

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners (the “Board”) of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association (the “NOCPIA”) was called to order Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at 4:00pm by President Steve Pettus. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Arnold, Batt, Bingler, Cahn, Chase, Claverie, Coulon, Guidry (represented by Leatrice Dupree), Hess, Katz, LeCorgne, Lupo, Masinter, McNeil, Pettus, Pineda, Savoie, Schrenk, Seamon, Slone, Sloss, Thomas, Thorpe, Tregre, and Waller

ABSENT: Commissioners Hollis, McKeithen, Navarre, Offner, Pate, Payton, Powell, Smith, Spears, Williams, and Wisdom

STAFF: Bob Becker, Rob DeViney, Kevin Cox, and Denise Joubert

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Claire Byun, Andrea Legrand, and Casie Duplechain

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

President Pettus welcomed all Commissioner, as well as Claire Byun, Andrea Legrand and Casie Duplechain, and thanked them for coming.

The minutes of the March Board meeting were approved.

Anyone wishing to comment on any item on the agenda must sign the sign-in sheet and indicate what item they wish to comment on.

In his President’s Report, Pettus mentioned that the wildflowers along Roosevelt Mall are in bloom. The South golf course opened last week and looks spectacular. Pettus thanked everyone who attended the dedication of the new course and who contributed to the development of this course over the last fourteen years.

Pettus reported on the following:

- He met with the Lt. Governor to discuss Park issues and the Lt. Governor indicated that he is a big supporter of the Park.
- He attended a meeting with Morning Call to discuss ongoing issues.
- He attended a meeting with Center Plate in regards to providing assistance for City Park Concessions.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Bob Becker reported that operating results for March were ahead of plan. Revenues exceeded the budget and expenses were substantially

less than budgeted for the month. Year to date we are approximately \$200,000 ahead of plan for the first nine months of the year. Becker explained that payroll and benefits costs were less than budgeted mainly due to a budgeted merit increase that was disallowed by the Governor's Executive order for a pay freeze and because we delayed hiring several vacant positions.

Becker noted that roughly one thousand rounds of golf were played in six days at the South Golf Course.

Becker mentioned that the annual report for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 is in the packet.

Becker stated that "Wanderlust" yoga festival, the Spring Garden Show, the Crescent City Classic and "Tails But No Black Tie" were all successful.

Becker reported on the status of HB2 (capital outlay bill) which was not favorable to the Park. None of the projects were put into Priority 1 other than the remaining money to complete the golf course. All the monies for the Splash Park and the Maintenance Facility are in Priority 5 whereas last year a portion of both projects were in Priority 1 (i.e. ready to bid). Even worse the Conservatory was taken out of HB2 all together. We are working to have the funding restored.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E - Commissioner Robert Lupo updated the Board on various projects. The Committee endorses Management's recommendation on the Wisner Tract and will be presented at a future Public Hearing.

Work has begun on the Marconi Multi Use Path. We applied for an additional grant to extend the bike path along Harrison Ave. to Zachary Taylor. The Committee discussed Storm Water Management and will make a presentation to the City to suggest using the lagoons as part of the project. Becker attended a meeting with the Sports Foundation in regards to the repurposing for Tad Gormley Stadium.

CITO/Special Events – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe updated the Board on upcoming events. Thorpe reported that "June Under the Moon" is scheduled for June 2 in the Carousel Gardens Amusement Park. Mayra Pineda and Rebecca Jostes will chair the Celebration in the Oaks Preview Party and Susan Hess will chair the Family Party.

Development – Commissioner Larry Katz reported that Geneva Marney, the Major Gifts Coordinator has resigned and we are in the process of recruiting a replacement. Katz and Rob DeViney met with the District Director for Senator John Kennedy's office to discuss their assistance with several projects.

Finance & Audit – Commissioner Schrenk reiterated that Bob regularly reminds the Board that the park's financial results are greatly impacted by the weather. He noted that we generated approximately \$400,000 in net income in March, which was comprised of an \$80,000 loss from regular operations plus \$480,000 that we receive quarterly from the Fairground's Slot taxes. Schrenk also highlighted the fiscal impact of five events held throughout the year in the Amusement Park. The Park generates approximately \$165,000 in net income per year on these 5 new events.

Friends – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported that there are currently more than 5,200 members. City Peek tours of Scout Island, Botanical Garden, Equest Farm and the Mini Train Garden will begin on May 6. A new venture expanding the City Peek tours is underway and will launch in the spring of 2018. Thorpe thanked Commissioner Adam McNeil for his help in securing the money from the BP settlement.

H&G/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss updated the Board on various projects. Sloss mentioned that there are permit holders from 22 States and 2 Foreign Countries at the Dog Park. Sloss noted that the renovations at Popp Bandstand are underway. We will also work to restore the Sun Dial. Anyone interested in donating to the project should reach out to Sloss.

Legal & Risk Management – No Report

Public Relations – Commissioner Laura Claverie reported that there has been a lot of great media coverage focused on the opening of the new golf course.

Nominating – No Report

Sports – Commissioner Tregre mentioned that the quality of the new golf course has exceeded his expectations. Seven past presidents were in attendance at the grand opening festivities. Commissioner Masinter noted that the food is very good at the restaurant.

Tennis – Commissioner Edgar Chase reported that the Committee discussed hosting a diversity tournament in 2018, in conjunction with Black History Month. Chase noted that play has increased since we phased out the pass system.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner David Waller reported the new fundraiser in the Botanical Garden titled “Response 2017” was successful. The funds raised will benefit an outdoor kitchen in the Garden. Muffin Balart has been elected as incoming President of the Foundation and will start attending Board meetings.

Sustainability Committee – Commissioner Bob Thomas reminded everyone to attend Earth Day today. Thomas noted that he received a grant that will help fund a Bio-Blitz for the Park. A soft launch of the program will take place soon. A new Sustainability Coordinator was hired to assist in the implementation of our sustainability program. We are hoping to construct a Nature Center and will present several options to the P, A&E Committee.

OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Report

NEW BUSINESS: President Pettus reported that Commissioner Jay Batt will serve as the CPIA appointment on the NOMA board.

Public comment was then invited; there were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, 2017 at 4:00p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Ronnie Slone
Secretary