

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

PRESENT: Commissioners Chase, Claverie, Fernandez, Hess, Katz, Laborde, LeCorgne, McKay, McNeil, Palumbo, Pate, Pettus, Pineda, Powell, Schrenk, Sloss, Smith, Thomas, Thorpe, Tregre, and Waller

ABSENT: Commissioners Batt, Bingler, Guidry, Hollis, LaFranca, Masinter, McKeithen, Navarre, Payton, Seamon, Slone, Spears, Wisdom, and Williams

STAFF: Bob Becker, Kevin Cox, George Parker, John Hopper, Meg Adams, Rob DeViney and Denise Joubert

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Casie Duplechain and Andrea Legrand

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

President Hess welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Hess introduced new Board members; Bill LeCorgne, Stephen Pate, Mayra Pineda and welcomed back Larry Katz after a hiatus of one year. Hess also introduced Kathleen Smith and Adam McNeil as Friends appointee to the Board. Jackie Palumbo was also introduced moving from a Friends positions to an elected position. Hess also introduced the Officers for 2016; Steve Pettus, President-Elect; Edmund Schrenk, Vice-President; Ronnie Slone, Vice-President; Errol Laborde, Vice-President; Cleland Powell, Treasurer; and Elizabeth Sloss, Secretary. Hess noted that H. Britton Sanderford has resigned from the board; upon his resignation he sent the Park a check for \$25,000. Hess also shared a thank you note from Dessa Giffin expressing her appreciation and gratitude for having served on the Board for the last eight years.

The minutes of the December Board meeting were approved.

Hess asked all Commissioners to review the Board Committee Assignments and encouraged all Commissioners to sign up to serve on a Committee.

The State Ethics Commission will conduct it's routine ethics training on February 17 at 9:30am in Parkview Terrace.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported that operating results for November were slightly below plan. Becker noted we had a successful Celebration in the Oaks, despite weather conditions which was worse than last year. Celebration in the Oaks accounts for approximately 15% of the Park's yearly revenue. Governor Edwards indicated that he would

propose a 10% sweep of dedicated revenue, that is not protected by the Constitution. The money the Park receives from the slots at the Fair Grounds is not protected in the Constitution. If the proposal is passed he would sweep roughly \$200,000 from the Park.

Becker reported:

The China Light exhibits, as well as the artisans have started to arrive. The exhibit opens February 23.

In February, the “Big Red Rose” will be removed and the “Blue Rose” will be installed at the Festival Grounds.

Management held an evaluation of the City Putt attraction. It will be three years since its opening. While an unconditional success, we explored ways to improve our marketing, physical improvements, and programming options.

We received the permit from the Corps. Of Engineers for the work on the golf course.

The Park won an award from Off Beat Magazine, for the “Best Use of Local Music in Advertising” for our IHeartCityPark video. Becker thanked John Hopper and Amanda Frentz for their work on the video.

A Resolution was unanimously adopted to transfer a portion of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Associations investment, held at the Louisiana Asset Management Pool; and to deposit proceeds into a collateralized, and federally insured account with First NBC Bank. There it will earn a more competitive interest rate. Becker stated that the Louisiana Asset Management Pool is a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Louisiana; that allows only local government entities to take a participating interest in its pool of short-term, high quality investments.

#### *Committee Reports:*

P, A&E - Commissioner Edmund Schrenk updated the Board on various construction projects. Schrenk reported that the Committee met with the Louisiana Children’s Museum, and is hopeful that construction will begin in July. At the end of the month, test pilings will be driven at the site. The bids for the Maintenance building were received, and exceeded the budget. The State is working with the designers, and will rebid the project. Construction of the Tri-Centennial Place improvements is on schedule. The Solomon Group is working on landscaping and lighting at Pigeon Island, and the Harrison Circle. The committee met with the designers for the Golf Clubhouse and Maintenance building, and offered suggestions for design changes which were agreed upon. They hope to bid the project in a month.

CITO/Special Events – Julie LeCour, Director of Special Events for the last ten years gave a power point presentation which reviewed the events and responsibilities of her department.

Development – President Hess reviewed sponsorship opportunities for China Lights Festival, and asked that all board members help secure sponsorships for the Festival.

Finance & Audit – Commissioner Cleland Powell reported operating results for December were ahead of plan. Revenues and expenses were both more than budgeted. The entire Celebration in the Oaks event generated just over \$2.6 million in revenues, which was approximately \$27,000 more than last year. The audit will be presented to the board at the February meeting.

Friends – Commissioner Jackie Palumbo reported that membership is currently 4486, with a goal of 4600. Lark in the Park is scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup>, with the funds dedicated toward the expansion of the Conservatory. Sponsorships for Lark are currently at \$180,000. The Friends secured a car from Bryan Subaru, and a watch from Lee Michaels Fine Jewelry to be raffled. Palumbo thanked everyone for their support. Hess noted that the Friends of City Park fundraisers support capital expenditures; and Celebration in the Oaks supports operating expenses in the Park.

H&G/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss mentioned that over 13,000 tulips were planted around Big Lake, and 100 trees were planted on the Disc Golf course. The Park will partner with Parks and Parkways to plant new crepe myrtles along Wisner. Several palm trees have been removed due to the Texas Palm Decline. The committee discussed several new projects; which include improvements to the entrances to the Park, and improvements at Popp Bandstand.

Legal & Risk Management – No Report

Public Relations – Commissioner Laura Claverie reported that the Committee discussed upcoming Special Events. The signage for the Louisiana Children’s Museum is up at the site. The Parks website is on a content freeze thru April. The Park will host another photography contest in the Spring. The China Lights Festival is receiving lots of advertisement at several media outlets. The committee is updating the media list and requested for Commissioners to share their contacts.

Nominating – No Report

Sports- Commissioner Will Tregre reported the stadiums are home to more than 20 area High Schools. There are roughly 61 high school football games 125 high school soccer games played annually in both facilities. There are eleven other sports leagues that use various facilities. We still have a great demand for field space. The LHSAA State Soccer Championship games are being held in Tad Gormley at the end of February. The committee will prepare a wish list of improvements at existing fields. Lighting, parking as well as securing additional fields is a priority. Hess noted that that the monthly electric bill for the Park is very large. Becker noted that the Park is gradually transitioning the lighting to LED lights. The Park retained a firm through Life City to recommend ways to reduce the lighting bill. The North course repair work is complete and is getting ready to install additional drainage. Construction is slightly beyond the half way point on the new course.

Tennis – Commissioner Errol Laborde reported that text message alerts at Tennis are working well.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner David Waller reported that Allan Armitage is the speaker for the April 18 symposium. The Botanical Garden will be recognized by the Rex Organization with one of the floats in the parade, featuring the Enrique Alferez sculpture of the Water Maiden which is in the fountain outside the Pavilion.

**OTHER REPORTS:**

**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, February 23, 2016 at 4:00p.m.

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Denise Joubert  
Recording Secretary

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Elizabeth Sloss  
Secretary