

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, March 22, 2016, at 4:00pm by President Susan Hess. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Batt., Chase, Coulon, Fernandez, Hess, Hollis, Katz, Laborde, LaFranca, LeCorgne, Pate, Payton, Pettus, Pineda, Schrenk, Slone, Sloss, Spears, Thorpe, Tregre, and Waller

ABSENT: Commissioners Bingler, Claverie, Guidry, Masinter, McKeithen, McNeil, Navarre, Palumbo, Powell, Seamon, Smith, Thomas, Wisdom, and Williams

STAFF: Bob Becker, Kevin Cox, George Parker, Meg Adams, Rob DeViney, Liz Lowe, Geneva Marney, and Denise Joubert

COUNSEL: Michael DeShazo

GUESTS: Casie Duplechain, Brandi Smith, Jennifer Fuselier, Abir Tahbani, Sarah Abel, Topher Balfer and Andrea Legrand

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

President Hess welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Hess introduced Tim Coulon as the Senates appointee to the Board.

The minutes of the January Board meeting were approved.

Brandy Smith with Postlethwaite & Netterville, who is the independent auditor for the Park, presented the financial audit and delivered a positive report. Smith reported that there were no negative audit findings. The board unanimously voted to accept the audit report. Becker thanked P&N for their work on the audit.

In the President's Report, Susan Hess reported that the China Lights Festival is a fabulous show. Hess thanked Commissioner Cleveland Spears for sharing information about the Festival thru his regional network. The Public Art Ad-hoc committee met and is reviewing issues with existing and proposed piece of art.

The annual report should be available next month.

Prior to present the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker introduced Michael DeShazo, who is representing the Kinney law firm. Becker reported that operating results for February were ahead of plan despite the weather challenges we experienced. Revenues were higher and expenses were lower for the month. The China Lights exhibit is doing well despite challenging weather conditions on weekends. Commissioner Laborde asked if we plan to pursue

other entertainment shows to bring to the Park. Becker said we are looking into other shows that are offered by the company. At the end of 2015 our Endowment is approximately \$4 million. The goal is to reach \$5 million by 2018.

Becker noted that the Special Session of the Legislature ended, and the Park received \$99,000 less from our dedicated share of the State Slot tax. This is in addition to the \$110,000 which was reduced at the beginning of the year. For the FY 16-17 the Governor has recommended a cut of an additional \$339,000 from the fiscal year's allocation. Cuts of this magnitude cannot be sustained without implications to the services and facilities we provide. We will monitor the operating budget's process and provide regular status reports. Commissioner Tim Coulon asked if the Park's cuts were more substantial than other agencies. Becker said we are trying to understand how these cuts were made.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E - Commissioner Edmund Schrenk updated the Board on various construction projects. Schrenk reported that the adjusted bid documents for the Maintenance building should go out to bid in April. Hard Rock was awarded the bid for the parking lot associated with the Maintenance building. Construction of the Tri-Centennial Place improvements is near completion. The committee met with the designers for the Golf Clubhouse, and agreed upon the design changes that were discussed. They will apply for a permit and hope to begin the project soon.

CITO/Special Events – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported on upcoming events. Thorpe noted that “Once in a Brew Moon” was very successful. If anyone is interested in joining the Committee should contact Thorpe.

Development – Commissioner Ronnie Slone reported that the Committee is working on several fundraising projects. Slone noted that there are three board members currently participating in the Oak Tree Circle. To date we raised over \$46,000 in unrestricted funds. If any board member is interested in joining the Oak Tree Circle, it would count toward your year-end gift. The Committee is working on upcoming development gatherings.

Finance & Audit – Kevin Cox reported that year to date we are ahead of budget. The attendance for the China Lights Festival has been good despite inclement weather conditions. Management met with City Putt to discuss implementing marketing and operational strategies, to boost revenue.

Friends – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported that Lark in the Park was a tremendous success, with the funds dedicated toward the expansion of the Conservatory. Thorpe thanked the Board for their help and support, and asked all board members to pass along any feedback received. Friends currently have more than 4500 members.

H&G/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss reported that NOLA City Bark will celebrate its sixth anniversary and safety week on April 2, 3, 5 and 7. Lots of activities are scheduled for the week. The Committee is receiving bids to remove and replace the Overcup Oak trees along Roosevelt

Mall. The Committee is also working on landscaping plans to beautify the entrances to the Park. The will begin working on improvements at Popp Bandstand.

Legal & Risk Management – No Report

Public Relations – No Report

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 Laura Claverie, Karen Fernandez, and Ray Seamon. The Board unanimously elected Commissioner Katz, Batt, and Payton to a first term. President Hess thanked everyone for serving on the Committee.

Sports- Commissioner Will Tregre reported that Tad Gormley hosted the Sugar Bowl track meet featuring 1400athletes from 75 schools and 6 states. Tad Gormley also hosted the LHSAA State Soccer Championship games, and grossed roughly \$92,000 which is \$20,000 greater than last year. The North course repair and drainage work is complete, and play resumed last week. 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. We are in the process of reviewing Tad Gormley’s needs and the potential use of the stadium beyond football, soccer, and track.

Tennis – Commissioner Errol Laborde reported that they are working to secure the Sugar Bowl Tennis Tournament.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner David Waller reported that Allan Armitage is the speaker for the April 18 symposium. Construction of the Arrival Garden will begin in May when the China Lights Festival ends.

OTHER REPORTS:

Meg Adams, Construction Manager for the Park, along with her assistant Liz Lowe is responsible for Construction Management, GIS mapping and Sustainability in the Park. Adams gave a power point presentation reviewing the completed and upcoming construction projects, as well as ongoing sustainability efforts in the Park.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 4:00p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Elizabeth Sloss
Secretary