

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 23, 2019 at 4 p.m. by President Larry Katz. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Arata, Arnold, Dale, Donovan, Fitzpatrick, Gardner, Giarusso, Hess, Hollis, Katz, LeCorgne, Leger, Lupo, Masinter, Pineda, Sloss, Tregre, and Waller

ABSENT: Commissioners Adkerson, Baker, Banks, Cahn, DeBlieux,, Lester, McCrossen, McNeil, Messer, Navarre, Pate, Pettus, Powell, Savoie, Seamon, Spears, Taylor, and Thomas

STAFF: Bob Becker, Meg Adams, Amanda Frentz, Rob DeViney, Keith Hemel, Casie Duplechain, Sarah Olivier, and Denise Joubert

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Emily Mueller, Charles Marsala, Edmund Schrenk, Claire Byun, Andrea Legrand, and Steve Bingler

Larry Katz, President of the NOCPIA Board of Commissioners, called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the May, and June board meeting were unanimously 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; Katz read the rules for receiving public comments; Charles Marsala distributed a hand-out with information on how to use the “App” that he produced promoting Louisiana tourism, with much of the “App” centering on attractions in City Park.

Steve Bingler, a former Board Member, followed up on a motion that was made at the December board meeting, to recognize the staff for their hard work and dedication. Bingler produced ten plaques outlining the Resolution to 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. President Katz and Becker thanked Steve Bingler for his efforts and work to produce these plaques.

In the Presidents Report, Katz reported on the following:

He mentioned that management's recommendations for the 2019-2020 operating budget was presented at the June board meeting but was not adopted due to the lack of a quorum. Becker noted that projected revenue increased from \$19.8 million to \$22.0 million due to the incorporation of the Scream Park event into the budget. Commissioner Tregre also noted that this year's budget was roughly \$200,000 different from last year's budget with the rest of the difference due to the addition of the Scream Park event. The 2019-2020 budget was unanimously adopted.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported that due to the Park being closed for Hurricane Barry we have not completed the financials for June and the Fiscal Year. However we have the financials for golf and they reported a small net income for the fiscal year. We will use that income to begin to fund the operating reserve.

Becker reported:

- The Maintenance Complex will be going out to bid in August.
- We held a Wisner Track kickoff meeting to discuss the goals for the project.
- A drunk driver hit part of our golf fencing on Filmore taking out about seventy feet of fence. Repairs will be underway shortly.
- President Katz asked why we chose this particular time to close Storyland. Becker responded that the busiest time for Storyland occurs during the fall.

Becker presented a Resolution to authorize Keith Hemel, Chief Financial Officer as additional signature for Capital One Operating and Payroll accounts, Whitney Bank accounts, Liberty Mutual bank accounts, Louisiana Asset Management Pool (LAMP) accounts, and the Greater New Orleans Foundation accounts. The Resolution also authorizes the removal of Kevin Cox from all City Park accounts. The Resolution was unanimously adopted.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E – Edmund Schrenk reported that the plans for the Maintenance Complex will go out for bid in August. Due to the revised cost estimates and the time it took for the Legislature to appropriate all of the previously approved funding, the Green House part of the project had to be deleted. The City will begin work on Marconi from City Park Avenue to the underpass to repair the street and install one driving lane, one bike lane, and one parking lane. When completed, the Park will have at least 5 ½ miles of bike lanes around its perimeter. He mentioned that the City has asked the Park to install an inclusive playground in the Park paid for by the City. The Park has developed four different potential locations. The City will make a recommendation, and the Park will make the final choice for the location.

CITO/Special Events – Andrea LeGrand reported that the July 3 celebration was very successful, with one of the largest crowds. Becker encouraged all Commissioners to attend Park events.

Development – Larry Katz reported that Storyland construction has begun, with the projected grand re-opening in September. He reported that the Storyland campaign is close to reaching its goal in sponsorships; and reviewed remaining sponsorship opportunities. He mentioned that additional sponsorship opportunities for Storyland have been created for donors at different levels. He asked all Commissioners to let him or Duplechain know if they are aware of any potential donors. The total pledge donations to date is \$1,187,565 with \$778,315 already in house. Work has begun on sponsorships for Celebration in the Oaks. Duplechain is working to fill two vacancies.

Environmental Stewardship – Commissioner Carro Gardner reported that the phenology trail in Couturie Forest is open. The shoreline restoration and lagoon dredging are near completion. The contract for the design of the City Park Water Plan has been awarded to Batture. City Park will be involved with all steps of the process. The Park has prepared a proposal to propagate, and test native plants for stormwater management. Lunch and Learn will resume in September. Katz encouraged board members to join the Committee.

Finance & Audit – Commissioner Will Tregre highlighted \$2.3 million of capital expenditures for the last fiscal year. Funds for these projects were raised by the Friends of City Park, Botanical Garden Foundation, TIF and City Park itself.

Friends – Commissioner Larry Dale reported that Friends currently has more than 5000 members, and encouraged all Commissioners to consider becoming a member. Lark in the Park generated more than \$232,000. Funds are dedicated to the revitalization of Storyland. He mentioned that Friends Fest was well attended. He noted that upcoming events include Martini Madness on September 20, and Ghost in the Oaks on October 17 through October 20.

H&G Committee/Dog Park – No Report

Legal & Risk Management – No Report

NOMA – No Report

Wisner Tract – Commissioner Bill LeCorgne reported that the Committee met, and that only 60% of the Committee members participated in the meeting. He requested increase participation from the Committee members. The meeting covered project management, and a discussion on the goals for the project, including modified definitions for the project. He emphasized that the Wisner Tract is not a Stormwater Retention project, but a rather a people project. Water retention is only a part of the project. Several staff and Committee members are planning to visit the Arboretum in Houston. The Committee with our consultants will hold several meetings to engage stakeholders, and examine biological considerations for the site. There are currently ten stakeholder groups involved; and they are encouraged to offer their ideas for consideration, at an upcoming meeting.

Public Relations – Amanda Frentz reported that a meeting is scheduled for August 4, to plan a celebration to commensurate the Park's 170 birthday. Café DuMonde will open on July 25.

Nominating – Commissioner Liz Sloss reported that the Committee will meet in September to discuss upcoming vacancies as well as potential candidates to serve on the Board. She asked all Commissioners to contact herself or Katz if they wish to nominate potential candidates. Katz mentioned that Commissioners Tregre, Sloss, and Powell will rotate off the Board at the end of year. He reviewed the role of the President –Elect and mentioned that he would be happy to speak to anyone who may be interested in the role.

Sports – No Report

Tennis – No Report

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner David Waller reported that the Botanical Garden kitchen is near completion.

OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

- Katz mentioned that work continues on the Tad Gormley study. Commissioner Jay Batt requested that a standing committee be appointed to move the project forward. Becker mentioned that we are working to get the 2nd phase of the study underway.
- Becker requested that all Commissioners submit updated contact information to Denise Joubert.
- The TIF will expire in February, 2020, and Becker is working to extend the agreement.
- Becker mentioned that The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has confirmed that an invasive species “Asian Swamp Eel” was found in Bayou St. John.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 24 2019 at 4 p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Elizabeth Sloss