

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners

Date: March 14, 2024 4:00 p.m.

On the above referenced date, the March meeting for the Board of Fair Commissioners was held at the Fairgrounds in Expo 1. Those in attendance were Chair Jasper Hendricks, Vice-Chair Todd Hartley, Commissioner Anthony Owens, and Commissioner Diego Eguiarte. Also, in attendance from the Fairgrounds was Executive Director Laura Womack. Metro Attorney Erica Haber was also present. David Hickinbotham from GHP was in attendance. Nathan Couch with Collier Engineering Co. was present. Atilio Murga with Metro Arts was in attendance. Lindsey Paola and Mike Leuzzi with the Nashville Soccer Club were also present. And Bob Sargent with Track Enterprises was also in attendance.

Chair Hendricks called the meeting to order and read the legal notice. He then moved to the approval of the February meeting minutes. Vice-Chair Hartley made a motion to approve, and Commissioner Owens seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were passed. There were several public comments. Chair Hendricks then moved to the Financial Update.

Director Womack gave an update since Finance and Administrative Manager Satrice Allen was not able to attend the meeting. There were a couple of questions and comments. Chair Hendricks then moved to the Events Update to include an informational presentation from Nashville SC on traffic management plan for 2024 season item on the agenda.

Ms. Paola introduced some people from their staff and there was a presentation on the traffic management plan by Mr. Leuzzi. There were several questions and some discussion. Vice-Chair Hartley asked for some examples of communications about access and parking. Mr. Sargent gave an update on racing and about having a Sunday race scheduled. Chair Hendricks then moved to the Executive Director's Report.

Director Womack announced that Bob Sargent had won a Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award and congratulated him on this. Chair Hendricks then moved to Capital Project Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Hickinbotham gave an update on the construction and projects at the Fairgrounds. Mr. Murga gave an update on the arts project at the Fairgrounds and stated that there would be a dedication planned soon. Mr. Couch gave an update on the two upcoming capital projects: 1) new Wingrove entrance 2) realignment of the road that connects the speedway concourse to Craighead Ave. There were a couple of questions. Chair Hendricks then moved to Old Business and the Consideration of amendment to sponsorship legislation item on the agenda.

Chair Hendricks explained that at the last board meeting they had voted to bring legislation before the Metro Council to allow the Fairgrounds to receive up to \$25,000 in sponsorship money but that Councilwoman Vo had suggested that they raise the amount to \$50,000. He then asked for a motion to amend the February's meeting motion from \$25,000 to \$50,000 and Vice-Chair Hartley stated, "*So moved.*" Commissioner Eguiarte seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was passed. Chair Hendricks then moved to New Business and the Consideration of 5-year extension to MOU with Metro Parks for maintenance of Fair Park Phase 1 item on the agenda.

Chair Hendricks asked for a motion for the 5-year extension and Vice-Chair Hartley stated, "*So moved.*" Commissioner Eguiarte seconded the motion. Vice-Chair Hartley had a quick question for Metro Legal. Chair Hendricks then asked for a vote. All were in favor and the motion was passed. Chair Hendricks then moved to the Consideration of a name for the street connecting Benton Avenue and Craighead Street item on the agenda.

Director Womack went over three name options for the new street. Vice-Chair Hartley made a motion for the purpose of discussion to recommend naming the street "Coliseum Way" which was voted on and suggested by the Fairgrounds employees. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion. There was a brief discussion. Chair Hendricks then called the question. All were in favor and the motion was passed. Chair Hendricks then moved to the Discussion regarding racing at the Fairgrounds Nashville item on the agenda.

Chair Hendricks stated that he wanted to have a discussion on this issue and also discuss what they were obligated to do to keep within the charter mandates. There was a lengthy discussion concerning supporting staff, following charter mandates, providing the best racing experience, protecting local racing, the responsibility of the board supporting/not supporting the referendum (from Metro Legal), sitting down with the mayor to see the path forward and some other concerns. Commissioner Eguiarte stated that he felt The Board should just wait to see what happens and then give a response. Vice-Chair Hartley added that he did not want to do anything to damage current negotiations that might be going on. Commissioner Owens stated that he would support talking with Councilwoman Vo, if needed. Commissioner Eguiarte added that they did need a direction, though, from The Administration and it might be good to ask them for a decision soon.

Chair Hendricks then asked for a motion to adjourn, and Vice-Chair Hartley stated, "*So moved*". Commissioner Owens seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chair, Jasper Hendricks

Executive Director, Laura Womack