



Minutes

New Mexico State Fair Commission
Special Meeting- December 3, 2024
African American Performing Arts Center
300 San Pedro NE – NM State Fairgrounds
Albuquerque, NM

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Serna at 10:03 a.m.

Roll Call: Michele Clement called the roll.

The following Commissioners were present:

Chairman Eric Serna
Commissioner Benny Roybal
Commissioner Walter Adams
Commissioner Larry Chavez

The following Staff were present:

Dan Mourning, General Manager
Chris Machin, General Counsel

Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Roybal.

- a. New Mexico State Flag Pledge: The New Mexico State Flag pledge was led by Commissioner Roybal.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved on a motion from Commissioner Roybal seconded by Commissioner Adams, all voted in the affirmative.

Discussion/Act:

- a. Plans to move forward with a Master Development Plan and Request for Proposal (RFP) for Expo NM/New Mexico State Fair grounds.

Discussion:

Commissioner Adams stated that there had been discussions in previous Commission meetings about if the Fair is meeting the needs of attendees, like adequate parking and added that he felt this is the time for a discussion to take place about what the future might hold.

General Manager Mourning stated that he agrees that this is the time to discuss the future of the Fair and has been doing this and talking about since 2016 with update to master plan of 2007 regarding an Arena on the fairgrounds. General Manager Mourning stated that he felt

that management and staff had done a good job of maintaining existing facilities but maybe it was time to get bold and find out what is next for the Fairgrounds, what else is out there.

General Manager Mourning stated that there will be an RFP issued to solicit bids from qualified companies to prepare a 10–20 year Master Plan for the New Mexico State Fair and Expo NM.

General Manager Mourning stated that the firm/company given the contract to prepare a Master Plan for the Fairgrounds would, as a part of the process, hold meetings to talk with all stakeholders- public, private, and government to find the best way forward for the next 10 – 20 years.

Commissioner Adams stated that he felt the New Mexico State Fair Commission owed it to the people of New Mexico to provide the best State Fair that we can give them and added that the Commission supports moving forward with the RFP for a Master Plan and would like the Commission to take a vote on the Master Plan to show support.

Commissioner Roybal stated that he thought that this Master Development plan is right in line with what the Commission had been planning to look at for a long time. Commissioner Roybal added that we just finished one of the best fairs that we have had and looks forward to moving forward with the RFP.

Commissioner Chavez asked what type of firm/company would respond to the RFP. General Manager Mourning stated that most firms/companies that would respond to this RFP would specialize in the re-development of property. General Manger Mourning added that there would be a “Notice of Issue” sent to interested parties nationwide.

Commissioner Chavez stated that parking is a critical issue during the Annual Event and asked if there was enough property somewhere to move the Fair.

General Manger Mourning stated that there have been some ideas of available properties discussed by others but added that the firm/company that is contracted to prepare the Master Plan would drill down on all available sites as a part of the Master Plan.

Commissioner Chavez then asked if General Manager Mourning knew of any other Fairs/Facilities that have undergone this process that he could visit.

General Manger Mourning stated that the Colorado State Fair in Pueblo has a Master Plan in place as well as the Ohio State Fair but wanted to add that there is a project in Reno, Nevada that might provide some insight into what could be possible here in New Mexico.

Chairman Serna stated that he had seen growth at the New Mexico State Fair over the last 6-7 years, the Fair has competed nationally and has done really well. Chairman Serna added that even though we had record attendance numbers last Fair it was time to look forward to the future.

Commissioner Adams stated that timing is everything and added that he felt the time is now to move forward with the RFP and Master Plan.

Action:

Commissioner Adams made a motion to support and approve the Master Development Planning and the issuing of the RFP, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Roybal, all voted in the affirmative.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 am on a motion from Commissioner Adams, seconded by Commissioner Roybal, all voted in the affirmative.