

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners

Date: April 9, 2024 4:00 p.m.

On the above referenced date, the April meeting for the Board of Fair Commissioners was held at the Fairgrounds in Expo 2. Those in attendance were Chair Jasper Hendricks, Vice-Chair Todd Hartley, Commissioner Anthony Owens, and Commissioner Diego Eguiarte arrived later. Also, in attendance from the Fairgrounds were Executive Director Laura Womack and Finance and Administrative Manager Satrice Allen. Metro Attorney Erica Haber was also present. Ron Gobbell and David Hickinbotham from GHP were in attendance. Lindsey Paola with the Nashville Soccer Club was also present as well as Dirk Melton with MarketStreet Enterprises. 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 March 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. Chair Hendricks then moved to the Financial Update.

Ms. Allen gave a brief update. Vice-Chair Hartley asked if Ms. Allen could find revenue numbers from the speedway ten or fifteen years back and she stated that she would try. Commissioner Owens asked if her findings could include the number of events held at the track each year also so that they could compare “apples to apples”. Chair Hendricks then asked if they could get a copy of the budget that was submitted to Metro Council, and Ms. Allen stated that she would send it. Chair Hendricks then moved to the Events Update item on the agenda.

Ms. Paola gave a quick soccer update. She added that the new parking garage gave them 480 spaces (for now) and that the feedback from WeGo had been positive. Commissioner Owens agreed that the parking was much better. Mr. Sargent gave a brief speedway report. Chair Hendricks then moved to the Executive Director’s Report.

Director Womack introduced Jeff Ciocco, the new Flea Market Event Services Coordinator, and welcomed him to the staff. She stated that there were two pieces of legislation (that the Board had already approved) to report about: 1) the second reading for the sponsorship legislation and that they didn’t expect any challenges. 2) the easement and encroachment for MarketStreet and NES to run utilities and to host utility boxes on a piece of property right outside their leased footprint which would have its first reading at the next meeting. She announced that the Fairgrounds would be hosting the State of Metro Address on May 14th at 10:00 a.m. Chair Hendricks then moved to the Capital Projects Update item on the agenda.

Mr. Hickinbotham gave a quick update on the projects at the Fairgrounds. Mr. Melton gave an update on the Mixed-Use Project and reported that all was on track and that resident leasing should start in May. He added also about the garage being finished and that this has helped with some of the parking issues at the soccer games. There were a couple of questions. There was no Old Business.

Chair Hendricks announced that the Board could tour the mixed-use apartments on April 20th and so that they could hear a race that day to check out the sound. He also stated that he felt the Board should be in charge of some type of fun fundraiser activity during the fair and all agreed it would be a good idea. Chair Hendricks stated he would get with staff on this. He reported that there was a piece of legislation floating through Metro Council that would require them to provide financial disclosures on their income as a board member in case anyone reached out to them about that. There was a brief discussion about a letter that was received from a flea market vendor and Director Womack went over the Fairgrounds’ Code of Conduct and processes.

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