

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, April 24, 2018, at 4 p.m. by President Steve Pettus. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Arnold, Balart, Batt, Bingler, Cahn, Claverie, Dale, Guidry, Hess, Katz, LeCorgne, Lupo, McCrossen, McNeil, Messer, Pate, Pettus, Powell, Savoie, Seamon, Sloss, Thorpe, and Waller

ABSENT: Commissioners Hollis, Leger, Masinter, Navarre, Offner, Pineda, Slone, Spears, Thomas, Tregre, and Williams

STAFF: Bob Becker, Kevin Cox, and Denise Joubert

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Andrea Legrand, Casie Duplechain, Clair Byun

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

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

Julie LaCour mentioned that the LPO Symphony concert and Earth Day is scheduled for tonight.

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.

The minutes of the March Board meeting were approved.

In his President’s Report, Pettus reported the following:

- He thanked everyone that participated in the strategic planning session. We are in the process of finalizing the results.
- He reminded everyone that the Personal Financial Disclosure forms are due in Baton Rouge by May 15.
- He would like to appoint a Committee to review the Wisner Tract plan. If anyone is interested in serving on the committee they should contact Pettus.
- He visited the NOPD Real Time Crime Monitoring Center and is interested in the possibility of eventually installing the cameras at the entrances in the Park.
- Give NOLA Day is scheduled for May 1.
- He requested that the Committees develop guidelines for their respective areas.
- The “Hat” luncheon was well attended.
- The bids are due on May 9 for the Casino Building food and beverage lease.
- The Park is moving forward with the Halloween event on Scout Island.

- We are preparing a financial overview of Tad Gormley Stadium.

President Steve Pettus thanked Councilmember Susan Guidry for her service on the Board and presented her with a plaque. Councilmember Guidry addressed the Board and noted that it has been an honor and pleasure to serve on the Board of New Orleans City Park.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Bob Becker reported that operating results for March exceeded the budget which allowed us to cut our year to date deficit from (\$450,000) to (\$372,000).

He reported:

- The Legislature is currently in session and considering Senate Bill 143. This bill would “sweep” funds from current appropriations or allocation in the current fiscal year to address the current short fall in the State’s operating budget. More than thirty funds are affected in the bill, including \$95,000 from our allocation from the slot tax. For the next fiscal year we are being allocated \$1,900,000.
- He mentioned that in House Bill #2 the funds were put back into the construction budget for the Maintenance Complex. No other funds were provided for any of our other projects.
- The Tri-Centennial Commission set off fireworks at Big Lake on April 22.
- Due to bad weather, the Dog Parade was canceled.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E – Commissioner Robert Lupo updated the Board on various projects. A discussion took place about trying to secure funding from foundations and develop a Master Plan for the Wisner Tract.

CITO/Special Events – No Report

Development – Commissioner Larry Katz thanked Commissioners Jay Batt, Steve Pettus, and Lori Savoie for hosting development gatherings. Katz also thanked Commissioner Richard Cahn for agreeing to host a future gathering. Katz and Hopper met with Commissioner Quentin Messer on ways to attract more visitors to the Park. Katz is planning to meet with Commissioners to discuss ways that they can help the Park. He mentioned that the Park is seeking sponsorships for the renovation of the exhibits in Storyland. We are waiting for the report from the design architect for the project. Becker thanked Commissioner Stephen Pate for escorting Gayle Benson to the Hat Luncheon.

Environmental Stewardship – Commissioner Steve Bingler reported that a meeting took place with a fundraising consultant that specializes in environmental/conservation fundraising opportunities. The Committee discussed ways to capitalize on environmental opportunities and raising money to conduct a feasibility study. The Committee is also working to identify the Park’s role in environmental education and promoting environmental learning. Bingler

encouraged everyone to attend Earth Day in the Botanical Garden. The team is working on a glass recycling program. He commended Meg Adams and her staff on their efforts.

Finance & Audit – Becker reported that in March we exceeded the budget by approximately \$75,000 which allowed us to reduce our year to date deficit. There were strong performances in Tennis, Special Events, and the Garden. We instituted a new snowball operation in City Putt and are achieving excellent results.

Friends – Casie Duplechain reported that Friends currently have more than 5,200 members. The Historical Musical Train Preview Tours have begun and the official opening day is May 11. Duplechain mentioned that if any Commissioner is interested in joining the Friends board after rotating off of the City Park Board to let her know. She noted that we received the donation from the Saints 5K season opener race and thanked Commissioner Stephen Pate for his help. President Pettus thanked Duplechain and Commissioner Thorpe for all that they do for the Park.

H&G Committee/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss reported that due to the weather, the Tri-centennial Dog Parade was canceled, but Gambit has scheduled a Yappy Hour on Wednesday, May 9 at Port Orleans Brewing Company. The Committee is working to relocate the Sun Dial.

Legal & Risk Management – No Report

Public Relations – Commissioner Laura Claverie reported that the Park's Instagram account is growing rapidly. The Park hosted one snowball influencer event with two posts resulting in 60,000 impressions. The Park is moving forward with another photography contest. The Committee is looking to secure donations for the contest.

Nominating – Commissioner Ray Seamon mentioned that he spoke with a potential Board candidate of the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce.

Sports – No Report

Tennis – Commissioner Cleland Powell reported that the Park lost money on the SWAC tennis tournament due to the weather. We also lost the Sun Belt Conference because they were able to secure indoor courts. He mentioned that the Park is looking into the potential of raising money to add six covered courts behind the existing courts. Covered courts would improve the salability of the facility.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner Muffin Balart reported that attendance at the Spring Garden Show was down due to the weather.

OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Susan Hess mentioned that she is interested in forming a speaker's bureau to educate the community on the status of the Park. If anyone is interested in joining this group they should contact Hess.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 4 p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Ronnie Slone
Secretary