

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, December 12, 2017, at 4 p.m. by President Steve Pettus. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Balart, Batt, Cahn, Chase, Guidry, Hess, Hollis, Katz, LeCorgne, Lupo, McCrossen, Navarre, Pettus, Pineda, Powell, Savoie, Schrenk, Seamon, Sloss, Smith, Thorpe, and Tregre

ABSENT: Commissioners Arnold, Bingler, Claverie, Masinter, McKeithen, McNeil, Offner, Pate, Payton, Slone, Spears, Thomas, Williams, and Wisdom

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

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Susan Taylor, Tania Hahn, Charles Marsala, and Casie Duplechain

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

Steve Pettus, President of the NOCPIA Board of Commissioners, called the meeting to order. Pettus welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. He recognized Susan Taylor, Director of the New Orleans Museum of Art.

The minutes of the November Board meeting were 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; Charles Marsala expressed an interest in relocating the P.T. Beauregard monument to an Italian museum. Pettus thanked him for his comments.

In his Presidents report, Pettus thanked everyone that served on Committees and gave a special thanks to everyone that served on the Executive Committee.

President Pettus presented the President's Award to several individuals for their outstanding support of the Park. The recipients were:

Tania Hahn Support of City Park through a variety of gifts and commitment to the Park's future.

Byron DeCoteau Support and leadership with the State Civil Service Commission.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Bob Becker reported that the Park does not have definitive financials due to timing of the Board meeting. Becker noted that Celebration in the Oaks was closed four days due to inclement weather conditions. He encouraged everyone to attend the event.

On behalf of the staff Becker thanked everyone for their time and commitment to the Park.

Becker reviewed a list of all completed and upcoming projects of the Park's Master Plan. Becker reviewed projects that have begun in 2017, which included the opening of the new Golf Course and Clubhouse; construction began on the Louisiana Children's Museum; the synthetic field was replaced at Tad Gormley Stadium; the Marconi Bike Path was completed; the Magnolia Playground was completed.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E – Commissioner Robert Lupo updated the Board on various projects. The Maintenance department has moved from the Quadraplex to Tad Gormley Stadium, which will allow the Park to open the 4th field as well as the Concession building. Lupo spoke with Representative Stephanie Hilferty, who is optimistic about funding for the Parks Capital Outlay projects. The Louisiana Children's Museum construction is underway and the refilling of the lagoon will begin in January. Commissioner Tregre noted that the connecting bike path along Bayou St. John and I-610 is under construction. Becker thanked Walter Brooks of the Regional Planning Commission for his help with this project.

CITO/Special Events – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported that Mutt Mondays at Celebration in the Oaks was well attended. Commissioner Lupo encouraged everyone to attend the event.

Development – John Hopper reported that the holiday mail appeal was sent out. Commissioner Larry Katz reported that the restoration of Storyland will begin in 2018. Katz thanked Commissioner Jay Batt for his generous donation to Storyland.

Finance & Audit – No Report

Friends – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported that Friends currently have more than 4,900 members and would like 100% participation from the Board. Casie Duplechain showed a Public Service Announcement that was created by the Marketing Committee and fellow board member Jason and Fire on the Bayou to promote the Friends of City Park. A Special Kids Day was held in the Amusement Park and despite the cold weather it was well attended. Thorpe mentioned that the Lupo family will be chairing the 2018 Lark in the Park, which is scheduled for March 9, 2018. A sponsorship campaign is underway for the event. The deadline for the Monteleone banner is December 19. The Saints confirmed that we will receive \$85,000 for the Tad Gormley field renovation. Thorpe thanked Commissioner Stephen Pate for his help in securing the donation. Pettus thanked Commissioner Thorpe for her enthusiasm and hard work.

H&G/Dog Park – Commissioner Elizabeth Sloss reported that elm trees are being planted on Anseman to replace the palms lost due to the Texas Palm Decline.

Legal & Risk Management – No Report

Public Relations – No Report

Nominating – No Report

Sports – Commissioner Will Tregre reported that the golf courses are in great shape. Pettus met with the Marketing Director at the Convention and Visitors Bureau in regards to marketing the golf course.

Tennis – Commissioner Edgar Chase reported that the Committee is finalizing the plans for the MLK Day Family Tennis Event. Chase thanked Commissioner Cleland Powell and other Commissioners that were instrumental in helping City Park with obtaining sponsorship from the Sugar Bowl Board.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Muffin Balart reported that she met with the six chairpersons for Magic in the Moonlight and the Moonlighters. LANO will conduct an assessment of the operation of the Botanical Garden Foundation.

Sustainability Committee – No Report

President Pettus recognized outgoing Board Members Edgar Chase, Edmund Schrenk, Marjorie McKeithen, David Payton, and Kathleen Smith. Pettus thanked them for their outstanding service to the Board and distributed commemorative plaques. Becker also thanked all outgoing board members for their support.

OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Pettus mentioned that he is in the process of planning a Board retreat.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 4 p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Ronnie Slone
Secretary