

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, February 27, 2018, at 4 p.m. by President Steve Pettus. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Balart, Batt, Cahn, Claverie, Dale, Hollis, Katz, LeCorgne, Lupo, Masinter, McCrossen, Navarre, Pate, Pettus, Savoie, Seamon, Slone, Sloss, Spears, Thomas, and Waller

ABSENT: Commissioners Arnold, Bingler, Guidry, Hess, Leger, McNeil, Messer, Offner, Pineda, Powell, Thorpe, Tregre, and Williams

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

COUNSEL:

GUESTS: Andrea Legrand, Casie Duplechain, Claire Byun, Brandy Smith, and Jennifer Fuselier

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

Steve Pettus, President of the NOCPIA Board of Commissioners, called the meeting to order. Pettus thanked Claire Byun for the article she wrote about the Park in The Gambit magazine.

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.

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

- He met with the golf course operators and like the Park they have experienced challenges due to inclement weather conditions. The Sales team will meet with their team to discuss venue options for events.
- Lark in the Park funds are designated to the renovations of the Casino Building.
- Commissioner Laura Claverie is working on an e-survey.
- He mentioned that finances are a huge challenge for the Park. Over the past three years the capital budget has decreased from \$1.5 million to \$500,000. This is one of the issues that will be addressed at the board retreat.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the agenda to allow the H&G/Dog Park Committee to give the report at this time rather than stated on the agenda. It passed unanimously.

H&G Committee/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss reported that the tulips that were planted around Big Lake are fading out. Bayou Tree will prune several Crepe Myrtles on LeLong Drive. The Heart of the Park hat luncheon will be held on April 11 in the Arbor Room. Half of the

proceeds will go towards maintenance for the trees in the Park. The Grounds Department will hire temporary help for summer to assist with duties. On Sunday, April 22, we will be partnering with Gambit to host a “dog parade” around the NOLA City Bark grounds to celebrate the New Orleans Tri-centennial. We will also work to restore the Sun Dial. Anyone interested in donating to the project should reach out to Sloss.

Kevin Cox introduced Brandy Smith and Jennifer Fuselier with Postlethwaite & Netterville, who is the independent auditor for the Park. Smith presented the financial audit and delivered a positive report. Smith reported that there were no negative audit findings. Becker thanked Kevin Cox and his staff, as well as P&N, for their work on the audit. The audit was unanimously accepted by the Board.

The Board watched a short film that will be used as a tool for fundraising. Becker showed the film to the NOMA board, which was well received. If anyone is interested in showing the film at an upcoming event let him know.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Bob Becker reported that operating results for January were below plan mostly due to extremely poor weather conditions that we have experienced since the beginning of the fiscal year. Management is closely monitoring all spending in an effort to recover a significant portion of the current deficit by year end.

He reported:

- The amusement park reopened on February 24.
- He testified at the City Council meeting on amendments to the City’s Master Plan dealing with Parks and Recreation.
- He also testified at the Legislature Special Session in regards to the statutorily dedicated funds.
- Coca-Cola presented the Park with a donation, part of a four year commitment.
- He met with the new President of the Fairgrounds and gave him a briefing on the Park.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E – Commissioner Robert Lupo updated the Board on various projects. The renovation of one of the old Maintenance buildings is nearly complete. Construction has begun on the expansion of the Sculpture Garden. Construction of the Louisiana Children’s Museum is on schedule. Both projects are scheduled to be completed by March 2019.

CITO/Special Events – No Report

Development – Commissioner Larry Katz reported that John Hopper and Lindsey Loyd are finalizing two upcoming development gatherings and mentioned that there is an opening for a third gathering. Katz explained the process of hosting a gathering. Katz mentioned that the Park will seek sponsorships for the renovation of the exhibits in Storyland.

Finance & Audit – No Report

Friends – Casie Duplechain reported that Friends currently have more than 5,100 members. Duplechain gave an update on Lark in the Park, which is scheduled for March 9 at the Goldring/Woldenberg Great Lawn. The funds are dedicated towards the renovation of the Casino Building. She thanked everyone that attended the kickoff event for the historical musical train tour. Commissioner Robert Lupo expressed the importance of all Board members attending Park events.

Legal & Risk Management – Commissioner Masinter reminded everyone to file their Financial Disclosure by May 15. Becker mentioned that the Park is in negotiations for having a Halloween event.

Public Relations – Commissioner Laura Claverie reported that Deborah Burst wrote a chapter in her book “Magical World of Trees” on the trees in City Park. She also passed around the article Claire Byun wrote on the Park in Gambit magazine. Commissioner Mike Hollis gave a shout out to front desk employees for the great merchandise for the Dog Park.

Nominating – Commissioner Ray Seamon asked everyone to send in resumes for potential candidates.

Sports – No Report

Tennis – No Report

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner Muffin Balart updated the Board on upcoming events. She reported that the Thursday concert series in the Botanical Garden has begun.

Sustainability Committee – Commissioner Robert Thomas reported that the Committee name has changed to Environmental Stewardship. Thomas reviewed the following upcoming events:

March 14 – Food for Thought

April 14 – Bio Blitz

April 24 - Earth Day

OTHER REPORTS: Pettus encouraged everyone to attend the strategic planning board retreat on Saturday at 8 a.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: President Pettus reported that according to the By-Laws, the President makes all appointments to the Committees with the exception of the Nominating Committee, which is voted on by the Board. The Nominating Committee members are Ray Seamon, Laura Claverie, Jay Batt, Liz Sloss, and Robert Lupo. The Board unanimously elected Commissioners Seamon and Claverie to a fourth term, Commissioners Katz and Batt to a third term, Commissioners Sloss and Lupo to a second term, and Commissioners Powell and Spears to a first term. President Pettus thanked everyone for serving on the Committee.

Andrea LeGrand reported on a new event celebrating New Orleans 300th birthday being held on March 10 in the Amusement Park.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at 4 p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Ronnie Slone
Secretary