

Minutes: Meeting of the Metropolitan Government Board of Fair Commissioners

Date: August 13, 2024 4:00 p.m.

On the above referenced date, the August 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, and Commissioner Anthony Owens. Commissioner Diego Eguiarte was not present. Also, in attendance from the Fairgrounds were Executive Director Laura Womack, Finance and Administrative Manager Satrice Allen and Fair Manager, Scott Jones. Metro Attorney's Erica Haber and Phylinda Ramsey were present. David Hickinbotham from GHP was in attendance, as well as Ed Henley with Pillars Development. Lindsey Paola with the Nashville Soccer Club was present. Dirk Melton with Market Street Enterprises was in attendance. Bob Sargent with Track Enterprises was also present. And Councilwoman Vo was in attendance as well.

Chair Hendricks read the legal notice and called the meeting to order. He then moved to the approval of the June 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 no public comments. Chair Hendricks then moved to the Monthly Informational Reports on the agenda.

Ms. Paola gave a quick soccer and Geodis Park update. She added that parking revenues (owed to the Fairgrounds) would be about \$10,000 less than last year because of the parking lot(s) not being available during the Green Day concert due to the fair load-in. There were a few questions. Mr. Melton gave a brief report and added that the resident move-ins were going well. There were a few questions. Mr. Hickinbotham gave a quick update on the capital projects at the Fairgrounds and Mr. Henley gave an update as well on the financials of the projects. There were a couple of questions and some discussion. Mr. Sargent gave a brief speedway report. And Mr. Jones gave an update on the progress of the fair and some of the activities and added that there would be a dedication ceremony for the new art project during the fair on September 12<sup>th</sup>. There were several questions about the fair. Chair Hendricks then moved to Division Updates and the Executive Director's Report item on the agenda.

Director Womack stated that they would be going through the RFP process with Procurement for a new midway contract soon and that Commissioner Owens would be helping her with that solicitation. She reported that they were also going through the RFP process with Procurement, along with the Municipal Auditorium and Metro Parks, for pouring rights. She added that she would also be working on the Strategic Plan with Commissioner Eguiarte and that she would bring that before the Board to discuss at some point. Chair Hendricks then moved to the Financial Update item on the agenda.

Ms. Allen gave a brief financial report on both 2024 and 2025. There were several questions and comments. Chair Hendricks then moved to the Personnel Update item on the agenda.

Director Womack stated that staff was working on updating the employee handbook and that the Board would review and vote on that soon. Vice-Chair Hartley said he would be glad to help with that, if needed. Chair Hendricks then moved to the Operations Update item on the agenda.

Director Womack gave a brief operations update including road closures for the fair. Chair Hendricks then moved to Old Business and the Consideration of merit increase for Executive Director item on the agenda.

Chair Hendricks asked for a motion concerning Director Womack's merit increase. Vice-Chair Hartley made a motion stating, "*I move to recommend a merit increase for our director in the amount of 3%.*" Commissioner Owens seconded the motion. There was a discussion and some questions about organizing a subcommittee to develop protocols for evaluating the director and also for staff evaluations going forward. Vice-Chair Hartley and Commissioner Owens agreed to help with the personnel subcommittee to set benchmarks for the future. All were in favor and the motion was passed. Metro Legal stated that they could meet for discussion purposes only as a sub-committee for a public meeting (no voting) as long as it was properly noticed for the public. Chair Hendricks then moved to the Consideration of a Memorandum of Understanding with Sports Authority to request a contract extension with Bell Construction to add extended maintenance for constructed infrastructure.

Vice-Chair Hartley made a motion, *"I move to approve this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)."* Commissioner Owens seconded the motion. Director Womack then went over the MOU and why it was needed and there was a lengthy discussion and several questions on this issue. Vice-Chair Hartley stated that he would like to amend the motion to add *"and for a plan to be presented in 9-12 months for a long-term solution/wholistic plan."* All were in favor and the motion was approved.

Director Womack stated that they would need to move the September meeting to the morning because of the fair and they discussed the best time. Chair Hendricks asked Councilwoman Vo if she had anything to add and she answered, *"No."* Vice-Chair Hartley then made a motion to adjourn. All were in favor and the meeting was dismissed.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Chair, Jasper Hendricks

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Executive Director, Laura Womack