

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 28, 2015, at 4:00p.m. by President Susan Hess. The meeting was held in the Pavilion of Two Sisters, located in the Botanical Garden.

PRESENT: Commissioners Abbott, Chase, Claverie, Fierke, Giffin, Guidry, Hales, Hess, Hollis, Johnson, Laborde, LaFranca, LeGrand, Palumbo, Payton, Pettus, Powell, Sanderford, Schrenk, Seamon, Sloss, Spears, Thorpe, and Tregre

ABSENT: Commissioners Batt, Bingler, Fernandez, Hoffman, Masinter, McKay, McKeithen, Slone, Williams, and Wisdom

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

GUESTS: Henry Kinney, Casie Duplechain, Larry Katz, and Leslie Kramer

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

The March minutes were approved.

President Hess welcomed and thanked everyone for coming.

In her President’s report, Hess stated that the dedication of the new entrance and bridge to Couturie Forest was a wonderful success. The Symphony was well-attended, and she thanked Commissioner Andrea LeGrand for greeting all the guests.

Robert Lupo hosted a Legislative luncheon for many local representatives. It was an excellent opportunity to share ideas. Legislators LoRusso, Morrell, Murray, Bishop, and a representative from Moreno’s office attended the luncheon.

In her President’s Report, Hess reported that a day at the State Legislature is scheduled for May 14. We will have an exhibit in the rotunda, as well as a dinner on June 3.

Hess reminded everyone that the Personal Financial Disclosure forms are due in Baton Rouge by May 15.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker stated that public comments will not be received at the meeting as there is no item up for Board action. Becker reported that operating results for March were ahead of plan, but April has been a bad month financially due to the inclement weather conditions. March is typically a strong month for the Park and is budgeted aggressively. In April, we will probably give back some of the gains we made.

The State expects to receive bids for the replacement of the Wisner Overpass in May. Work is scheduled to begin in September. Construction is expected to last about one year. The City has developed a traffic routing plan. Once bids are accepted, we will meet to review the traffic plan. Commissioner Edgar Chase inquired whether the roadway into the Park by Pan American Stadium will be closed. Becker replied there are no plans to close the road, and will meet with the traffic engineers when the plans are released. Commissioner Edmund Schrenk suggested that if construction vehicles plan to use Marconi, we should get a condition study of the Marconi roadway.

Becker stated that Hogs for the Cause, the Fishing Rodeo, the Sugar Bowl track meet, and the Crescent City Classic were all successful. The Spring Garden Show was well attended on Saturday, but rain put a damper on Sunday.

Over 400 volunteers from “Navy Week” worked in various areas of the Park.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E - Commissioner Edmund Schrenk reported that the State expects to receive bids for improvements in Tri-Centennial area on May 19. The committee is scheduled to meet with the designers of the Children’s Museum to review the schematic design.

CITO/Special Events – Commissioner Andrea LeGrand updated the Board on upcoming events. A new event, June under the Moon, is scheduled for June 5 in the Amusement Park. The Marine band is scheduled to perform on July 3 on the Goldring/Woldenberg Great Lawn.

Development – No Report

Finance & Audit – Commissioner Steve Pettus reported that the Committee will work to try and identify the food service revenue challenges.

Friends – Commissioner Jackie Palumbo reported that the Park will participate in the second annual GiveNOLA Day on May 5, hosted by the Greater New Orleans Foundation.

H&G/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss reported that due to the tremendous amount of rain, one Overcup Oak tree fell on Roosevelt Mall. Becker noted the committee previously developed a plan for aging trees along Roosevelt Mall.

Legal & Risk Management – No Report

Public Relations – Commissioner Laura Claverie reported that Karen Fernandez will co-chair the committee. The committee will discuss a needs assessment and develop a plan for the future.

Nominating – No Report

Sports- Commissioner Will Tregre reported that the 2015 football draw took place, with 20 games scheduled for Tad Gormley, and 30 games at Pan American stadium. A decline in games is mainly due to a decrease in schools playing football. We plan to bid on the State Soccer Championship. The practice track is in need of repair, and the turf field in Tad Gormley is nearing the end of its life. The committee discussed evaluating the capital needs of Tad Gormley and recommend hiring a consultant to conduct the evaluation. The tremendous amount of rainfall has damaged the greens on the North Course causing us to move play to temporary greens. Several options were presented to repair or reconstruct the greens. The committee will evaluate the options and make a recommendation to mangement.

Tennis – Commissioner Errol Laborde reported that, despite the rain, the Sun Belt and SWAC Conference tournaments were very successful. Due to increased request for tournaments, the committee recommends developing a strategy in regards to hosting tennis tournaments.

Botanical Garden Foundation - Commissioner Ann Abbott reported that construction of the new entrance is on schedule. The educational lecture by Jenks Farmer was successful. The English Garden tour is scheduled for May 11 thru May 21 and will result in an \$8,500 donation to the Foundation. Effective April 29, David Waller has been elected as incoming President of the Foundation and will start attending Board meetings. Commissioner Dessa Giffin reported that letters were mailed for Magic in the Moonlight. President Hess thanked Ann Abbott for her service to the Board.

OTHER REPORTS:

President Hess introduced Leslie Kramer, operator of Equest Farms, who reported that the 10th anniversary for Tails but no Black Tie is scheduled for May 16. The funds will be used to re-roof several barns. President Hess encouraged everyone to attend the event.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Tom Fierke reported on “The Four Winds” fountain is currently located at the Lakefront Airport. The Helis Foundation would like to move the sculpture to the Park but the Non-Flood board wants it to remain at the airport. The Helis Foundation offered to secure the sculpture to preserve against vandalism.

The Helis Foundation is bringing “The Wave” sculpture to the Park. The sculpture will be installed at Big Lake within a month. Commissioner Edgar Chase asked who has authority over the area by Spanish Fort. Becker responded that the area is Park land and over the last several years we tried to work with Representative LoRusso to ask for Capital Outlay money from the State to help preserve the Fort. We have not been successful in securing funding from the State.

Councilwoman Susan Guidry reported that the new Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance will be voted on May 14.

PUBLIC COMMENT (On matters to be voted on at meeting) – No public comments

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 4:00p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Andrea LeGrand
Secretary