

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, November 26, 2019 at 4 p.m. by President Larry Katz. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners, Arnold, Batt, Cahn, Dale, Hess, Hollis, Katz, Leger, Lester, Lupo, Masinter, McNeil, Pettus, Pineda, Powell, Savoie, Sloss, Taylor, Tregre, and Waller

ABSENT: Commissioners Adkerson, Arata, Baker, Banks, DeBlieux, Donovan, Fitzpatrick, Gardner, Giarrusso, LeCorgne, McCrossen, Navarre, Pate, Seamon, Spears, and Thomas

STAFF: Bob Becker, Rob DeViney, Amanda Frenz, Keith Hemel, Casie Duplechain, Brianna Spruille, Sarah Olivier, and Denise Joubert

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Charles Marsala, Mary Gurala, Charles Schmite, Eades Hogue, Tom Longmire, Edmund Schrenk, and Malcolm Ehrhardt

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

The minutes of the October 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; Mary Gurala, Charles Schmite, Eades Hogue, and Tom Longmire all spoke in support of the P.T. Beauregard statue, and believe that City Park has legal rights to the statue. All would like the statue to be returned to City Park. Mr. Schmite noted that supporting groups are ready to assume the cost and the liability to return the statue to the Park. Charles Marsala mentioned that Sophia Parigi is singing on December 7, at Celebration in the Oaks. Parigi is 14 years old and has sung Opera at the Italian Piazza. He stated that he continues to bring attention to related precedents regarding monuments around the country. He noted that in Pittsboro, the United Daughters of the Confederacy were given rights to a Confederate statue, and similar rulings were made in San Antonio and Caddo Parish.

Katz reminded all Commissioners that Ethics, and Sexual Harassment training for 2019 must be completed by December 31st.

In the President's Report, Larry Katz mentioned that the Celebration in the Oaks preview party was a fantastic event. He thanked the staff for their work on the event, as well as the board members that attended the event.

He reported that Storyland is doing very well, and that revenue, as well as attendance, has doubled from last year at this time.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported that operating results for September were ahead of plan. Year to date we are approximately \$36,000 ahead of plan. He mentioned that golf is ahead of budget and doing very well. The endowment has reached over \$6 million.

Becker reported on the following:

- Voodoo Music Festival was successful, in spite of rain on opening day. We are close to completing remediation of the site.
- We held the first two public meetings required under the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement, to report on progress among the Park Partners. The focus was on environmental sustainability actions, shared resources with other park agencies, and a discussion on the city wide parks and recreation master plan.
- He attended a meeting regarding the future of Fort St. John located in Lake Vista. The Fort has experienced extensive vandalism. They discussed actions necessary to stabilize the Fort, as well as the purpose of the Fort.

Commissioner David Waller asked if the Park was at risk of losing the funds that were dedicated to the Park from the Stage, when we get the City's dedicated millage. Becker stated that he feels that the State will recognize the importance of receiving both sources of funds.

A Resolution was presented to the Board adopting the Louisiana compliance questionnaire, which is part of the Park's annual audit. The Board unanimously adopted the Resolution.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E – Edmund Schrenk reported that bids for the Maintenance facility came in under budget. He noted that the Green House part of the project was removed from the plans. The Marconi road work project is on schedule, and should be finished by Thanksgiving. The Committee will meet to discuss the proposed Wine and Beer garden.

CITO/Special Events – Commissioner Chenier Taylor updated the Board on future events. She reported that the Celebration in the Oaks kick-off parties were very successful. She mentioned that Celebration in the Oaks opens on November 29.

Development – Casie Duplechain introduced Briana Spruille, who is the new Grant and Development manager for the Park. She mentioned that 39% of the board have fulfilled their annual give/get commitment. Everyone will receive a document reviewing your donations for the

year, as well as several options for opportunities in 2020. The sponsorship goal for Celebration in the Oaks is \$100,000, to date we have received \$85,000. We received a \$15,000 donation from Entergy, however it was allocated to 2018. The end of the year direct mail appeal dropped last week. The Heart of the Park Hat luncheon is off to a great start. She thanked Commissioner Cleland Powell for securing a \$50,000 donation from Iberia Bank for the event. The chairs for the 2020 luncheon are Sheila Sanderford, Linda Miller, and Barbara Rosenberg.

Environmental Stewardship – No Report

Finance & Audit – Commissioner Will Tregre reported that the Committee voted to establish a restricted, quasi-endowment account for Storyland; as well as an unrestricted endowment account, that the Park could use for emergencies. Tregre reviewed the Park's current endowment accounts.

Friends – Commissioner Larry Dale reported that Friends currently has more than 5300 members. He noted that this is the first time that membership has reached over 5300 members. On December 10 and 11, Friends will host 300 special needs children from area schools. The event will take place at the conservatory. Lark in the Park is scheduled for March 13, 2020, Heart of the Park Hat Luncheon is scheduled for April 22, 2020, and "Par for the Park" will be held on May 12, 2020.

H&G Committee/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss reported Cobalt Construction has started work on the improvements behind the Casino building. We recently planted over 70 trees along Bayou St. John, and the Driving Range. Sloss thanked Perino's, and SOUL (Sustaining Our Urban Landscape) for their donation. Volunteers from the Garden Study Club, and the Town Gardeners have begun cleaning out areas of the Park. Sloss mentioned that City Bark will host a Howliday Market and Parade of Paws on December 14 on the Great Lawn. There will be a costume contest, and pictures with Santa. Becker noted that the bids for the Maintenance facility came in under budget. The Grounds department has been working in temporary facilities for the last fourteen years.

Legal & Risk Management – Commissioner Paul Masinter mentioned that the Voodoo Contract has not been signed, however we should be receiving the signed contract as well as the deposit for the 2020 event.

NOMA – No Report

Wisner Tract – Sarah Olivier mentioned that the Committee will meet on December 9, to review preliminary schematic drawings. A public meeting will be held on January 14.

Public Relations – Amanda Frentz reported that Celebration in the Oaks media night is being held tonight in Storyland, and Amusements. The Park has started receiving great media coverage focused on Celebration in the Oaks. Fox 8 will broadcast live at Celebration in the Oaks on Friday, December 6. Frentz mentioned that on Friday November 29th, WWL will be in the Carousel Gardens Amusement Park for 4 live shots; and three teases for Celebration in the Oaks.

Nominating – The Board voted unanimously to elect Jay Batt, President – Elect, Carro Gardner, Vice-President; Stephen Pate, Vice-President; Bill LeCorgne, Vice-President; David Waller, Treasurer; and Bryan Fitzpatrick, Secretary, and to elect Bill LeCorgne, Stephen Pate, and Mayra Pineda to serve a second four-year term on the Board. The Board also voted unanimously to elect Julie Nosser, Rob Worley, and Adam McNeil for three of the open at-large positions on the Board. President Katz thanked the members of the Nominating Committee for their work.

Sports – Commissioner Adam McNeil reported that both the North, and South Golf Courses have exceeded the number of rounds budgeted. Filmore in the Oaks has received 177 reservations for the Thanksgiving Day buffet. The flag football league at the softball complex has ended, and will resume in the spring. Commissioner Susan Hess asked how the amount of football games being played in the stadiums, compare to years past. Becker explained that play has been steady for the last few years. Commissioner Will Tregre noted that the stadiums are reserved every night for various events.

Tennis – Commissioner Cleland Powell reported that Coco Gauff will have an open practice session at the tennis facility on November 27. Commissioner Jay Batt mentioned that the Sugar Bowl is excited for the direction of the Tennis facility.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner Rebecca Lester reported the fall programming for the outdoor kitchen has been completed. Work is underway on the programming schedule for the spring. The Garden will search for a Special Events Coordinator to hire after the 1st of the year. Work continues to have the Botanical Garden, accredited by the American Association of Museums.

OTHER REPORTS: Becker mentioned that Travel Trivia named New Orleans City Park as one of six “best urban parks” in the United States.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 4 p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Elizabeth Sloss