

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, May 26, 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, Bingler, Chase, Fernandez, Fierke, Guidry (represented by Michael Martin, Hess, Johnson, Laborde, LaFranca, LeGrand, Masinter, McKay, Palumbo, Powell, Schrenk, Seamon, Slone, Sloss, Spears, Tregre, and Wisdom

ABSENT: Commissioners Claverie, Giffin, Hales, Hoffman, Hollis, McKeithen, Payton, Pettus, Sanderford, Thorpe, Waller, and Williams

STAFF: Bob Becker, Kevin Cox, George Parker, John Hopper, Ginny Virgadamo, Billy Bayle, and Denise Joubert

GUESTS: Henry Kinney, Casie Duplechain, Chris Lane, Melissa Gray, and Jeff Katz

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

The April minutes were approved.

President Hess welcomed and thanked everyone for coming.

In her President's report, Hess congratulated Cleveland Spears for receiving a Career Achievement award at the sixth annual Asante awards. Hess reported "Tails but No Black Tie" and "Cork in the Park" were successful.

We held the first of our Katrina + 10 events dedicating ten trees along the pathway at the Festival Grounds.

Hess would like to appoint a committee to review policies in regards to smoking in the Park. If anyone is interested in serving on the committee they should contact Hess.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported that April's bad weather has had a negative impact on our financial performance. For the month we lost approximately \$170,000 to our plan. Nearly all of our revenue activities were negatively affected by the weather. We still expect to end the year with a positive balance. Fortunately we had a good Celebration in the Oaks which provided a cushion against bad weather.

The State received bids for the Tri-Centennial Place improvements, and is in the process of executing a contract to the low bidder. Bids for the Wisner Overpass came in over budget and are being examined by State officials.

We have completed the budget hearings for the FY 15-16 operating budget and management's recommendations will be presented at the June board meeting.

Becker attended the first meeting of the Tri-Centennial Commission, where he will serve on the "Signature Events and Hospitality Committee." The Committee expects all of 2018 to be celebrated as the "birthday year" and will keep everyone updated as plans become more specific.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E - Commissioner Edmund Schrenk reported that Cobalt Construction was the low bidder for improvements in the Tri-Centennial area. The committee met with the designers of the Children's Museum to review the schematic design. Additional information is needed before the design is approved.

CITO/Special Events – Commissioner Andrea LeGrand updated the Board on upcoming events. A new event, June under the Moon, is scheduled for June 5 in the Amusement Park. The Marine band is scheduled to perform on July 3 on the Goldring/Woldenberg Great Lawn.

Development – Commissioner Ronnie Slone reported that there are 18 members in the Oak Tree Circle which raised over \$25,000 in unrestricted funds. Planned Giving e-letters were sent out and over 8,600 were opened. If any board member is interested in joining the Oak Tree Circle it would count toward your year-end gift. John Hopper reported that 15 bike rack stations are being installed throughout the Park. Hopper thanked The Jones Foundation for their \$50,000 donation for improvements in the Park. A donor is funding renovations to the Rugby Field located on Diagonal Drive.

Finance & Audit – Becker reported that the committee reviewed management's recommendations on the FY 15-16 operating budget, which will be presented at the June board meeting. Commissioner Edgar Chase noted the budget process is very thorough.

Friends – Commissioner Jackie Palumbo reported several board members attended a day at the State Legislature, and would like this to become an annual event. President Hess thanked the Friends for their support and assistance with the outreach day.

H&G/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss updated the board on various projects. Sloss reported that construction of the new garden entrance and sculpture garden is on schedule. The project will be completed for Magic in the Moonlight. "The Wave" sculpture is being installed at Big Lake and should be completed within 3 weeks. Wildflowers have been planted in several areas in the Festival Grounds. The Chinese Lantern Festival is scheduled for February – May, 2016. A meeting is scheduled with representative from NOMA to discuss ideas to enhance the front of the Museum. 101 Donations, NOLA City Bark's fundraiser for improvements at the Dog Park, will be held August 21st in the Arbor Room.

Legal & Risk Management – Commissioner Paul Masinter reported that the committee is working on the contract for China Light festival as well as reviewing on-going legal issues.

Becker reported a lawsuit has been filed in regards to a train accident approximately one year ago in the Amusement Park.

Public Relations – John Hopper reported the Committee discussed upcoming City Park Katrina +10 activities which include large photo boards at Big Lake showing before and after Katrina photos. These boards will be in place June through September of this year. The Park will also host a Thank You party for donors and volunteers this summer.

Nominating – No Report

Sports- Commissioner Will Tregre reported that a meeting took place with the BDF in regards to the damaged greens on the North Course. Several options were presented to repair or reconstruct the greens. The committee will evaluate the options and make a recommendation to the Board.

Tennis – Commissioner Errol Laborde reported that Friday night tennis socials have been well received.

Botanical Garden Foundation – No Report

OTHER REPORTS: Becker reviewed the 2015 Visitors Study. Highlights include favorable response to the Park's activities, as well as an increase in visitors to the Park. The survey also noted that nearly all visitors usually travel to the park by car.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Report

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Tom Fierke reported the Non Flood board is interested in hosting a Fall Festival at the South Shore Harbor. A bill that was introduced to change the composition of the board, and eliminate several positions has been withdrawn.

PUBLIC COMMENT: 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: Chris Lane, Melissa Gray, and Jeff Katz. Becker thanked all the speakers for their comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, 2015 at 4:00p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Andrea LeGrand
Secretary