on refining event management processes and went over some of those changes. Commissioner Hartley stated that he would be happy to collaborate with this and would also love to see road closures on the calendar and available for the community and public. Chair Weiner then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Womack announced that David Lewis would be retiring and thanked him for his 25 years of service. She announced that a reception for Mr. Lewis would take place that Friday and asked everyone to attend and to pass it along. Chair Weiner then moved to Old Business and the Fairgrounds Improvement Project, Mixed Use, and Infrastructure Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Melton gave a quick update about the Mixed-Use Project/Block C and reported that all was on track. He stated that the ordinance for a Participation Agreement for the design and construction of Fair Plaza and right of way between Block C and the Speedway had been approved by Metro Council. He added that the project would be kicking off soon. Director Womack reported

that there was no update on the Improvement Project/Infrastructure Project and that things were moving forward. She added that there was no Project Manager update and that this had been deferred in (Metro) Council so they were just waiting. Commissioner Hartley stated that he supported Councilman Sledge's request to hold the contract until there was an update on Fair Park Phase 2 and where it was going. Director Womack reported that construction should start around March or April, and they should have a timeline later that week. Chair Weiner then moved to the Bristol Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Kuhn reported that they attended the last NIAC meeting and that they looked forward to meeting with other groups. He stated that The Board should have received the responses to their written questions and Chair Weiner stated that they would go over those at the Work Session immediately following. Chair Weiner then moved to the Community Impact/Speedway Policy Discussion and Consideration item on the agenda.

Mr. Bergeron stated his concerns again about the definition of a “race car” and added that some of the community felt they still had not been “worked with” concerning the proposal. He reported that the NIAC meeting dialogue with Matthew Kuhn and Ben Eagles had been good. He went over some other concerns about track rentals/traffic/soccer games/the debt/larger racing events, etc. and finished by stating that he hoped that Kimley Horne would not just copy the soccer plan on parking/traffic since they were still having problems and the plan needed to be unique to the speedway.

There was no new business, so Chair Weiner asked for a motion to adjourn. Vice-Chair Henricks then made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hartley 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