

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, October 25, 2016, at 4:00pm by President Susan Hess. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Batt, Bingler, Chase, Claverie, Coulon, Hess, Hollis, Katz, Laborde, LaFranca, Pate, Pettus, Schrenk, Seamon, Slone, Smith, Thomas, Thorpe, and Tregre

ABSENT: Commissioners Guidry, LeCorgne, Masinter, McKeithen, McNeil, Navarre, Palumbo, Payton, Pineda, Powell, Sloss, Spears, Waller, Williams, and Wisdom

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

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Casie Duplechain, Natalie Robinson, Jennifer Montgomery, Emily Osterholt, Claire Byun, Leatrice Dupree (from Councilwoman Guidry's office) and Andrea LeGrand

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

President Hess welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

The minutes of the September Board meeting were approved.

In the President's report, Susan Hess introduced Claire Byun from the MidCity Messenger.

Hess reported that she is in the process of contacting all Board members requesting the names of potential donors to offer them a tour of the Park. Hess passed out a document of giving opportunities to the Park. The list includes City Park Events, Friends of City Park Events as well as other events that are held in the Park. Hess thanked John Hopper for creating the document. Hess noted that the Friends of City Park fundraisers support capital expenditures, and City Park Events supports operating expenses in the Park.

President Hess reminded all Commissioners that Ethics training for 2016 must be completed by December 31st.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported that the operating results for September were slightly below budget. Fortunately the revenue shortfall was partially offset by expense controls.

Becker reported that Magic in the Moonlight, Ghost in the Oaks and the Fall Garden Show were all very successful.

Preparations are underway for the Voodoo Music Experience over Halloween weekend.

We held our first of two public workshops to receive input on potential future land uses in the area generally bounded by Wisner, Harrison, Scout Island, and Zachary Taylor. Approximately 150 people attended the workshop and nearly 900 comments were received via a survey on the website. The second workshop is scheduled for November 16.

We held an all staff meeting to review the changes to the State's Group Benefit plan and discuss our sustainability efforts.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E - Commissioner Edmund Schrenk reported that Waggoner and Ball has been selected by the State Architectural Selection Committee to design the Conservatory Expansion project. We were unsuccessful in having the funds for the construction of the Maintenance Building and the Splash Park approved by the Bond Commission. Thus far, the Louisiana Children's Museum was successful and should go out to bid after the first of the year. The storm water management plan for the Park is beginning with a survey of the lagoons by the Corp of Engineers. The Park has engaged Dana Brown and Laura Burnett to hold the public workshops to consider potential changes to the Wisner Tract. The State received a successful bid for the Marconi Bike Path and construction should begin by January, 2017. The Wisner Overpass is scheduled to be completed by March, 2017.

CITO/Special Events – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported that Brews and Boos is scheduled for October 28, in the Amusement Park. Work continues on sponsorships for Celebration in the Oaks. Thorpe thanked Commissioners Ray Seamon, Larry Katz, Edmund Schrenk, Susan Hess and Jackie Palumbo for their support. The Committee is focusing on marketing the event to increase attendance on weekdays. Media night is scheduled on November 10.

Development – Commissioner Ronnie Slone reported that the Committee is planning an event to coincide with the 300th anniversary of the City. John Hopper reported that work is underway on the holiday mail appeal that will be sent to 25,000 households. Hopper would like the support of the Commissioners to personalize thank you notes to several donors. A generous donor donated 2 bunker seat tickets to be raffled for the Saints game on October 30. Commissioner Steve Binger inquired about hosting a development gathering. Hopper explained the process of hosting the gathering.

Finance & Audit – Commissioner Larry Katz noted that while Catering revenue was \$50,000 below plan the net profit was on target mainly due to cost controls and lower food cost.

Friends – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported that Friends currently have 4800 members, and would like 100% participation from the Board. Thorpe noted that Ghost in the Oaks was held on

October 21-23 and greater than 2200 guests attended each day. The Friends have agreed to fund a composting area in the Park. Hopper reminded everyone of the party in the Carousel on November 3. Tammy Curtis a local artist is painting a series of Carousel Flying Horses; and will donate 50% of the proceeds to the Park.

H&G/Dog Park – Becker reported that the Arrival Garden in the Botanical Garden was featured at Magic in the Moonlight. Becker 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. Becker noted that the City Bark hosted a Howl-O-Ween party and parade and that roughly 85 dogs participated in the costume contest. Becker and Jackie Shreves gave a tour of the Park to Catherine Nagel, the Executive Director of the City Park Alliance.

Legal & Risk Management – No Report

Public Relations – Commissioner Laura Claverie reported that Magic in the Moonlight and the Fall Garden Show have received lots of media attention.

Nominating – Commissioner Ray Seamon passed out the recommendations for potential candidates to serve on the Board. The Board will take action on these nominations at the November Board meeting. President Hess thanked Commissioner Seamon and the Committee for their hard work.

Sports- Commissioner Will Tregre reported that a discussion took place in regards to long term improvements to the existing athletic facilities. When the data is compiled we will discuss a strategic plan with the Committee. Becker noted that the Contractor for the golf course will ask for a substantial completion in early November and at that time we will take ownership of the course. The course is expected to open in the spring of 2017.

Tennis – Commissioner Errol Laborde reported that the Allstate Sugar Bowl Tennis Tournament is scheduled for November 12 – 14.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Becker reported that Magic in the Moonlight was very successful. The funds raised will benefit an outdoor kitchen in the Garden.

Sustainability Committee – Commissioner Bob Thomas reported that he is organizing a Bio-Blitz for the Park where experts will do a survey in the Park to identify and record the various species of plants and wildlife. A new composting area is underway. Commissioner Steve Binger reporting that his firm Concordia helped to assemble a team, wrote the concept narrative, and provided leadership support for the development of an innovative new school called New Harmony High School. The school will be a public school for students from all over the state, built on barges and integrated with the work of engineers, scientists, anthropologists, fishermen and others involved in the massive restoration and resettlement work currently underway in South Louisiana related to land subsidence and sea level rise. New Harmony High School was one of ten (10) projects that were each awarded a \$10 million grant from the XQ Super School initiative, which founded by Lorene Powell Jobs (Steve Job's Widow). The competition included more than 2,000 inquiries and 700 applicants.

OTHER REPORTS:

Casie Duplechain, Executive Director for Friends of City Park gave a presentation that reviewed the events and benefits of being a member of the Friends of City Park.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 22, 2016 at 4:00p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Elizabeth Sloss
Secretary