

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

PRESENT: Commissioners Batt, Cahn, Claverie, Dale, Hess, Hollis, Katz, Lupo, Masinter, Offner, Pettus, Pineda, Savoie, Seamon, Slone, Sloss, Spears, Thomas, Thorpe, Tregre, and Waller

ABSENT: Commissioners Arnold, Balart, Bingler, LeCorgne, Leger, McCrossen, McNeil, Messer, Navarre, Pate, Powell, Slone, Waller, and Williams

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

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Andrea Legrand, Robert Morris, 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. He welcomed Andrea Legrand and Robert Morris from the MidCity Messenger.

The minutes of the June 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.

Pettus mentioned that the Park had a strong month financially in June, which helped reduce our deficit for the year.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Bob Becker echoed Pettus’ statement, that the Park had a strong month financially in June, and was able to record the settlement from Hurricane Gustav; after receiving verification from the State. He noted that while we were able to reduce our deficit for the year, the impact of inclement weather conditions illustrates the need to broaden the Park’s income base to become less dependent on outside activities.

He reported:

- In spite of the rain, the July 3 event, as well as Friends Fest were successful.
- The Park received a grant from DOTD for the construction of the Marconi bike path extension from Harrison to Zachery Taylor; and a new sidewalk along Zachery Taylor to Pan American Stadium.

- The Park also received a \$25,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for lagoon restoration activities.
- The Park held a Leadership Training session for senior staff. He thanked Commissioner Ronnie Slone for donating his services.

A resolution was unanimously passed authorizing Bob Becker to enter into any and all cooperative endeavor agreements with the Department of the Treasury, to secure line item appropriations for the “Beautification and Improvement of the New Orleans City Park fund.”

Committee Reports:

P, A&E – Commissioner Robert Lupo reported that the State approved funding for the new Maintenance facility; however the State will have to sell bonds in order to fund the project. The project will most likely not go out to bid until February, 2019.

CITO/Special Events – No Report

Development – Commissioner Larry Katz reviewed sponsorship opportunities for the renovation of the exhibits in Storyland. Katz thanked Commissioner Jay Batt for sponsoring the Mother Goose, and Whale exhibits.

Environmental Stewardship – Commissioner Robert Thomas reported Johanna Gundlach, the Sustainability Coordinator for Park, has resigned to return to graduate school at Tulane University

Finance & Audit – Commissioner Will Tregre reported that operating results for June were roughly \$250,000 greater than budgeted. Tregre is planning to meet with the representatives from Golf to review the budget. He mentioned that the Park will receive \$100,000 from the Heart of the Park hat luncheon for the maintenance of the trees in the Park. The Friends have donated \$50,000 to the endowment for the trees.

Friends – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported that there are currently more than 5,000 members. Lark in the Park is scheduled for March 15, 2019. The funds are dedicated toward the renovation of the exhibits in Storyland. Lark in the Park 2018 generated approximately \$269,000. The funds are dedicated for the renovation of the Casino Building. Martini Madness is scheduled for September 21. The funds are dedicated toward purchasing a Bush Hog for the Grounds department. Commissioner Susan Hess commended the staff of Friends for their efforts. Several representatives from the Friends will assist Susan Hess with the Speakers Bureau.

H&G Committee/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss congratulated Becky Anderson, an employee of the Park, for being recognized by the New Orleans Garden Society, for the design of a flower bed on the Goldring/Woldenberg Great Lawn. A meeting took place with Les Michaels to discuss plans for landscaping at the Peristyle. A commercial was recently filmed at Nola City Bark slated for national exposure for the Dog Park.

Legal & Risk Management – Commissioner Paul Masinter reported that the hearing for the Morning Call lawsuit is scheduled for August 9.

NOMA – Commissioner Jay Batt reported that the expansion of the Sculpture Garden is moving forward.

Public Relations – Commissioner Laura Claverie reported that the photography contest has ended, and the winners will be honored on July 26. Pettus thanked Commissioner Claverie for all her hard work.

Nominating – Commissioner Ray Seamon reported that the Committee met, and discussed upcoming vacancies, as well as potential candidates to serve on the Board.

Sports – No Report

Tennis – Becker reported that repairs to the building due to termite damage are underway. In August work will begin to resurface the hard courts. The Committee is reviewing options for the expansion of the tennis courts.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner David Waller reported that he will be filling in for Commissioner Muffin Balart, who is out due to personal issues. Magic in the Moonlight and the Moonlighters is scheduled for October 12. Once completed we should have enough funds to complete the outdoor kitchen. The event is being reconfigured so that both events will take place at the same time.

OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Paul Masinter requested that all Park events be placed on a comprehensive calendar to make it easier for board members to keep track of upcoming events. Becker added that sponsorship request should also be included so that duplicate request are not sent to the same donors in a short span of time. Commissioner Susan Hess mentioned that Audubon is instituting a light show that will occur at the same time as Celebration in the Oaks. A discussion took place in the regards to the impact the event will have on the Park.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at 4 p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Ronnie Slone

Did you always think your pooch should be famous? Well, visit the dog park Tuesday from 1:30-4:00ish and they just might be. Group Nine Studios will be filming a spot in partnership with Nature's Recipe that will be highlighting our great NOLA City Bark as one of the gold standard dog parks. Put on your finest collars!

Secretary