

## 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, September 22, 2015, at 4:00p.m. by President Susan Hess. The meeting was held in the Pavilion of Two Sisters.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Batt, Chase, Claverie, Fernandez, Fierke, Guidry, Hales, Hess, Hollis, Johnson, Laborde, LaFranca, LeGrand, Masinter, McKay, Palumbo, Pettus, Powell, Schrenk, Slone, Sloss, Spears, Thorpe, Tregre and Waller

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Binger, Giffin, Hoffman, McKeithen, Payton, Sanderford, Seamon, Williams, and Wisdom

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

**COUNSEL:** Henry Kinney

**GUESTS:** Casie Duplechain, Larry Katz and Ben Myers

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

President Hess welcomed and thanked everyone for coming.

The minutes of the July board meeting were approved.

In her President's report, Hess mentioned the passing of Beau Bassich who was a tremendous asset to the Park. Beau designated City Park as a recipient of donations in his memory.

The contract for China Light has been signed and the project is moving forward.

Voodoo Festival is scheduled for October 30, 31 and Nov. 1.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported that for the first month of the new fiscal year revenues exceeded expectations but expenses were greater than budgeted.

Becker also reported:

- Work has been completed on the renovation of the North Course greens. Play should resume on October 2.
- He and President Hess met with Mayor Landrieu and briefed him on the Park's progress and various park initiatives. Mayor Landrieu briefed us on the status of the City's finances.
- Work continues on schedule on the new Garden entrance and the Alferéz Sculpture Garden.

- Hundreds of volunteers participated in the park on the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina as part of the “Day of Service” program throughout the City.
- Becker noted the passing of Beau Bassich who served as the volunteer Executive Director of the Board, and donated his services to the Park for \$1.00 per year. He was responsible for a wide variety of park projects, including the renovation of our historic carousel and, the Park’s archives. Beau also served as the unofficial historian of City Park. Beau was solely responsible for keeping up with the board minute books dating back to 1891. His passing is a great loss for the Park, and he will be greatly missed by the board and the staff.

Becker reviewed the resolution regarding the regulation or prohibition of smoking in City Park. As a result of the Ordinance passed by the New Orleans City Council and the Park’s mission of promoting healthy lifestyles, the Executive Committee recommends that smoking be prohibited in Storyland and City Putt; and strongly discouraged in other areas of the Park. The Resolution also grants the CEO of the Park the authority to prohibit the use of smoking in other areas of the Park.

Several Commissioners addressed the Board with several concerns in regards to the Resolution. President Hess recommended delaying voting on the Resolution at this meeting, and Becker will distribute information collected on this matter to provide additional background to the Board. Hess suggested that if anyone has any concerns or suggestions email her or Bob.

*Committee Reports:*

P, A&E - Commissioner Edmond Schrenk reported that the schematic design for the Louisiana Children’s Museum was approved at a joint Executive/Planning, Architectural and Engineering Committee meeting. The committee reviewed and approved the schematic designs for the golf clubhouse. The clubhouse should be completed by November, 2016. The Committee agreed to engage a landscape architect for Pigeon Island to develop a decorative lighting plan for the island. The Committee also reviewed the Morning Call bus parking plan. Construction of the Tri-Centennial Place improvements is on schedule. At a previous meeting, Schrenk discussed filing an application for a Hazard Mitigation grant; which would allow us to re-engineer the drainage system in the Park, and help mitigate damage in adjacent communities. The grant application has been submitted but is still under review.

CITO/Special Events – Commissioner Andrea LeGrand reported on upcoming events. Julie LaCour, Natalie Weiss and Jackie Sullivan are going to view the China Light Exhibit in Spokane. Work continues on sponsorships and events for Celebration in the Oaks.

Development – Commissioner Ronnie Slone reported that the committee did not meet. John Hopper reported that the work at the Peristyle has been completed. Commissioner Dessa Giffin will host a development gathering on November 12. Earl Sires, the Volunteer Coordinator has resigned and we are in the process of recruiting a replacement.

Finance & Audit – Commissioner Steve Pettus reported that the Committee reviewed the financials for July and August, and noted expenses were higher than budgeted.

Friends – Commissioner Jackie Palumbo reported on upcoming events. Palumbo reported that Martini Madness was very successful. Ghost In The Oaks is scheduled for October 23, 24 and 25.

H&G/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss updated the board on various projects. Several palm trees on the Great Lawn were lost to the Texas Palm decline. In addition, there are over 26 palm trees within the Park that have been removed due to the disease. Becker noted that the palm trees at the Pepsi Tennis Center have not been affected. Removal of the Indian Hawthorns on Lelong Drive will begin in October. The committee discussed a parking plan for the buses at Morning Call. Commissioner Edmund Schrenk reported that 101 Donations, NOLA City Park's fundraiser, netted \$35,000.

Legal & Risk Management – Commissioner Paul Masinter reported that the committee is reviewing on-going legal issues.

Public Relations – Commissioner Karen Fernandez reported that the Park received great media coverage in August for several events. The dedication of “The Wave” is scheduled for October 6 at Big Lake.

Nominating – Commissioner Edgar Chase reported that the committee has been interviewing possible candidates to serve on the Board. Recommendations will be presented at the October board meeting. President Hess thanked the Committee for their hard work.

Sports- Commissioner Will Tregre reported that the work has been completed on the North Course green and expect to reopen on October 2. Football and Cross Country are in week 4 and going well. The widening of the rugby field is near completion. Maintenance issues at the Matt Savoie Soccer Complex are being addressed. Commissioner Tregre was encouraged by the diverse group of people in attendance at the the Driving Range.

Tennis – Commissioner Errol Laborde reported that the text message alerts at Tennis are working well. The committee discussed the possibility of expanding the courts along the lagoon for Pickle Ball.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner David Waller reported that the construction of the new garden entrance, and sculpture garden are on schedule. Magic in the Moonlight is scheduled for October 16. The Conservatory expansion has been submitted to the State as part of the Capital Outlay bill.

**OTHER REPORTS:**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** No Report

NEW BUSINESS: Becker reported that the Wisner overpass is scheduled to close November 2. Commissioner Errol Laborde stated that the new PA system is working well. Becker commended David Carpenter for setting up the new system.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 27, 2015 at 4:00p.m.

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Denise Joubert  
Recording Secretary

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Andrea LeGrand  
Secretary