

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 27, 2018, at 4 p.m. by President Steve Pettus. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Bingler, Cahn, Claverie, Dale, Hess, Katz, LeCorgne, Leger, Lupo, McNeil, Navarre, Pettus, Pineda, Powell, Savoie, Seamon, Sloss, Spears, Thomas, and Tregre

ABSENT: Commissioners Arnold, Balart, Batt, Guidry, Hollis, Masinter, McCrossen, Messer, Offner, Pate, Slone, Thorpe, Waller, and Williams

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

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Andrea Legrand, Casie Duplechain, Tom Fierke

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

Steve Pettus, President of the NOCPIA Board of Commissioners, called the meeting to order.

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.

The minutes of the January and February Board meetings were approved.

The Board watched a video highlighting several activities that took place in the Park over the weekend which included the All State Sugar Bowl track and field meet, the Easter Egg Hunt, and the Big Bass Fishing Rodeo.

In his President's Report, Pettus reported the following:

- He thanked everyone that participated in the strategic planning session. We are in the process of finalizing the results.
- He mentioned that in House Bill #2 the funds were put back into the construction budget for the Maintenance Complex. No other funds were provided for any of our other projects.
- He thanked Commissioner Leigh Thorpe, Casie Duplechain, and Jennifer Montgomery for a successful Lark in the Park. The funds are designated to the renovations of the Casino Building.
- He reminded everyone that the Personal Financial Disclosure forms are due in Baton Rouge by May 15.

- He encouraged everyone to read the Park's Visitor Study.

Pettus introduced Tom Fierke a former board member who serves on the board of the Non-Flood Protection Asset Management Authority as City Park's appointment. Fierke gave a brief history of the operation of the non-flood board. The board voted unanimously to re-elect Fierke as the Park's representative for an additional four year term.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Bob Becker reported that operating results for February were below plan mostly due to extremely poor weather conditions. Management is continuing to implement controls which year to date have yielded a savings of over \$1.3 million. Through the first eight months of the year cumulative results were approximately (475,000) below plan.

He reported:

- We held the Annual Meeting of the City Park Improvement Association and reviewed the status of City Park's Master Plan.
- The Special Session of the Legislature has ended and did not take any action detrimental to the Park. The Regular Session of the Legislature has begun and we will monitor their activities. Several bills were introduced to regulate sports betting. Some of the bills call for a constitutional election to permit sports betting. It seems that the Legislature is moving to authorize a constitutional election to permit sports betting. The Park has expressed an interested in participating in the process.
- He and Commissioner Larry Katz gave a briefing on the status of the Park to the Jefferson Parish Legislative Delegation at the Capital.
- He attended a forum sponsored by Louisiana Landmarks on the state of New Orleans Parks.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E – Commissioner Robert Lupo updated the Board on various projects. Waggoner and Ball gave a presentation on potential uses of the old Maintenance building and opportunities that may exist that will create additional self-generated revenue. A discussion ensued about the value of open green space in the Park.

CITO/Special Events – No Report

Development – Commissioner Larry Katz mentioned that John Hopper and Lindsey Loyd are seeking sponsorships for the renovation of the exhibits in Storyland. The architect gave a presentation to the Committee of the exhibit designs. The exhibits range from \$25,000 to \$150,000. Katz thanked Commissioners Jay Batt, Steve Pettus, and Lori Savoie for agreeing to host a development gathering. Katz also thanked Commissioners Richard Cahn and Ray Seamon for agreeing to host a gathering in the Summer. He noted that if anyone has a potential prospect to invite them to any of the upcoming gatherings. Commissioner Robert Lupo requested a list of possible prospects that the Development team has contacted for future donations.

Environmental Stewardship – Commissioner Robert Thomas mentioned that we are entering the season of bird migration. He reviewed the following upcoming events.

April 14 – Bio Blitz

April 24 - Earth Day

Finance & Audit – Commissioner Will Tregre reported that we are below budget due to inclement weather conditions and will continue to control expenses. Kevin Cox mentioned that Golf, Amusements, Catering, and Celebration in the Oaks are the major sources of self-generated revenue and they missed their revenue targets for the month. The Executive Committee has requested a complete analysis of revenue/expenses for Tad Gormley Stadium.

Friends – Casie Duplechain reported that Friends currently have more than 5,100 members. Duplechain noted that Lark in the Park was a tremendous success, with the funds dedicated toward the renovation of the Casino Building. She thanked the Board for their help and support. The Friends have secured a Subaru that will be raffled at Friends Fest, which is scheduled for July 18 in the Carousel Gardens Amusement Park. The Historical Musical Train Preview Tours will begin on April 20 and the official opening day is May 11.

H&G Committee/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss reported that the Heart of the Park hat luncheon will be held on April 11 in the Arbor Room. Half of the proceeds will go towards maintenance for the trees in the Park. On Sunday, April 22, we will be partnering with Gambit to host a “dog parade” around the NOLA City Bark grounds to celebrate the New Orleans Tri-centennial. We are also working to restore the Sun Dial and recapturing green space around the Casino Building.

Legal & Risk Management – No Report

Public Relations – Commissioner Laura Claverie reported that the Park is rebranding the snowball stand by City Putt. The Park is moving forward with another photography contest. Photographs are often used for social media. The Committee is looking to secure donations for the contest. Claverie thanked Commissioner Katz and Commissioner Pettus for their donation.

Nominating – Commissioner Ray Seamon mentioned that he met with Ben Johnson of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce in regards to their appointee to the Board. He also spoke with Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser about the Department of Culture Recreation and Tourism’s appointee to the Board. He met with Guy Williams of Gulf Coast Bank about the possibility of serving on the board in 2019.

Sports – Commissioner Will Tregre updated the Board on Tad Gormley Stadium improvements; the turf has been replaced, the track has been restriped, we are requesting estimates for the restrooms and locker rooms to be painted, the press box roof has been replaced and we are currently taking estimates to refurbish the interior of the press box. We are adding handicap parking spaces to the interior lot at Tad Gormley. The Park is in discussions with the YMCA and Ochsner about a possible partnership at Tad Gormley. The South Golf Course play is up and we expect to exceed

the number of rounds that were projected. The North Golf Course is still experiencing drainage issues. They are hosting a brunch on Easter Sunday. We are developing a Halloween event which would be similar to the Haunted House event held by the Sheriff. The new event would be on Scout Island. We are looking at temporarily moving the soccer leagues to the field on the corner of Marconi and Harrison.

Tennis – Commissioner Cleland Powell reported that USTA declared the 2017 Allstate Sugar Bowl tournament the number 1 tournament in the South. The 2018 tournament will be a USTA National Level Tournament. We will get the top 32 ranked players in the US in each age group.

Botanical Garden Foundation – No Report

OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 4 p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Ronnie Slone
Secretary