

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, December 15, 2015, at 4:00p.m. by President Susan Hess. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Batt, Chase, Claverie, Fernandez, Fierke, Giffin, Guidry (represented by Tyler Lee Gibson), Hales, Hess, Hoffman, Johnson, LaFranca, LeGrand, McKay, Palumbo, Pettus, Powell, Schrenk, Slone, Sloss, Thomas, Thorpe, Tregre, and Waller

ABSENT: Commissioners Bingler, Hollis, Laborde, Masinter, McKeithen, Payton, Seamon, Spears, Wisdom, and Williams

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

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Casie Duplechain, Bill LeCorgne, and Alicia Serrano

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

President Hess welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Hess reported that H. Britton Sanderford has resigned from the Board.

The minutes of the November Board meeting were approved.

President Hess presented the President’s Award to several individuals for their outstanding support of the Park. The recipients were:

Vincent J. Giardina and Lisa Romano

Oscar J. Tolmas Charitable Trust

Support of the new Oscar J.Tolmas Center and your personal dedication to City Park.

Douglas and Carole Allen

Support of the Park through a variety of gifts and commitment to the Park’s future.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported that final numbers for November are not available due to timing of the Board meeting. Becker noted that Celebration in the Oaks had a strong start. Due to a network failure that occurred on opening night, we allowed guest waiting in line to enter for free.

Becker reviewed a list of all completed and upcoming projects of the Park’s Master Plan. Becker reviewed projects that have begun since February 2015 which included: construction began on

the new golf course, the new roller coaster opened, the Pan American Stadium synthetic field was replaced, the Tri-Centennial Place Improvement project began, the Enrique Alferez Sculpture Garden opened, and the Oscar J. Tolmas Center opened as the new entrance to the Garden and Storyland. In 2016 we expect to begin construction on the Splash Park, the golf clubhouse and maintenance facility, the new Maintenance Complex, and also build parking for the Arbor Room. Becker noted that, in summary, we made significant progress in implementation of the Master Plan with more projects to be completed in 2016. Becker is hopeful that all projects will be on schedule by 2018. Commissioner Edgar Chase requested a summary on the implementation of parts of the Couturie Forest plan. Becker will provide the plan in the beginning of 2016.

Becker reviewed the proposed Public Art Policy developed with the Director of the New Orleans Museum of Art to establish policies in adding permanent and temporary art pieces in the Park. Commissioner Steve Pettus amended the policy to read that the Public Art Selection Committee shall be composed of seven individuals, not five as stated. After review the Board unanimously adopted the Public Art policy.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E - Commissioner Edmond Schrenk reported that the Committee will discuss the golf clubhouse and golf maintenance facility for the new course.

CITO/Special Events – Commissioner Andrea LeGrand reported that large crowds are anticipated due to schools being closed for the Christmas holidays. The event will be open on Christmas and New Year’s day. There are four trains operating at the event. Commissioner Edgar Chase commended Commissioner LeGrand for her assistance at the event.

Development – Becker reported that plans are going well for the China Lights Festival. The exhibits are expected to arrive in January. Residential space for the staff has been secured. President Hess asked that all board members help secure sponsorships for the China Lights Festival.

Finance & Audit – Commissioner Steve Pettus reported that nearly 65,000 guest attended Celebration in the Oaks during the first 3 weeks. The total budgeted revenues for the entire 6 week event including preview parties, admission, rides and concessions is \$2.5 million which generates \$1.4 million net income. The net income generated from this event helps fund operations for the rest of the year. In other words, the Park budgets for revenues and expenses to equal for the entire year and December is very positive that offsets the net losses incurred in the other 11 months.

Friends – Commissioner Jackie Palumbo reported that there are currently more than 4,600 members and that over 200 new member applications were processed within the last two weeks. Lark in the Park is scheduled for March 4th with the funds dedicated toward the expansion of the Conservatory. Sponsorship letters for Lark in the Park were mailed. Lark in the Park is the cover story of the February issue of the St. Charles Avenue magazine.

H&G/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss mentioned that the wildflowers on Roosevelt Mall in front of Tad Gormley Stadium are in bloom and receiving a lot of attention. We are planting tulips around Big Lake and Popp Fountain. The Park will partner with Parks and Parkways to plant new crepe myrtles along Wisner. Improvements are underway at the Dog Park as well as a new bone sand pit.

Legal & Risk Management – No Report

Public Relations – Commissioner Laura Claverie reported that The Helis Foundation is inviting every Louisiana resident to experience the work of Enrique Alverez by providing free admission every Wednesday to the Botanical Garden. Commissioner Palumbo noted that David Waller and Anne Abbott are honorary chairs for Lark in the Park.

Nominating – No Report

Sports- No Report

Tennis – No Report

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner David Waller reported that we received a \$500,000 donation from The Zemurray Foundation for the garden endowment.

President Hess recognized outgoing Board Members Ben Hales, Tom Fierke, Mary Johnson, Dessa Giffin, Andrea LeGrand, and Bill Hoffman. President Hess thanked them for their outstanding service to the Board and distributed commemorative plaques. Becker also thanked all outgoing board members for their support.

OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 4:00p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Andrea LeGrand
Secretary