

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 23, 2019 at 4 p.m. by President Larry Katz. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Adkerson, Arnold, Baker, Banks, Cahn, Dale, DeBlieux, Gardner, Giarrusso, Hess, Katz, Masinter, McNeil, Messer, Pate, Pineda, Powell, Savoie, Seamon, Sloss, Spears, and Waller

ABSENT: Commissioners Arata, Batt, Donovan, Fitzpatrick, Hollis, LeCorgne, Leger, Lupo, McCrossen, Navarre, Pettus, Taylor, and Tregre

STAFF: Bob Becker, Meg Adams, Amanda Frentz, Rob DeViney, Sarah Olivier, and Denise Joubert

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Casie Duplechain, Andrea LeGrand, Emily Mueller, and Charles Marsala

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

Larry Katz, President of the NOCPIA Board of Commissioners, called the meeting to order.

Katz mentioned that Commissioner Bill LeCorgne’s father passed away last night. The Board held a moment of silence to honor Mr. LeCorgne. Katz noted that he was the President of the CPIA Board in 1986-1987.

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.

Katz reminded all Commissioners that their financial disclosure form is due in Baton Rouge by May 15th. The disclosure applies to all Commissioners who served on the Board in 2018. If anyone has any questions contact Denise Joubert or myself.

Katz introduced Emily Mueller, who was hired as the Executive Director for Friends.

In the Presidents Report, Katz reported on the following:

He stressed the importance of the millage to the Park, and encouraged everyone to reach out to as many groups as possible, to vote to support the millage. He mentioned that early voting is April 20 through April 27. There were roughly 1000 signs that have been distributed. The PAC is fully

funded, and Katz thanked everyone for their help. He recognized Commissioners Steve Pettus, David Waller, and Paul Masinter, as well as Casie Duplechain for all their work and efforts.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported that March financials have not been finalized, but we will probably lose ground to the budget. Golf has exceeded the budget in March, and we are expecting the same results in April.

Becker reported:

- Swing in the Oaks was successful. Mayor Cantrell addressed the crowd on the importance of the recreation millage.
- He reported on the status of HB2 (capital outlay bill). During the current Legislative Session, the funding for our maintenance complex was moved into Priority #1. If passed it would make it possible to bid the project. We are working with the State to review the drawings, and cost estimates; to get ready for bidding. Becker thanked Commissioner of Administration Jay Dardenne for his support.
- The second annual “Hat Luncheon”, the project of the The New Orleans Town Gardeners, and the Park was very successful. The fundraiser will benefit the management and protection of the Park’s trees.
- Along with other Park Partners, he spoke to several organization related to the millage.
- In the packet, is a summary of the BGR study of the millage. The BGR is endorsing the millage.
- A meeting is scheduled with Tim Clow, from Addison Law Firm, to review the Voodoo contract that was presented to the Park.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E – Commissioner Richard Cahn reported that the plans, and the cost estimates for the Maintenance Complex will have to updated, due to the delay in bidding the project. Renovation of the Casino Building is delayed due to plumbing issues. Therefore, the opening date for Café Du Monde has been pushed back to June. Due to the delay in opening, City Park is adjusting their rent. Cahn mentioned that the two WPA bridges need attention, due to increase traffic from construction in the Park. Discussions are underway in regards to the Food and Beverage RFP at the old Maintenance building. Councilmember Jay Banks inquired about the delay in the opening of Café Du Monde. Cahn stated that they gutted the entire interior of the building, and doing a complete renovation of the interior including the bathrooms.

CITO/Special Events – Andrea LeGrand reported on upcoming events. She reported that Bunny Hops, Swing in the Oaks, and the Crescent City Classic were well attended. June Under the Moon is scheduled for June 7 in the Amusement Park.

Development – Katz reported that the Storyland campaign is close to raising its goal in sponsorships, which includes the 2nd part of the donation from the Friends of City Park. The next step is to contract with the Exhibit Designers, and place the orders for the Exhibits. We expect to begin site improvements in July. Once completed, we will begin installation of the exhibits. The project should be completed by late summer. Katz mentioned that additional sponsorship opportunities have been created for donors at different levels. Casie Duplechain reported that the Hat Luncheon was a great success. She thanked Iberia Bank for sponsoring the event. The luncheon should net approximately \$50,000 more than last year. The Park will place \$100,000 from the Hat Luncheon in a quasi- endowment with GNOF.

Environmental Stewardship - Commissioner Carro Gardner reported that there were 35 vendors and over 600 visitors that attended in Earth Day. The Hat Luncheon was a green event, and we recycled approximately 225 pounds of glass, and collected 183 pounds of compost. We also recycled over 750 pounds of glass at Swing in the Oaks. In conjunction with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant, volunteers from Shell Oil and the Greater New Orleans Iris Society planted over 1,500 native shoreline plants at the Volunteer Center. Students from NOLA Microschools, and volunteers from Limitless Vistas assisted with the project. Shell brought a professional film crew and made a video about the shoreline restoration grant project. The video will be shared later this summer on social media. The Committee collaborated with local Girl Scouts to host the 1st camp out in the Park. Approximately 55 girls, and leaders participated. Environmental Education programming was provided by Audubon Insectarium, Loyola's environmental students, and Master Naturalists. The committee feels the camping program has a lot of potential to grow into a great outreach opportunity. Gardner invited everyone to attend the Park's Lunch and Learn educational sessions. The next session, on Butterfly Gardening, is on May 9th, at 11:30, at the Botanical Garden. The Committee prepared, and distributed a list of ten things that individuals could do to mitigate global warming. As part of the LED Entergy grant program, the Marconi Soccer fields are scheduled to have the existing sports lighting retrofitted with LED fixtures at a potential savings of \$12,000 per year.

Finance & Audit – No Report

Friends – Commissioner Larry Dale reported on upcoming events. Dale reported that Friends currently has more than 5,000 members. Fundraising is still underway for Lark in the Park. To date \$138,000 has been raised. Give Nola Day, hosted by the Greater New Orleans Foundation, is scheduled for May 7th in the Carousel Garden Amusement Park. The Patron, and Ambassador Member Thank You Toast is scheduled for June 13 at the Arbor Room.

H&G Committee/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss reported that with the funds from the Hat Luncheon, we will prune the small Oak trees planted after Hurricane Katrina, prune up the Oak trees along Roosevelt Mall, and remove the last Overcup Oak. Eighteen Cypress trees will be planted in the Bio swale at the Festival Grounds. We will place \$10,000 in an emergency fund. The Dog Park is still experiencing problems with the entrance gates, and would like security cameras installed.

Legal & Risk Management – Commissioner Paul Masinter reported that a meeting is scheduled with Tim Clow, from Addison Law Firm, to review the Voodoo Music Experience contract. The new contract will be examined from both an economical and legal point of view. Masinter noted that the event has a huge economic impact for the City. A complete analysis of the event will be shared with the Board.

NOMA – Commissioner Paul Masinter reported that the Sculpture Garden is scheduled to open on May 14.

Wisner Tract – Commissioner Richard Cahn reported that Kurt Culbertson, from Design Workshop, made a presentation of the proposed methodology for the Master Plan development of the Wisner Tract to the Committee. He noted that a major part of the plan involves water retention, as well as a wilderness tract. After the Master Plan is complete, fundraising for the implementation of the project can begin. Becker noted that in 2017, the Board amended the Parks Master Plan, and designated this area for passive recreation, and as a natural resource area along the lagoon. We are in discussions with the City on the criteria for the Hazard Mitigation grant that will be used to improve, and manage storm water.

Public Relations – Commissioner Cleveland Spears updated the Board on upcoming events. Both Earth Day, and Swing in the Oaks received lots of media attention. The Park welcomed four new swans. Conde Naste named City Park, NOMA, and the Sculpture Garden as “Best Things To Do in New Orleans”. Amanda Frenz distributed a handout out with some Millage key message points and FAQs.

Nominating –. No Report

Sports – Commissioner Adam McNeil reported that Golf had a good month financially in April, and is expecting to have good results in May as well. Golf is hoping to make up some of the deficit from previous months. Several junior programs are underway, including the First Tee program, a Golf and PE program for 5 year olds and under, and a PGA Junior league golf camp. Soccer is scheduled to resume on Scout Island in May. The Park is exploring potential partnerships for the usage of Tad Gormley Stadium.

Tennis – Commissioner Cleland Powell reported on the concept of constructing indoor courts. The courts are currently closed approximately 100 days per year due to the rain. Rob Worley on the Committee, is working with the USTA to provide consulting for indoor courts.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner David Waller reported that Response, a fundraiser held in the Botanical Garden was successful. Waller mentioned that a part-time programmer was hired to manage the outdoor kitchen. The Botanical Garden kitchen is scheduled for completion in August. Rebecca Schultz is the new incoming President for the Botanical Garden. The new board members have several members under 35 years old.

OTHER REPORTS: Councilmember Jay Banks mentioned that he has a conflict, and attending our monthly meetings will be difficult. Banks expressed to the Board that he is very supportive and committed to the Park.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Becker mentioned that an Island was donated to the Park in the late 1990's with the intent that oil exploration of the island would help generate revenue for the Park. The Island is approximately 3100 acres, and is managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. However, the lease will expire in 2020. The Park has been unsuccessful in having the State include the Island in the State's Coastal Protection Plan. The Park is planning to explore options to stabilize the island.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 4 p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Elizabeth Sloss