

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 26, 2016, at 4:00pm by President Susan Hess. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Batt, Bingler, Chase, Claverie, Coulon, Hess, Katz, Laborde, LaFranca, LeCorgne, McNeil, Navarre, Palumbo, Pate, Pettus, Schrenk, Slone, Sloss, Smith, Spears, Thomas, Thorpe, Tregre, and Waller

ABSENT: Commissioners Fernandez, Guidry, Hollis, Masinter, McKeithen, Payton, Pineda, Powell, Seamon, Wisdom, and Williams

STAFF: Bob Becker, Kevin Cox, Meg Adams, Rob DeViney, Paul Soniat, and Denise Joubert

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Kyle Hymel

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

President Hess welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

The minutes of the March Board meeting were approved.

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

The Public Art and Sustainability committees met and are functioning.

The Symphony combined with Earth Day was very successful.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported that operating results for March were below budget, which was largely caused by two factors. One is the result of having fewer events scheduled in the Catering Department. The other is that we recognized the entire \$99,000 cut from our dedicated share of the State Slot tax in March. The Governor has indicated that he will call another Special Legislative Session after the General Session ends aiming to enact further revenue and additional budget reductions.

The China Lights Festival is entering its last week and will close on May 1. To date, approximately 69,000 people attended the event. Our base projections were 75,000, and it appears that we will make despite losing 30% of the days to bad weather. The exhibit received great publicity and was a great cultural exhibit for the region. It also attracted a new demographic than normally attend our events.

The Hogs for the Cause event experienced horrible weather which caused flooding at the event. We are in the process of investigating the drainage system and its outflow to the S&WB pumping station. We want to determine the cause of the slow drainage and what improvements have to be considered. The Park retained a small damage deposit and is in the process of repairing the grounds. Becker stated that we are in the process of reviewing all the damage deposits for events in the Park.

Bids for the Arrival Garden were received, and construction should begin May 15. The Maintenance building was redesigned and is ready to go out bid, but the State elected not to put the project out to bid along with other State projects in similar circumstances.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E - Commissioner Edmund Schrenk updated the Board on various construction projects. The committee still awaits a response from the designers on a few items for the Golf Clubhouse. Becker noted that the financial situation for the Louisiana Children's Museum with the State is undetermined. They are working to have the funding released, and if successful, construction will begin in the Fall.

CITO/Special Events – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported on upcoming events. The committee discussed utilizing volunteers at the upcoming beer events. There are forty five members on the Celebration in the Oaks committee which will be divided in several sub-committees to work on sponsorships, parties, and marketing for the event.

Development – Commissioner Ronnie Slone reported that the Committee is working on several sponsorship projects. Slone noted that there are several board members currently participating in the Oak Tree Circle. If any board member is interested in joining the Oak Tree Circle, it would count toward their year-end gift. Hess noted that the Friends of City Park fundraisers support capital expenditures, and the Oak Tree Circle supports operating expenses in the Park. A Development gathering held for prospective donors in the Oak Tree Circle was well attended.

Finance & Audit – Commissioner Steve Pettus reported that approximately 13% of our budget comes from the State, and the other 87% of the budget needs to be recovered from revenue generating operations. Year to date, we are roughly \$32,000 ahead of budget. Catering and Sales operations were below plan for the month. The Finance Committee discussed plans to increase revenue through Advertising and Marketing.

Friends – Commissioner Jackie Palumbo reported that Friends currently have more than 4,700 members. Give Nola Day, hosted by the Greater New Orleans Foundation, is scheduled for May 3 in the Carousel Garden Amusement Park.

H&G/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss reported that the Committee is working on landscaping plans to beautify the entrances to the Park. The improvements at Popp Bandstand have begun. Sloss mentioned the wildflowers on Roosevelt Mall are in bloom and are receiving a lot of attention.

Legal & Risk Management – Becker reported that the Committee met to review ongoing legal issues. Becker updated the Committee on the claims process with the Office of Risk Management. Henry Kinney reported that the Park was dismissed from golf law suit. The lawsuit with the Federal Government is still pending, but it will not affect the Park.

Public Relations – Commissioner Laura Claverie reported that China Lights is receiving wonderful media coverage. The Park is moving forward with another photography contest which will run from May 1 until June 30. There are five different categories, and the contest is open to professional and non-professional photographers.

Nominating – Commissioner Edgar Chase introduced Stephanie Navarre to the Board. The Committee is planning to meet to discuss vacancies. Any board member wishing to nominate potential candidates to serve on the Board should submit the names to Bob Becker.

Sports- Commissioner Will Tregre reported that the Festival Grounds sports fields are under repair due to damage from Hogs for the Cause and the Voodoo Music Festival. The rental agreement at the Matt Savoie Soccer Complex requires that the Lessee both operate the Concession stand and maintain the restrooms. They are doing neither. We will meet with the Chicago Fire to address the concerns. The North Course repair and drainage work is complete and play resumed in mid-March. Construction of the new golf course is well underway and should be close to completion by the end of the year. The entire course will be grassed during May and June.

Tennis – Commissioner Errol Laborde reported that we are working to secure a prestigious tennis tournament.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner David Waller reported that the educational lecture by Allan Armitage was successful.

Sustainability Committee – Commissioner Bob Thomas reported that the committee met to discuss plans and develop sustainability policies for the Park. Park ecological systems will also be included in this Committee's agenda.

OTHER REPORTS:

Paul Soniat, Director of the Botanical Garden, gave a history of the Botanical Garden and the Horticultural Department and showed pre and post Katrina photos.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 4:00p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Elizabeth Sloss
Secretary