

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 28, 2017, at 4:00pm by President Steve Pettus. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Arnold, Bingler, Chase, Claverie, Guidry (represented by Leatrice Dupree), Hollis, Katz, LeCorgne, Lupo, Masinter, McNeil, Navarre, Offner, Payton, Pettus, Pineda, Savoie, Schrenk, Seamon, Slone, Sloss, Smith, and Thorpe

ABSENT: Commissioners Batt, Cahn, Coulon, Hess, McKeithen, Pate, Powell, Spears, Thomas, Tregre, Waller, Williams, and Wisdom

STAFF: Bob Becker, John Hopper, Meg Adams, Kevin Cox, and Denise Joubert

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Claire Byun, Andrea Legrand, Brandy Smith, and Jennifer Fuselier

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

President Pettus welcomed everyone, and thanked them for coming. Pettus thanked all Commissioners for signing up to serve on a Committee.

The minutes of the February Board meeting were approved.

Anyone wishing to comment on any item on the agenda must sign the sign-in sheet and indicate what item they wish to comment on.

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. Pettus thanked Kevin Cox and his staff, as well as P&N, for their work on the audit.

In his President’s Report, Pettus reported that operating results for the month of February were ahead of plan. Revenues were lower and expenses were less than budgeted for the month.

Pettus reported on the following:

- The Annual Meeting of the City Park Improvement Association was held this morning. Becker reviewed the status of City Park’s Master Plan at the meeting
- He thanked Commissioner Steven Bingler for hosting a development gathering at his home
- He attended a meeting with the BDF to discuss the grill operator for the Clubhouse

- He attended various editorial board meetings of various media outlets in preparation for the opening of the new golf course

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Bob Becker also thanked Commissioner Steven Bingler, and his wife, for hosting a development gathering. Anyone interested in hosting a gathering should contact John Hopper for information.

Becker thanked the Athletic staff for hosting the Sugar Bowl Track and Field Championships, despite inclement weather conditions.

Commissioner Robert Lupo, and Rob DeViney attended several meetings with the police department concerning their request for additional space to raise foals. Becker mentioned that the police previously bred the horses at Angola, but are now breeding foals on the grounds at their facility.

Becker mentioned that January and February are very difficult months from a revenue perspective, causing us to budget to lose over \$1 million for those months. Year to date we are almost exactly on budget.

Pettus congratulated Becker for a wonderful presentation on golf, at the Editorial board for NOLA.com.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E - Commissioner Robert Lupo updated the Board on various projects. The Committee reviewed the comments and suggestions for the Wisner Tract, and Management is putting together the recommendations, to be presented to the board. Anyone wishing to discuss the recommendations in person should contact Becker.

Lupo reported that the substantial completion of the golf course was approved on March 14. The fencing for the course has been approved by the State. The fence will run along all Wisner, Harrison, and portions of Filmore. The Clubhouse is scheduled to be completed by the opening of the course. Completion of the Maintenance building is scheduled for June. Renovation of the old Maintenance building is expected to go out to bid next month. Lupo noted that the CFO for the Orleans Parish School Board stated that the board will hold off on the disposal of the JFK site, prior to the completion of their Master Plan.

CITO/Special Events – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe updated the Board on upcoming events. Thorpe reported that the annual Fishing Rodeo was successful.

Development – Commissioner Larry Katz, Laura Claverie and Bill LeCorgne will co-chair a campaign to primarily support the endowment.

Finance & Audit – As previously mentioned, due to normal seasonality, we budget to lose money in January and February following December, which is the month we generate the most

net income for the year. In addition, Commissioner Schrenk provided a special report on the total financial impact to the Park from the VooDoo Experience. Because we do not operate the Amusement Park during the day on that weekend, as well as not scheduling any functions in our event facilities, we lose revenue. However, we avoid related operating expenses that reduces the net revenue loss between the 2 departments. Offsetting those losses in revenues is a new evening special event in the Amusement Park, that benefits from VooDoo and generates net income of approximately \$30,000, in addition to the rent from VooDoo, which is \$100,000. Therefore, the total operating impact is a plus \$70,000. In addition, City Park has a Taxing District (TIF) that allows us to recover a portion of the City's sales tax generated from activities in the park. We estimate VooDoo adds \$200,000 to \$250,000 in TIF revenues, which is available for us to use on capital projects. Therefore, the total financial impact of VooDoo to City Park is approximately \$270,000 to \$320,000.

Friends – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported that there are currently more than 5,100 members. Thorpe thanked everyone for attending Lark in the Park, and noted that they should reach their goal of \$300,000. The funds are dedicated towards the replacement of the turf field at Tad Gormley Stadium. The Saints have agreed to donate the proceeds from the 5K season opener race to Friends, earmarked for Tad Gormley stadium. The Friends have secured a Subaru Outback to be raffled on July 19th at Friends Fest. Board members are not eligible to participate in the raffle. Commissioner Claverie and Hollis mentioned that Lark in the Park was a phenomenal event, with so much imagination and energy. Becker and Pettus commended Commissioner Thorpe, and Casie Duplechain for an amazing event and making the right call to hold the event as scheduled when bad weather threatened.

H&G/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss updated the Board on various projects. Becker reported that the Dog Park celebrated its 7th anniversary, and the dedication of the new free library. Sloss noted that work to restore Popp Bandstand is ongoing, but trash/crawfish in the garden continues to be a problem. A brief discussion took place in regards to focusing on ways to resolve the trash issues in the Park.

Legal & Risk Management – Commissioner Paul Masinter reminded everyone that the Personal Financial Disclosure forms are due in Baton Rouge by May 15. Masinter reported that the Committee discussed the possibility of City Park Police becoming Park Wardens. The Committee also discussed the placement of defibrillators at various facilities in the Park. Becker credited Errol Laborde and Commissioner Edgar Chase for their persistence to have defibrillators in the Park.

Public Relations – Commissioner Laura Claverie reported that there has been a lot of great media coverage focused on the opening of the new golf course. The Committee is working with the Botanical Garden to promote the fundraiser “Response 2017” through social media. Claverie read several notes that were received through other media sites reflecting on visits to the Park.

Nominating – No Report

Sports- Commissioner Bill LeCorgne reviewed the schedule of events for the opening of the new golf course. The Committee also discussed the replacement of the turf field at Tad Gormley which has reached the end of its life span.

Tennis – Commissioner Edgar Chase reported that the Committee focused on the implementation of the goals for 2017. The Committee discussed hosting a diversity tournament in 2018, in conjunction with Black History Month. The Committee will work to secure outside sponsors to help with the event.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner Liz Sloss reported that a new fundraiser in the Botanical Garden titled “Response 2017” is scheduled for March 28-31, 2017. Approximately 70 artists will paint scenes in the Park and the Garden. They will then be sold at an auction in the Pavilion. Fifty percent of the proceeds will go to the Botanical Garden.

Sustainability Committee – Commissioner Steve Bingler reported that Earth Day is scheduled for April 25. The staff met with golf course management personnel to confirm that Audubon Sanctuary compliance is underway. The lagoon survey as well as the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation water quality testing report is complete.

OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 4:00p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Ronnie Slone
Secretary