

## 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, November 24, 2015, at 4:00p.m. by President Susan Hess. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Batt, Bingler, Chase, Claverie, Fernandez, Fierke, Giffin, Guidry (represented by Megan Langlois), Hales, Hess, Hoffman, Laborde, LaFranca, LeGrand, Masinter, Palumbo, Pettus, Schrenk, Slone, Sloss, Spears, Thomas, Tregre, Waller and Wisdom

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Bingler, Hollis, Johnson, McKay, McKeithen, Payton, Powell, Sanderford, Seamon, Thorpe and Williams

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

**COUNSEL:** Henry Kinney

**GUESTS:** Ashleigh Berryhill and Alicia Serrano

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

President Hess welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Hess will host a Board holiday party on December 17 at her home.

The minutes of the October board meeting were approved.

In her President's report, Hess reported that the dedication of the Enrique Alferez Sculpture Garden, and the Oscar J. Tolmas center were very successful.

President Hess thanked Commissioners Andrea LeGrand, Ronnie Slone, Laura Claverie and past board member Jane Brooks, who participated in a planting day for the new Garden Entrance project.

Hess thanked Commissioner Dessa Giffin for hosting a Development gathering at the Guidry's home. If anyone is interested in hosting a donor party let Hess know.

The Celebration in the Oaks preview party, Jingle Bells and Beer, and the Family party were all very successful.

President Hess reminded all Commissioners that Ethics and Sexual Harassment training is due by December 31.

Hess thanked Commissioner Andy Wisdom and the RosaMary Foundation, for their gift of \$261,000 to the park; via the creation of a donor advised fund at the Greater New Orleans Foundation.

Starting in January; Hess will invite a department Director to attend the board meetings and give a brief presentation about their responsibilities at the Park.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported that the operating results for October were as budgeted, despite difficult weather conditions. October is budgeted to break even as we head into the holiday season.

The Voodoo Music Experience was held over the Halloween weekend. The event experienced catastrophic rainfall which resulted in the cancellation of the Sunday performances; and extensive damage to the Festival Grounds. The Park is in the process of repairing the damage, and re-seeding a large part of the grounds. Voodoo has agreed to pay for the repairs to the grounds.

We have been informed by the artist of the “Big Rose” that the sculpture has been sold, and will be removed in a few weeks. We have begun discussions about a replacement piece.

President Hess reported that the Adhoc Smoking Committee met and approved the revised resolution in regards to smoking in City Park. Becker reviewed the revised resolution regarding the regulation or prohibition of smoking in City Park. The Committee recommends that smoking be prohibited in Storyland and City Putt; and strongly discouraged in other areas of the Park. The Committee also deleted the provision that would grant the CEO of the Park the authority to prohibit the use of smoking in other areas of the Park. If new areas are considered, the CEO would report back to the board for approval. Also, vaping was added to the list of tobacco products prohibited by the Ordinance. After a brief discussion, the Board unanimously adopted the Resoulution.

#### *Committee Reports:*

P, A&E - Commissioner Edmond Schrenk reported the Committee approved the design development drawings for the Louisiana Children’s Museum; but requested additional information on several items. The Splash Park project will go out to bid after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year. The bids for the Maintenance building were received, and exceeded the budget. The State will work with the designers and rebid the project. Construction of the Tri-Centennial Place improvements is on schedule. The Wisner overpass is scheduled to close December 9.

CITO/Special Events – Commissioner Andrea LeGrand reported all three Celebration in the Oaks parties were very successful. The event will open every night beginning December 4 through Jan 2. There will be four trains operating at the event.

Development – Commissioner Ronnie Slone thanked Commissioner Dessa Giffin for coordinating the Development gathering at the Guidry’s home. The Committee is working on sponsorships for the China Light Festival.

Finance & Audit – Commissioner Steve Pettus reported that operating results for October were \$5,000 less than plan. Through the first 4 months of the year, cumulative results were ahead of budget by \$80,000

Friends – Commissioner Jackie Palumbo reported that Friends has committed a \$10,000 sponsorship for the China Light Festival. Palumbo noted that there are currently more than 4,300 members. Lark in the Park is scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup>, with the funds dedicated toward the expansion of the Conservatory. Capital One and Bryan Subaru are sponsors of Lark.

H&G/Dog Park – No Report

Legal & Risk Management – Commissioner Paul Masinter reported that the committee is reviewing ongoing legal issues. Masinter noted that the judge dismissed the lawsuit for the golf course against City Park but the suit still exists for FEMA.

Public Relations – Commissioner Karen Fernandez reported that the Park received great media coverage for the dedications of the Enrique Alferez and Oscar J. Tolmas Center. Fernandez noted that website users are up 9% this October compared to October 2014 and more than 60,000 people like City Park on Facebook.

Nominating – The Board voted unanimously to elect Steve Pettus, President-Elect; Edmund Schrenk, Vice-President; Ronnie Slone, Vice-President; Errol Laborde, Vice-President; Cleland Powell, Treasurer; and Elizabeth Sloss, Secretary. The Board also voted unanimously to elect Will Tregre, Karen Fernandez, Cleland Powell, and Elizabeth Sloss to serve a second four-year term on the Board and Jackie Palumbo, Larry Katz, Stephanie Rhodes Navarre, Myra Pineda, Stephen Pate, and William LeCorgne were elected for six of the open at-large positions on the Board. Commissioner Chase noted that Commissioner Elizabeth Sloss resigned from the Nominating Committee to serve as Secretary of the Board. Hess thanked Chase and all members of the Nominating Committee for their hard work.

Sports- Commissioner Will Tregre reported that the last football play-off game will be held Friday at Tad Gormley. Tregre noted that the P, A&E Committee will work on providing a maintenance assessment at various facilities thru-out the Park. Becker noted that construction of the new golf course is on schedule. They are installing drainage to prepare the area for grassing in April. The course is projected to be completed by February, 2017.

Tennis – Commissioner Errol Laborde encouraged all Board Members to visit the Pro Shop, which has lots of great merchandise.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner David Waller reported that construction of the Arrival Garden will begin May, 2016. The Conservatory expansion has been submitted to the State as part of the Capital Outlay bill. Ashley Bright and Sarah Young are the co-chairs for

Magic in the Moonlight. Allan Armitage is the speaker for the April 19 symposium. Hess noted that we are in the process of accumulating information on all fundraisers held in the Park, when completed the report will be distributed to all Commissioners. Commissioner Steve Bingler suggested that opportunities for donations be included in the report.

OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Report

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Paul Masinter thanked Counsel Henry Kinney for his work on the lawsuit.

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, December 15, 2015 at 4:00p.m.

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Denise Joubert  
Recording Secretary

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Andrea LeGrand  
Secretary