

## 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, December 13, 2016, at 4:00pm by President Susan Hess. The meeting was held in the Arbor Room.

PRESENT: Commissioners Batt, Chase, Claverie, Coulon, Guidry, Hess, Hollis, Katz, LaFranca, LeCorgne, Masinter, McNeil, Palumbo, Pate, Pettus, Pineda, Powell, Schrenk, Seamon, Slone, Sloss, Smith, Spears, Thorpe, Tregre and Waller

ABSENT: Commissioners Bingler, Laborde, McKeithen, Navarre, Payton, Thomas, Williams, and Wisdom

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

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Casie Duplechain, Rob Worley, Mary Coulon, Bill Hess, Richard Cahn, Sarah Offner, Andrea Legrand, Sam Farnet

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

President Hess welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

The minutes of the November Board meeting were approved.

President Hess presented the President's Award to several individuals for their outstanding support of the Park. The recipients were:

Rob Worley                      Support of City Park tennis and efforts to bring back the Sugar Bowl Tennis tournament.

Sam Farnet                      Support of the Park through a variety of gifts and commitment to the Park's future.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Bob Becker reported that we do not have definitive financials due to timing of the Board meeting. Becker noted that we had 13 days of Celebration in the Oaks. The weather was good the first weekend but due to inclement weather conditions the second weekend we are slightly below the budget goal.

Rob DeViney, Steve Pettus and Bob Becker met with the new commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Police District and discussed park events and cooperative relations with the District.

Federal District Judge Vance has dismissed the lawsuit filed by the Coalition against FEMA over the adequacy of their environmental review of the new golf course.

Becker thanked Susan Hess for her leadership and dedication as President and that it has been great working with her.

A Resolution was presented to the Board adopting the Louisiana compliance questionnaire, which is part of our annual audit. The Board unanimously adopted the Resolution.

*Committee Reports:*

P, A&E - Commissioner Edmund Schrenk reported that the Committee did not meet. Schrenk noted that in 2017 the Committee will focus on public safety by the soccer fields on Marconi. The Committee will also discuss the future of the 250 acres north of I-610. Work continues on the Golf Clubhouse.

CITO/Special Events – No Report

Development – Commissioner Ronnie Slone reported that the Committee did not meet but noted that the year-end appeal has been sent out and we are expecting good results.

Finance & Audit – Commissioner Cleland Powell recognized Patti Todd for putting on a wonderful Tennis tournament.

Friends – Commissioner Jackie Palumbo reported that Leigh Thorpe will be the new President of Friends. Palumbo noted that in December they reached a milestone with currently over 5000 members. Work has begun on Lark in the Park which is scheduled for March 10. Palumbo thanked Capital One, Bryan Subaru, the Oscar Tolmas Foundation, and Lee Michaels for sponsoring the event. The funds are dedicated towards the replacement of the turf field at Tad Gormley Stadium. The event chairs are: Aimee Gowland and Corrie Pellerin, and the honorary chairs will be the Jerry Romig Family.

H&G/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss reported that there are 2350 permit holders of the Dog Park. Sloss thanked Edmund and Kathy Schrenk for their donation of the Little Free Library in the Dog Park. Sloss also congratulated Dan Preziosi on his promotion as Director of Grounds. Sloss noted that Crepe Myrtles trees have been planted at the corner of Filmore and Wisner and that Cypress trees have been planted at the corner of Marconi and Filmore. Discussions have begun in regards to the restoration of Popp Bandstand.

Legal & Risk Management – Commissioner Paul Masinter thanked Henry Kinney for his assistance with the golf course lawsuit.

Public Relations – No Report

Nominating – Commissioner Ray Seamon thanked all the members that serve on the Committee. President Hess thanked Seamon and the Committee for their hard work. Hess introduced new Board Members Richard Cahn and Sarah Offner.

#### Sports- No Report

Tennis – Commissioner Edgar Chase reported that this is Commissioner Errol Laborde’s last board meeting. Chase noted that during his term Laborde was responsible for the implementation of text message alerts, working to explore options for pickle ball as well as expanding the tennis courts to incorporate the lagoon area. Chase thanked him for his leadership.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner David Waller reported that we are in the process of planning a new fundraiser for the Botanical Garden Response 2017: Artist in the Park Art exhibition and auction. March 27 – 31 in the Garden Study Center. It is a plen air style art event. Approximately 50 artists will paint scenes in the Park and the Garden from March 28-31, 2017. They will then be sold at an auction on the 31st in the Pavilion.

Sustainability Committee – Becker reported that the Committee is focused on measuring and reporting metrics. Hundreds of Volunteers will count the different types of species in the Park. Hess thanked Commissioner Bob Thomas for his vision.

Hess thanked Bob Becker and Denise Joubert for their help during her term as President. Hess also thanked of the Committee Chairs and Board Members. Hess reflected on her term as President and mentioned all the accomplishments over the last two years.

Hess recognized outgoing Board Members Tim LaFranca, Jackie Palumbo, and Errol Laborde. President Hess thanked them for their outstanding service to the Board and distributed commemorative plaques.

Commissioner Steve Pettus recognized Susan Hess as outgoing President and presented her with a plaque thanking her for her hard work, leadership, and passion as President of the Board. Becker also thanked Hess and all departing members for their leadership and support.

#### OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Report

#### NEW BUSINESS:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 4:00p.m.

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Denise Joubert  
Recording Secretary

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Elizabeth Sloss  
Secretary