

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 11, 2018, at 4 p.m. by President Steve Pettus. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Arnold, Banks, Batt, Bingler, Claverie, Dale, Hess, Katz, LeCorgne, Lupo, Masinter, Navarre, Pate, Pettus, Pineda, Powell, Savoie, Seamon, Sloss, Thorpe, Tregre, and Williams

ABSENT: Commissioners Cahn, Donovan, Hollis, Leger, McCrossen, McNeil, Messer, Offner, Slone, Spears, Thomas and Waller

STAFF: Bob Becker, Meg Adams, Kevin Cox, Lindsey Kirsch, and Denise Joubert

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Casie Duplechain, Dana Hansel, Bryan Fitzpatrick, Carro Gardner, and 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. He recognized new Board Members, Bryan Fitzpatrick, and Carro Gardner.

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.

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

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| Sarah Olivier | Support of City Park as the Director of the Trust for Public Land and your leadership in securing an agreement to rebalance existing tax millages. |
| Casie Duplechain | Support of the Storyland campaign. |
| Edmund Schrenk | Continued service to the Park, and relentless pursuit of long term public financing for City Park. A motion was made by Commissioner Paul Masinter, seconded by Commissioner Jay Batt; and unanimously approved appointing Edmund Schrenk as a “Commissioner Emeritus”. |
| Bob Thomas | For your role in raising the environmental awareness of the Board and your support of the “Green Team”. |

Malcolm Ehrhardt Efforts to maintain and care for the Park's shrubbery along City Park Avenue.

All recipients expressed their gratitude for being recognized by the Park.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported that we do not have definitive financials, due to the timing of the Board meeting. Becker noted that attendance was smaller than expected opening weekend for Celebration in the Oaks due to poor weather on Friday and Saturday. He thanked the Celebration in the Oaks staff for all their work especially considering the fact that the Scout Island Scream Fest had just ended.

- The City Council approved placing on the May ballot, the redistribution of current property tax millage for recreation agencies. Becker stressed that this is an historic event, because this is the first time in 168 years that the citizens will have the opportunity to decide if they wish to support the Park. Becker thanked Commissioners Jason Williams, and Jay Banks; as well as the other members of the City Council for their support of the millage. Councilman Jason Williams recognized the outstanding effort of the City Park Board of Commissioners for making the Park a jewel of the City. He also noted that without the Board's efforts, it would have difficult for the Council to get the millage placed on the ballot. Councilman Jay Banks stated that this is only the first hurdle, and much work needs to be done to get the millage passed. Banks suggested meeting with the key representatives of "Parks for All" to clarify the Park's message. Councilman Bob Thomas said that he thinks that the Park needs to have a list of bullet points that the Park wants to emphasis, regarding the need for this millage. Commissioner Susan Hess noted that it's time to move forward with the Speakers Bureau.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E – No Report

CITO/Special Events – No Report

Development – Commissioner Larry Katz reported that solicitation letters for Storyland from the Park, as well as the Friends of City Park have been mailed. Katz reviewed sponsorship opportunities for Storyland and the Park. He recognized Commissioners Jay Batt, Steve Pettus, Laura Claverie, Paul Masinter, Quentin Messer, Larry Katz, and Susan Hess for their sponsorships. He also recognized new board members Bryan Fitzpatrick, and Carro Gardner for their previous support of the Park. Katz made an appeal to all Commissioners that have not yet donated, to consider becoming a sponsor of Storyland. Commissioner Bob Thomas announced his sponsorship of the Anansi Spider.

Environmental Stewardship –. Commissioner Steven Bingle reported that, at the request of Fellow Commissioner Laura Claverie, the Environmental Stewardship committee prepared and distributed a list of ten things that individuals could do to mitigate global warming. Bob

Thomas stated that climate change is not a political issue, it is a concern for everyone. He encouraged everyone to read the book “21 Lessons for the 21st Century”.

Finance & Audit – No Report

Friends – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported that Casie Duplechain, and Dana Hansel are working to solicit sponsors for Lark in the Park. The funds are dedicated to the Storyland campaign. Dana Hansel thanked all Board members that sponsored Storyland exhibits, and noted that 30-40% of all donations are made in December. An aggressive projection has been created for the month of January for an influx of donations. Special Kids day was held in Storyland and the Amusement Park on December 4 and 5.

H&G Committee/Dog Park – Commissioner Elizabeth Sloss reported that the damaged Sundial has been removed.

Legal & Risk Management – No Report

NOMA – Commissioner Jay Batt reported that the second phase of the Sculpture Garden Expansion is on schedule.

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. LeCorgne is hopeful that Bob Thomas and Steve Bingler will remain on the Environmental Stewardship committee upon their rotation off of the Board.

Public Relations – Commissioner Laura Claverie reported that Amanda Frentz has been appointed the Director of Public Relations.

Nominating – No Report

Sports – No Report

Tennis – Commissioner Cleland Powell reported that the Allstate Sugar Bowl Tennis Tournament was very successful. He thanked Steve Pettus for hosting the reception.

Botanical Garden Foundation – No Report

Public comment was then invited;

President Pettus recognized outgoing Board Members Ronnie Slone, Steve Bingler, Robert Thomas, Laura Claverie, Jason Williams, and Leigh Thorpe. Pettus thanked them for their outstanding service to the Board, and distributed commemorative plaques. Becker also thanked all departing board members for their support

Larry Katz recognized Steve Pettus as outgoing President, and presented him with a plaque thanking him for his hard work, leadership, and passion as President of the Board. Becker also

thanked Pettus for his leadership and support. Pettus recapped his years as President and thanked the Board and staff for their support during his Presidency

OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Commissioner Steve Bingler followed up on a motion that was made at a previous meeting to acknowledge the staff for their hard work and dedication. Bingler volunteered to produce a certificate that would be placed at various departments throughout the Park so that the employees will have a physical representation of the Resolution that was passed by the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 4 p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Ronnie Slone