

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners

Date: September 12, 2023 4:00 p.m.

On the above referenced date, the September meeting for the Board of Fair Commissioners was held at the Geodis Park Multipurpose Room. Those in attendance were Interim Chair Jasper Hendricks, Commissioner Todd Hartley, and Commissioner Anthony Owens. Commissioner Diego Eguiarte was not present. Also, in attendance from the Fairgrounds were Executive Director Laura Womack and Finance and Administrative Manager Satrice Allen. Metro Attorney Terri Costonis was present. Ed Henley with Pillars Development was in attendance along with Ron Gobbell from GHP. Dirk Melton with Market Street Enterprises and Bob Sargent with Track Enterprises were also present. Matt Kuhn with Bristol Motor Sports was also in attendance.

Chair Hendricks read the legal notice and called the meeting to order. He then moved to the August meeting minutes and called for a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Hartley stated, "So moved". Commissioner Owens seconded the motion. There was no opposition. Chair Hendricks then moved to Public Comment Time. There were no public comments. Chair Hendricks then moved to the Monthly Financial Report.

Ms. Allen gave a brief financial report. Commissioner Hartley asked some questions about the fair. Director Womack stated that she felt like things were going well so far overall. He also asked Ms. Allen if they were still on track overall on the budget and she answered, "Yes." Chair Hendricks then moved to the Events Update item on the agenda.

Director Womack stated that they had a full schedule and were almost completely booked for 2024 and about 75% booked for 2025. She added that they had some new events coming in also. She reported that the fair was going well so far and then went over some of the main attractions. She then read an update from the Nashville Soccer Club since Ms. Paola could not be present. Chair Hendricks thanked the soccer club for sponsoring the free tickets for the MNPS students for the fair and for also taking steps to help alleviate some of the transportation problems with express bus services. Commissioner Owens asked about the parking amount from the Guns N Roses concert and Director Womack stated that they should get about \$3,800. Chair Hendricks then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Womack thanked her Fairgrounds staff for all their hard work getting ready for the Fair. Commissioner Hartley asked where they were on the strategy of booking higher ROI (return on investments) events and Director Womack stated they were working on that. She added that the legacy events took up a lot of the calendar but that they were trying to fill in the gaps with those types of events. She reported that they were also working on a fee study to help with that strategy. Chair Hendricks then moved to the Update on Capital Projects Including Infrastructure, Fair Park, and Mixed-Use Development item on the agenda.

Mr. Henley gave a brief financial report on each Fairgrounds project. Director Womack added that one of their priorities was the new Wingrove entrance. Mr. Gobbell stated that they would start construction on the Speedway Alley area/project after the last race of the year and gave some updates on the other projects as well. Mr. Melton also gave a brief update on the Mixed-Use Project. Commissioner Hartley asked when they would start construction on the lot that the fair was currently located in. Mr. Melton stated they were currently trying to figure out what would be next and that they would give plenty of notice once those decisions were made. He added that they had started in 2018 and that this would ultimately be about a 10-year project. There was a brief discussion about this and how the future of the speedway would play a part in all of that. Director Womack added that she hoped they could talk about the speedway at this meeting and how all of that would figure in. There was no old business, so Chair Hendricks then moved to New Business and the Consideration of Amendment 2 - Track Enterprises Contract item on the agenda.

Mr. Sargent first addressed the issue concerning the cars that had been allowed to race without mufflers which was a violation of the contract. He explained that the non-local racing series had been well notified and prewarned about the muffler rule. He stated that Track Enterprises took full responsibility. He added that if he had canceled, he was afraid of the legal consequences (and other consequences as well) and therefore, did not know what to do since this had not come up before. There was a discussion about getting through the next two races, fines for damages for

offenses, etc. and it had been suggested that an amendment be drawn up to address this. There were several questions and comments. Commissioner Hartley then made a motion stating, *"I make a motion to approve the amendment."* Commissioner Owens seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was passed. Chair Hendricks then moved to the Consideration of an Easement and Encroachment with MarketStreet for the Placement of Utility Cabinets and Cabling item on the agenda.

Director Womack explained that they did not have legislation or easement documentation drafted for this yet and they were asking for consideration and approval from the Board so that they could proceed and take this matter to Metro Council. She added that she had no concerns about this. Ms. Costonis then gave a brief legal explanation of the exhibit (and request) that was in their packets. Chair Hendricks then asked for a motion to direct staff to work with Metro Legal on legislation to approve the easement work. Commissioner Hartley stated, *"So moved,"* and Commissioner Owens seconded the motion. Director Womack asked that they add to the motion that the Chair be allowed, once approved, to sign and execute to keep things moving. Commissioner Hartley stated that he agreed with the amendment and Commissioner Owens seconded the motion. All were in favor and the amendment was passed. Chair Hendricks then asked for a vote on the motion. All were in favor and the motion was passed. Chair Hendricks then moved to the Nominations and Elections of Officers – Chair and Vice-Chair item on the agenda.

Commissioner Hartley stated, *"I nominate Jasper Hendricks for Chair."* Chair Hendricks stated he was glad to accept. All were in favor and the motion was passed. Commissioner Owens then stated, *"I nominate Todd Hartley as Vice-Chair."* Chair Hendricks seconded the motion. Commissioner Hartley accepted. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

Director Womack asked the Board for their thoughts concerning the next racing season since this usually took place about this time of year. She stated that she needed some input whether the Board wanted to do an RFP or renew the existing contract. She added that she did not need an answer that day but just that she needed to have some direction. There was a brief discussion and some questions. They asked Mr. Kuhn if Bristol might be open to working with Track Enterprises, if needed, and also asked about how long construction might take. Mr. Kuhn stated that he thought the Bristol team would be open to working with Track Enterprises and that construction would take about 18-24 months. Chair Hendricks stated that they would try to have more detail and information before the next meeting so they could discuss this. Commissioner Hartley asked for a side-by-side comparison of the current deal terms and the revised deal terms before the next meeting.

Commissioner Hartley then made a motion to adjourn, and Commissioner Owens seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Interim Chair, Jasper Hendricks

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Executive Director, Laura Womack