

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 25, 2018, at 4 p.m. by President Steve Pettus. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Batt, Cahn, Claverie, Dale, Donovan, Hess, Hollis, Katz, LeCorgne, Leger, Lupo, Masinter, Messer, Pate, Pettus, Pineda, Powell, Savoie, Seamon, Slone, Thorpe, Tregre, and Waller

ABSENT: Commissioners Arnold, Bingler, McCrossen, McNeil, Navarre, Offner, Sloss, Spears, Thomas, and Williams

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

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Casie Duplechain, Charles Marsala, Cherie Faget, and Jesse Baum

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 July 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.

Public comment was then invited; Charles Marsala noted that he is working with a group known as the Monument Relocation Committee, and reported his findings to the board on ownership of the statue.

Marsala also provided documents concerning the tendering of the Beauregard Circle. Pettus thanked him for his comments.

Pettus recognized Commissioner Cleland Powell for receiving the Times Picayune Loving Cup award. He also introduced Jeanie Donovan as the Mayor’s appointee to the Board.

He reported:

- Work is on-going to re-issue revised bid for the Food and Beverage lease at the Casino.
- Audubon is instituting a light show that will occur at the same time as Celebration in the Oaks. It was suggested that we work to improve our Celebration in the Oaks exhibits.

- The operating results for the past two months were a combined \$10,000 below plan.
- The stormwater mitigation project is being re-submitted by the City for funding.

The following events are moving forward;

- Scout Island Scream Park
- Voodoo Festival
- Construction for the foundation for Chihuly Sculpture – the Sculpture is scheduled to arrive in late October
- Sculpture Garden Expansion is on schedule

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Bob Becker reported that the Park began the new fiscal year with good financial results in July and August. Results were within one half of one percent of our budget. The start of the fiscal year is a seasonally slow period, where we budget to lose approximately a million dollars, which is then offset by earned income during Celebration in the Oaks in December.

He reported:

- The Park removed the remains of the Beauregard pedestal, and re-landscaped the circle.
- The Zulu picnic was well attended.
- Discussions ongoing on park financing options with various park agencies.
- The Park has begun installing new infrastructure on Scout Island, in preparation for Scream Fest.
- The Park received awards from Gambit magazine, in its Best of New Orleans series. City Putt has been selected as the best golf course. BuzzFeed selected City Park as one of 16 parks worldwide that merited a special visit.
- The Park engaged a consultant to assist in our recruiting efforts for a new Chief Development Officer.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E – Becker reported that the Park has requested that the State move the capital outlay funds for the Maintenance complex to Priority 1.

CITO/Special Events – No Report

Development – Commissioner Larry Katz thanked Richard and Vivian Cahn, for agreeing to host a Development gathering. Katz reviewed sponsorship opportunities for the renovation of the exhibits in Storyland. Katz thanked Commissioners Jay Batt and Steve Pettus for their sponsorships.

Environmental Stewardship – Meg Adams reported that Lindsey Kirsch has been hired as the new Sustainability Coordinator for Park. Audubon Louisiana will give a presentation on “Why Birds Matter” on October 11. Martini Madness was a zero waste event and we plan to make the Celebration in the Oaks Preview party zero waste as well.

Finance & Audit – Commissioner Will Tregre reported that operating results are slightly under budget for the fiscal year. Included in the packet is a study of investment returns for the Park’s endowment funds. The Endowment has reached more than \$5.0 million.

Friends – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported that there are currently more than 5,000 members. Martini Madness was well attended, and the funds are dedicated toward purchasing a Bush Hog for the Grounds department. All four nights of Ghost in the Oaks are sold out. Becker thanked Casie Duplechain, and Commissioner Leigh Thorpe for their help with ongoing development efforts.

H&G Committee/Dog Park – Commissioner Lori Savoie updated the Board on various projects. Savoie reported that construction has begun to build the foundation for the Chihuly Sculpture. Kathy Pierson, the incoming President of the Audubon Society, is working with the Park on a donation for signage. Volunteers from Xavier, and Brother Martin are scheduled to work at the Dog Park. The Park is experiencing problems with vandalism to the entrance gates at the Dog Park and is working to address this issue.

Legal & Risk Management – Commissioner Paul Masinter reported that the court ruled against the Park in the Morning Call litigation. The Park will re-bid the lease addressing the concerns expressed by the court. A discussion took place in regards to the bid process.

NOMA – Becker mentioned that construction is near completion, and the circle at the Museum is expected to reopen soon.

Wisner Tract - Commissioner Bill LeCorgne reported that the Committee is working to secure funding, and develop a Master Plan for the Wisner Tract.

Public Relations – Commissioner Laura Claverie reported that the Park has received lots of great media coverage focused on the Scream Park. She noted that City Park was ranked 4th out of 16 parks around the world. Pettus thanked Claverie for all her work on our website. Commissioner David Waller mentioned that the Botanical Garden recently elected a board member who specializes in social media and marketing.

Nominating – Commissioner Ray Seamon reported that the Committee met, and discussed upcoming vacancies, as well as potential candidates to serve on the Board. The candidates will be presented at the October board meeting, and voted on at the November meeting.

Sports – Commissioner Will Tregre gave an update on needed repairs and improvements at Tad Gormley Stadium; which include resurfacing the track, and practice track, replacing the scoreboard, and waterproofing several areas in the stadium. The Committee suggested reaching out to the users of the track for donations. Tregre noted that the demand for sports fields is greater

than the capacity. We are looking to pursue other options for additional fields in other areas of the Park. Tregre mentioned that Golf had fairly good financial results in July and August. We expect September to be lower due to inclement weather conditions.

Tennis – Commissioner Cleland Powell reported that USTA declared the 2017 Allstate Sugar Bowl tournament the number 1 tournament in the South. The 2018 tournament will be a USTA National Level Tournament. The Committee is reviewing options for the expansion of the tennis courts. Commissioner Susan Hess mentioned that Mike Marsiglia is preparing the dinner for the event.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner David Waller reported that Magic in the Moonlight and the Moonlighters is scheduled for October 12. Once completed we should have 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.

OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Pettus recognized Commissioner Susan Hess for receiving the Hannah Solomon Award from the National Council of Jewish Women.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 4 p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Ronnie Slone