

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 27, 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, LeCorgne, Masinter, McNeil, Palumbo, Pettus, Schrenk, Seamon, Sloss, Smith, Thomas, Thorpe, Tregre, Waller (represented by Sara Young), and Williams

ABSENT: Commissioners Guidry, LaFranca, McKeithen, Navarre, Pate, Payton, Pineda, Powell, Slone, Spears, and Wisdom

STAFF: Bob Becker, Kevin Cox, John Hopper, Meg Adams, Rob DeViney, Stephanie Hubbard, Andrea Portales, Katie Shay, and Denise Joubert

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Casie Duplechain, Claire Byun, and Johanna Gilligan

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

President Hess welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

The minutes of the July Board meeting were approved.

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

Below are some of the events that were held in the Park since the July Board meeting:

On September 14, the Board celebrated the 120th anniversary of the stewardship of City Park with a cocktail party in the Pavilion of Two Sisters. Numerous prior Board members attended the event.

The Park hosted the traveling exhibit of the “Vietnam Wall” on the Goldring /Woldenberg Great Lawn.

In conjunction with Councilwoman Susan Guidry’s office, we hosted a police appreciation day at the Amusement Park offering free admission to families of law enforcement officers. The event was well attended.

Hess thanked Commissioner Mike Hollis and Marty Brantley for hosting a Development gathering at their home.

Hess also mentioned that Martini Madness, Love in the Garden, the Zulu Picnic, and “NOLA on Tap” were very successful.

Hess sent a letter to all Board members discussing the Board’s stewardship responsibilities. Hess plans to follow up with a phone call to gather names of potential donors and offer them a tour of the Park.

Hess congratulated Commissioner Bob Thomas, on being honored by the Parkway Partners. She also recognized Commissioner Cleveland Spears for being appointed to board of the Downtown Development District.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported that the operating results for the first two months of the fiscal year were heavily impacted by the weather. The revenue shortfall was partially offset by expense controls. We have instituted additional expense controls and postponed several capital projects. Most of the revenue loss occurred in Amusements and City Putt.

Becker also mentioned that Management attended Leadership Training at the World War II Museum.

We are starting a process to consider potential amendments to the Master Plan for the area generally bounded by Wisner, Harrison, Scout Island, and Zachary Taylor. The process includes a “listening session” on October 15, followed by a presentation of concepts developed out of the first session, and other input.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E - Commissioner Edmund Schrenk reported that construction of the parking lot near the Arbor Room is complete. Work continues on the Arrival Garden, which is scheduled to be completed for Magic in the Moonlight on October 14. We have been investigating the drainage system at the Festival Grounds, to determine the cause of the slow drainage; and what improvements have to be considered. To improve the drainage, we are excavating the drainage ditch adjacent to the railroad tracks, so there will be better water flow. The Marconi Bike Path bids are due on October 12.

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. The Committee consists of 53 members that are focusing on marketing the event to increase attendance on weekdays. Hess credited Thorpe for recruiting a great Committee.

Development – John Hopper reported that the Committee is working on several sponsorship ideas for next year. Hopper and Geneva Marney met with a potential donor and made a substantial ask.

Finance & Audit – Kevin Cox noted that The National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA) reported that August tied July as the hottest months on earth since record-keeping began in 1880.

Not only did we experience a hot summer, but afternoon rains occurred on most days which affected results negatively.

Friends – Commissioner Jackie Palumbo reported that Friends currently have 4642 members, and would like at least 65% participation from the Board. Martini Madness was successful, in spite of inclement weather conditions. Palumbo thanked Commissioner Larry Katz for supporting the event, as well as the Friends staff for all their hard work. Ghost in the Oaks is scheduled for October 21-23.

H&G/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss reported that the Committee toured Popp Bandstand, and is working on a plan to try and deter people from walking in the garden. The Committee also discussed placing large planters across from Morning Call, to force the busses to park in the large parking lot.

Legal & Risk Management – No Report

Public Relations – Commissioner Laura Claverie reported that the strategic planning public listening sessions have been receiving lots of public and media attention. The photography contest has ended, and the winner of the contest is from Hattiesburg, Mississippi. The Committee is working on ideas for the 2018 Tri-Centennial of New Orleans, as well as ideas for the 80th anniversary of Tad Gormley Stadium. Tammy Curtis, a local artist is painting a series of carousel horses; and will donate 50% of the proceeds to the Park. Claverie mentioned that Commissioner Leigh Thorpe was featured on the cover of the Junior League magazine, for her work on hosting training session, for advocacy in the community. Laura and Philip Claverie are chairing the charity sleep out for the Covenant House.

Nominating – Commissioner Ray Seamon 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 football season is well underway. Tad Gormley Stadium is in the process of being relamped. A preliminary draft of the budget to upgrade the stadium will be submitted as a capital outlay request to the State. Becker mentioned that a meeting took place with the Sports Foundation to discuss ideas to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the opening of Tad Gormley Stadium. The stadium was home to numerous athletes, entertainers, and movie stars; and has a phenomenal history in the community. Commissioner Ray Seamon suggested contacting the Jazz and Heritage Festival in regards to hosting events in the stadium.

Tennis – Commissioner Errol Laborde reported that due to the demand, additional courts have been secured for the Allstate Sugar Bowl Tennis Tournament. The facility was asked to bid on a National Mens 55 tournament in the upcoming year.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Sara Young, co-chair of Magic in the Moonlight updated the Board on event.

Sustainability Committee – Commissioner Bob Thomas reported that BDF gave a presentation on environmental stewardship of the golf course management. A new composting area is underway.

OTHER REPORTS:

Stephanie Hubbard, Director of Human Resources, gave a presentation that reviewed the duties and responsibilities of the department.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

Public comment was then invited; Johanna Gilligan, founding Director of Grow Dat Youth Farm wanted to make a case for expanding Grow Dat's footprint into the area east of the current farm. She also invited everyone to tour the farm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 4:00p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Elizabeth Sloss
Secretary