

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, February 24, 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 Batt, Chase, Claverie, Fernandez, Giffin, Guidry (represented by Megan Langhoff), Hales, Hess, Hoffman, Hollis, Laborde, LaFranca, LeGrand, McKay, Masinter, Palumbo, Pettus, Powell, Sanderford, Schrenk, Seamon, Sloss, Spears, Thorpe, and Williams

ABSENT: Commissioners Abbott, Bingler, Fierke, Johnson, McKeithen, Payton, Slone, Tregre, and Wisdom

STAFF: Bob Becker, John Hopper, Kevin Cox, Rob DeViney, George Parker, Amanda Frentz, Meg Adams, Paul Soniat, Cathy Hoffmann, Billy Bayle, Ginny Virgadamo, and Denise Joubert,

GUESTS: Henry Kinney, and Casie Duplechain

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

The January minutes were approved.

President Hess welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. She noted a group of speakers was present and wished to address the Board about the golf course construction. She asked the CEO to put the matter in context.

Becker stated that when the Master Plan was adopted in 2005, one major strategy was to try and reduce the footprint of golf to make the land available for additional uses. At that time, the South golf course was closed, and the space has become Big Lake, the Festival Grounds, and eventually, the Splash Park and Children’s Museum. After Hurricane Katrina, we revisited the Master Plan and made another effort to reduce the footprint of golf. The footprint has been reduced from four courses to two courses, a driving range, and a new club house. The area that the new course is being built on was parts of the old East and West golf courses. If the Park would have chosen to renovate the two courses, they would have opened five or six years ago, but the delay to develop a better plan has meant the area between Harrison Avenue and Zachary Taylor which was part of the old East Golf course is no longer designated for golf but will remain open for other uses. Because the Park does not receive any general tax revenue from the City or State, it is necessary to review ways to try to generate revenue and help maintain the rest of the Park. Golf has been a historic part of the Park; the first course opened in 1901. We held five public hearings since the plan was originally adopted, and at every hearing, this area has been designated as golf. Construction of the course is underway.

Chief Executive Officer Becker read the rules for receiving public comments and asked speakers to abide by those rules.

The Board allowed speakers to make public statements. The following is a list of speakers: Melissa Gray, Byron Almquist, Chris Boozer, Philip Garrett, Chris Lane, Kevin McDunn, Marilyn Eyer, Lauren Sullivan, Justin Kray, Clint Romig, III, Mike Ricci, Ashly Rose, Jerrell Hazlett, Caity Bower, Anthony Hart, Gavin Gillen, Benjamin Morris, Cate Irvin, Macqui Stavis, Sarah Rose, Keanan Cole, Adrian Bruneau, Ken Reynolds, Stephen Weller, Rebecca Rae, Molly Reid, Demetria Christo, Dawn Dedeaux, Lindsey Berger, Jean Martinolich, Ann Coviello, Steviera Blake, Kezia Kamentz, Julie Ray, Raymond Jackson, Denise Ondaro, and Kate Paxton

Becker thanked all the speakers for their comments.

Hess thanked all Commissioners for being patient and listening to all the comments, and noted that it is very important to have participation from the public.

In her President's Report, Hess reported that the ground breaking for golf was very successful and received lots of media coverage. Hess thanked all Board members who participated in the ground breaking. The dedication of the new Ladybug Roller Coaster for Board members and donors is scheduled for February 26.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported that the Amusement Park re-opens Saturday, February 28. Operating results for January were ahead of our plan; typically, we budget an operating loss in January and February.

Becker met with the new Assistant Secretary for State Parks to discuss implications of the State's budget crisis and he asked if we can assist in anyway.

All Committee reports with the exception of the Nominating Committee will be deferred to the March board meeting.

Committee Reports:

Nominating – According to the By-Laws, the President makes all appointments to the Committees with the exception of the Nominating Committee which is voted on by the Board. The Nominating Committee members are Edgar Chase, Karen Fernandez, and Dessa Giffin. The Board unanimously re-elected Commissioner Chase to a fourth term, Commissioner Fernandez and Commissioner Giffin to a third term and Commissioner Sloss, Seamon, and Claverie to a first term. President Hess thanked everyone for serving on the Committee.

New Business: A Resolution was unanimously adopted granting assurance that the Park will provide the matching funds for the Transportation Alternatives Program grant that we were awarded for the Parking Lot/Trailhead at the Forest.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 4:00p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Andrea LeGrand
Secretary