

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 22, 2019 at 4 p.m. by President Larry Katz. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners, Arnold, Baker, Banks, Batt, Cahn, Gardner, Giarrusso, Hollis, Katz, LeCorgne, Lester, Lupo, Masinter, Pate, Pettus, Pineda, Powell, Seamon, Sloss, and Waller

ABSENT: Commissioners Adkerson, Arata, Dale, DeBlieux, Donovan, Fitzpatrick, Hess, Leger, McCrossen, McNeil, Messer, Navarre, Savoie, Spears, Taylor, Thomas, and Tregre

STAFF: Bob Becker, Rob DeViney, Amanda Frentz, Keith Hemel, Casie Duplechain, Sarah Olivier, and Denise Joubert

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Emily Mueller, Charles Marsala, Andrea Legrand, Laura Claverie, Edmund Schrenk, and Malcolm Ehrhardt

Larry Katz, President of the NOCPIA Board of Commissioners, called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the September board meeting were unanimously approved.

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.

Public Comment was then invited; Katz read the rules for receiving public comments; Charles Marsala thanked Bob Becker for all that he has done for City Park. He commented on the status of the Beauregard monument. He stated that since City Park as well as the City of New Orleans both stated that the statue does not belong to them, then consideration should be given to donating it to the Daughters of the Confederacy, who will find a proper location for the statue. Katz thanked him for his comments.

Katz reminded all Commissioners that Ethics and Sexual Harassment training for 2019 must be completed by December 31st.

In the President’s Report, Larry Katz reported that Storyland is doing very well, and that revenue as well as attendance has doubled from last year at this time. Katz mentioned that the last bench in Storyland has been sponsored by Commissioner Cleland Powell. He reviewed remaining sponsorship opportunities, including ten picnic benches, a lamb and a frog. Commissioner Mike Hollis committed to sponsoring the lamb. Katz thanked Commissioners Powell and Hollis for their donation.

Katz announced that Bob Becker will be retiring from his position as Chief Executive Officer upon the selection of his successor in early 2020. Bob as served in his role for almost 20 years. The firm of Ralph Anderson and Associates has been retained to find potential candidates for his position. Katz recounted some of Becker's outstanding successes; such as overseeing the development of the Master Plan, leading the re-building of the park following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, playing a major role in securing TIF money for the park, and leading a successful campaign to get the millage passed; that for the first time, will provide two million dollars a year to the park. Over 200 million dollars in capital projects have been completed under Bob's guidance. Katz went on to say that "Becker has given his heart, and soul to the park, and has led us to some of our greatest successes". Becker will stay on until a new CEO has been chosen, and through the transition period. Becker stated that when he arrived at the park it was in bad shape. But as a result of everyone's hard work, and dedication, he said he believes that City Park is now a world class park. Becker mentioned that the park has built an excellent management team, and that it is time for him to enter the next phase of his life. President Katz thanked Becker for a job well done. Commissioner Paul Masinter thanked Bob for doing an outstanding job following Hurricane Katrina. He said that the board, the city and the state all owe him a debt of gratitude. Becker recounted the story of the first golfers at the still devastated driving range after the hurricane, paying to play, then going out to retrieve their own golf balls. Commissioner Robert Lupo stated that if it wasn't for Bob's foresight to develop a plan for the future before the hurricane, the park never could have accomplished all that it did. . Councilman Jay Banks said that he felt lucky to have the opportunity to work with Becker and thanked him for the great job that he has done with the park. He said that Bob possesses not only the ability, but the willingness to get things done.

Commissioner Steve Pettus presented the President's Award for 2018 to Malcolm Ehrhardt for all the great work he has done for the park, and for his efforts to maintain and care for the Park's shrubbery along City Park Avenue. Ehrhardt thanked Pettus for the award as well as Becker for his outstanding work.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported that we beat the budget for August by approximately \$45,000. Year to date we are below budget about \$39,000 on gross revenue of about \$1.7 million. He mentioned that golf is ahead of budget and doing very well.

Becker reported on the following:

- The outdoor kitchen in the Botanical Garden opened on September 25
- Storyland has re-opened after extensive renovations on September 28
- The renovated Girl Scout cabin was dedicated on September 27
- The Fall Garden Show was held on October 5 and 6.

A Resolution was unanimously adopted that authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to execute agreements for the Marconi Multi-Use Path project with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E – Edmund Schrenk reported that a pre-bid meeting was held for the Maintenance facility. The Park has selected a site for the inclusive playground and it was presented to the City for approval. The Marconi road work should be finished by Thanksgiving.

CITO/Special Events – Andrea Legrand reported that Voodoo festival will take place this weekend. Brews and Boos is scheduled for October 25, in the Amusement Park. On October 26, Secret Agent 23 Skidoo and Imagination Movers will be performing at the Kid Zone at Scout Island Scream Park!

Development – Commissioner Jay Batt reported that 41% of the board have fulfilled their annual give/get commitment. He encouraged all Board members to fulfill their commitment by the end of the year. Duplechain will send a document reviewing your donations for the year, as well as several options for fulling your commitment. He noted that we are also behind in sponsorships for Celebration in the Oaks. The goal is \$100,000, to date we have received \$61,000. Batt also mentioned that another option for fulfilling your commitment is by donating to the Oak Tree Circle.

Environmental Stewardship – Commissioner Carro Gardner reported that Loyola interns assisted with school tours in Couturie Forest. We held a phenology workshop with 12 participants. She and Lindsay Kirsch attended a National Phenology Leaders workshop. The shoreline restoration project near the Volunteer Center has been completed. We met with Audubon Louisiana, Orleans Audubon, and Grow Dat to organize our birding efforts. The group is planning to put up signs in key locations around the park to promote birding locations around the park. On November 17, the New Orleans Town Gardeners will work with the Native Plant initiative on the installation of native plants and the removal of invasive trees at the Big Lake Louisiana Trail. Gardner mentioned that City Park Concessions and Catering have applied for Green Restaurant Certifications.

Finance & Audit – No Report

Friends – Commissioner Shon Baker reported that Friends currently has more than 5100 members. She noted that Ghost in the Oaks was very successful. Lark in the Park is scheduled for March 13, 2020, and a new event “Par for the Park” will held on May 12, 2020.

H&G Committee/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss reported that several trees which have reached the end of their life were removed from Roosevelt Mall. She also mentioned that approximately 30 to 40 trees will be planted on the golf course. The Committee is reviewing two companies to conduct a tree survey for the park, and hope to have that finalized before the end of

the year. Sloss mentioned that City Park will host a Howliday Market and Parade of Paws on December 14 on the Great Lawn. There will be a costume contest, and pictures with Santa. Commissioner Pettus noted that the reason we are replacing the trees is because the life expectancy of the Overcup Oak tree is approximately 80 years.

Legal & Risk Management – Commissioner Paul Masinter thanked Tut, Tim Clow, Commissioner Adam McNeil, and the Executive Committee for their work on finalizing the Voodoo contract.

NOMA – No Report

Wisner Tract – Commissioner Bill LeCorgne reported that Sarah Olivier gave a presentation to the Committee on the Houston Arboretum. He noted that Design Workshop has compiled a great amount of data from stakeholders at the public meetings to be analyzed. LeCorgne invited all board members to attend the Committee meeting on October 28 to offer their opinions. The next step will be moving toward master plan concept development. The final step will be to bring the concepts together, and begin discussions on funding the project.

Public Relations – Amanda Frenz reported that the Park has received lots of great media coverage focused on the Scream Park. Celebration in the Oaks media night is scheduled for November 26.

Nominating – Commissioner Liz Sloss submitted the names of the officers for 2020 that will be put into nomination at this meeting, and voted on at the November meeting. Those officers are Jay Batt, President – Elect, Carro Gardner, Vice-President; Stephen Pate, Vice-President; Bill LeCorgne, Vice-President; David Waller, Treasurer; and Bryan Fitzpatrick, Secretary. The Committee recommends Bill LeCorgne, Stephen Pate, and Mayra Pineda to serve a second four-year term on the Board. The Committee further recommends Julie Nosser, Rob Worley, and Adam McNeil for three of the open at-large positions on the Board. The Board will take action on these nominations at the November Board meeting. President Katz thanked the members of the Nominating Committee for their work.

Sports – No Report

Tennis – No Report

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner Rebecca Lester reported that Magic in the Moonlight moved inside of the Pavilion due to weather conditions. A chef dinner series and cooking demonstrations are scheduled in October and November.

OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 4 p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Elizabeth Sloss