

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

PRESENT: Commissioners Batt, Bingler, Cahn, Claverie, Dale, Hess, Katz, LeCorgne, Lupo, McNeil, Messer, Pettus, Pineda, Savoie, Seamon, Sloss, Thorpe, Tregre, and Waller

ABSENT: Commissioners Arnole, Donovan, Hollis, Leger, Masinter, McCrossen, Navarre, Offner, Pate, Powell, Slone, Spears, and Thomas

STAFF: Bob Becker, Meg Adams, Kevin Cox, Dionne D’Mello, and Denise Joubert

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Casie Duplechain, Charles Marsala, Andrea Legrand

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

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

The minutes of the October Board meeting were approved.

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

Pettus reported:

- He is interested if the Audubon Zoo Christmas lights display will have an impact on Celebration in the Oaks.
- The bid opening for the Food and Beverage lease at the Casino Building is scheduled for December 19.
- The Voodoo Music Experience has one year left on their existing contract. We expect to begin new negotiations for a contract extension in January.
- Scout Island Scream Park was successful.
- The Allstate Sugar Bowl Tennis Tournament was successful despite weather challenges.
- The Chihuly Sculpture at the Tolmas Center was unveiled on November 2.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported that operating results from July through October are \$8,000 below budget. For the month of October we reported a loss of \$150,000 that is due to the timing of reaching terms on an extension of the Voodoo contract. The

results do not include the Scout Island Scream Park. We are still compiling all of the revenue, and costs for the event and will be included in a subsequent report.

- We had a good opening weekend for Celebration in the Oaks, despite poor weather Friday night.
- Roughly 25,000 guest attended Scout Island Scream Fest that attendance was reached despite multiple nights of poor weather conditions. The event received great reviews. Commissioner Hess questioned whether or not we should re-evaluate our approach to attract different age groups.
- The City Council is scheduled to take a final vote on December 6, regarding placing on the May ballot, the redistribution of current property tax millages for recreation agencies..
- The Voodoo Music Experience was successful despite two inches of rainfall the day before the event.
- Work continues to raise funds for Wisner study, and the Tad Gormley Stadium study.
- I had an all staff meeting to explain the tax millage proposal that will being voted on in May.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E – No Report

CITO/Special Events – No Report

Development – Dana Hansel, of Hansel Brown, distributed a handout outlining the Storyland Campaign; which includes sold exhibits to date, Board support requested, and pending/upcoming request. Hansel commended Casie Duplechain for her efforts.

Environmental Stewardship – Meg Adams mentioned that Food for Thought with Aimee and Bob Thomas is scheduled for November 28 at Couturie Forest. A meeting took place with the City's Office of Resilience who stated that there is a very good chance that FEMA will approve a Hazard Mitigation Grant Proposal which would fund \$18 million worth of lagoon projects in the Park to widen and deepen some of the existing lagoons but also to construct new stormwater retention bodies and connect existing waterways to improve circulation and increase water storage. This would be a huge project for the Park.

Steven Binger explained that Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change scientists are finding that the ultimate effects of climate change are more severe, and will probably happen sooner than previously projected. He read statistics about the results of an increase of several degrees in the Earth's temperature on humans and plant life. He stated that as a Park, it is imperative that we try to mitigate these changes as much as possible

Finance & Audit – No Report

Friends – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported that there are currently more than 5,200 members, with 100% participation from the Board. Lark in the Park is celebrating its 40th anniversary on March 15, 2019. All funds are dedicated to the revitalization of Storyland.

H&G Committee/Dog Park – Commissioner Elizabeth Sloss updated the Board on various projects. Sloss reported that the Committee is gathering prices to remove the Sundial, and also remove the Crepe Myrtle trees in that area. The Audubon Society donated \$10,000 for signage in the Bird Corridor in Couturie Forest. The Park has begun the water hyacinth's spray program in the lagoons. The Grounds Department trimmed the trees in Doctors Grove, and the money raised from the Hat Luncheon was used to plant 20 Live Oak trees along the Bike Path, and other areas in the Park. The Dog Park is still experiencing vandalism.

Legal & Risk Management – The committee is reviewing on-going legal issues.

NOMA – Commissioner Jay Batt reported that the Odyssey Ball was well attended.

Wisner Tract - Commissioner Bill LeCorgne reported that the Park is still working to secure additional funding to develop a Master Plan for the Wisner Tract.

Public Relations – Commissioner Laura Claverie reported that Media night for Celebration in the Oaks was very successful. Claverie thanked Amanda Frentz for a well-organized, and fun event.

Nominating – The Board voted unanimously to elect Jay Batt, Vice-President; Stephen Pate, Vice-President; Bill LeCorgne, Vice-President; Will Tregre, Treasurer; and Elizabeth Sloss, Secretary, and to elect Jay Batt, and Cleveland Spears to serve a second four-year term on the Board. A motion was unanimously passed to close the nominations. The Board also voted unanimously to elect Bryan Fitzpatrick, Chenier Taylor, Carro Gardner, and Emily Arata for four of the open at-large positions on the Board. President Pettus thanked the Committee for their hard work. Commissioner Seamon thanked all the members of the Nominating Committee for their work on the process.

Sports – No Report

Tennis – Commissioner Susan Hess reported that the Allstate Sugar Bowl Tennis Tournament was very successful, despite weather challenges. Commissioner Jay Batt thanked Pettus for hosting the reception. Meg Adams thanked Pettus and Hess for making the tournament a green event.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner David Waller reported that Magic in the Moonlight and the Moonlighters was successful. The event generated enough funds to complete the outdoor kitchen. Waller mentioned that a fundraiser in the Botanical Garden is scheduled for April 5-7, 2019. Artists will paint scenes in the Park and the Garden. They will then be sold at an auction in the Pavilion.

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

Public comment was then invited; Charles Marsala noted that he is continuing his work to determine the history of Beauregard statue. Pettus thanked him for his comments.

OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 4 p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Ronnie Slone