

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, October 23, 2018, at 4 p.m. by President Steve Pettus. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Arnold, Batt, Bingler, Cahn, Claverie, Donovan, Hess, Hollis, Katz, LeCorgne, Leger, Lupo, Masinter, Messer, McNeil, Pettus, Pineda, Powell, Seamon, Sloss, Thomas, Thorpe, Tregre, and Waller

ABSENT: Commissioners Dale, McCrossen, Navarre, Offner, Pate, Savoie, Slone, Spears, and Williams

STAFF: Bob Becker, Meg Adams, Rob DeViney, and Denise Joubert

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Casie Duplechain, Charles Marsala, 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.

The minutes of the September Board meeting were approved.

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.

Public comment was then invited; Charles Marsala noted that he is working with Mayor Cantrell on the relocation of the monuments. Marsala is also continuing his work to determine the history of Beauregard. Pettus thanked him for his comments.

Pettus reported:

- Sponsorships for Storyland have raised \$200,000, with \$135,000 from the support of City Park board members.
- City Park, NORDC, Audubon, and Parks and Parkway are working with the City on the re-allocation of the upcoming millage renewal. If successful at the polls, this will provide City Park with the first ever dedicated funding in 168 years from the City. No new taxes are involved with this effort.
- Scout Island Scream Park is going well. The event caused the Park to add much needed infrastructure on Scout Island. DeViney reported that to date the event has grossed over \$800,000 with two weeks left.
- The solicitation for the Food and Beverage lease at the Casino Building went out.

- He met with the new Director of the S&WB and discussed the proposed stormwater mitigation project.
- He met with the Greater New Orleans Foundation, who gave the Park a \$10,000 grant.
- The Chihuly Sculpture is in the process of being installed.
- He and Rob DeViney met with Commander Walls and Nick Gernon to discuss the appropriate way for the NOPD stables to be contained to a reasonable footprint, which has doubled since the hurricane.
- Discussions for additional cameras at entry points to the Park are ongoing.
- Voodoo Fest has been notified that are exceeding the space that is allowed in their current contract.

A Resolution was offered by Commissioner Jay Batt, and seconded by Commissioner Robert Lupo to support the re-balancing of public recreation funding, through amending the current allocation of property tax millage, and to work diligently to inform the public about the benefits of the initiative. The Resolution was unanimously adopted. Commissioner Paul Masinter thanked current, and past Board Members, the staff, Friends of City Park, and all supporters that have helped to make this proposal a reality.

In the Management Report, Rob DeViney mentioned ongoing and upcoming events in the Park. He reported that between October - December approximately 300 part time jobs were created due to special events in the Park. Scream Fest has received great media attention, as well as an outpouring of public support. DeViney praised the staff for their work on the project. Commissioner Steve Bingler recommended a commendation from the Board to the staff to recognize the work they do every day. Commissioner Jay Batt recognized Rob DeViney for his vision, and work on Scream Fest. A motion was unanimously adopted to recognize the efforts of the employees at the Park.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E – No Report

CITO/Special Events – No Report

Development – Commissioner Larry Katz thanked Casie Duplechain and Chenita Pickett for their help with ongoing development efforts. Duplechain mentioned that if any Commissioner is interested in joining the Friends board after rotating off of the City Park Board to let her know. Katz distributed and reviewed sponsorship opportunities for the renovation of the exhibits in Storyland. Katz thanked Commissioners Jay Batt, Laura Claverie, and Steve Pettus for their sponsorships. Commissioners Jay Batt, Steve Pettus and Laura Claverie shared sentiments of why they chose to sponsor an exhibit in Storyland.

Environmental Stewardship – Commissioner Robert Thomas mentioned that a new species of snake discovered in the Galapagos Islands was named after him. We continue to work with the National Fish and Wildlife grant to reduce the amount of vegetation in the lagoons. Staff met

with the National Audubon Society to initiate birding projects in the Park. Work continues on the LED Entergy grant program to transfer lighting in the Park to LED lighting. Projects have been completed at the Practice Track, Celebration in the Oaks storage facility, and the Dog Park. By the end of the year we hope to have the project completed at the Tennis Courts, the Festival Grounds, and the Marconi Soccer fields; at minimal cost to City Park.

Finance & Audit – Commissioner Will Tregre reported that operating results are slightly under budget for the fiscal year. Commissioner Steve Bingler mentioned he has discovered that there is insurance, which may be fairly inexpensive, to insure against cancellations due to weather. Commissioner Mike Hollis mentioned that he has experience with weather insurance, and has not seen the results justify the expense; but that it is worth researching.

Friends – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported that Ghost in the Oaks was held on October 18-21, and greater than 2200 guests attended each day. Thorpe thanked Waymon Morris, and his staff for their help with Ghosts in the Oaks. Lark in the Park is celebrating 40th anniversary March 15, 2019. All funds are dedicated to Storyland.

H&G Committee/Dog Park – Commissioner Elizabeth Sloss updated the Board on various projects. Sloss reported that installation of the Chihuly Sculpture has begun. The Audubon Society donated \$10,000 for signage in Couturie Forest. The Garden Clubs of America has a program called Partners for Plants that hires a consultant to remove invasive plant species; and replace them with native species. Sloss mentioned that the Committee will contact the Louisiana Children’s Museum regarding their landscaping plans. Pettus mentioned that it is the Board’s responsibility to develop guidelines for planting in the Park. A discussion took place in regards to the plans for the area around the Sundial. A motion was unanimously adopted to find a new location for a Sundial in the Park.

Legal & Risk Management – Commissioner Paul Masinter reported that the bid opening date for the food and beverage lease is Dec. 5. The concerns of the courts are addressed in the new documents. There will be a mandatory pre-bid meeting, with an opportunity for potential bidders to receive information about the potential lease. Pettus thanked Commissioners Paul Masinter, and Adam McNeil; as well as Tut Kinney and Kelly Staples for their work on the process.

NOMA – Commissioner Jay Batt reported that the Odyssey Ball is scheduled for November 10.

Wisner Tract - Commissioner Bill LeCorgne reported that the Park has secured funds from four sources, and is still working to secure additional funding to develop a Master Plan for the Wisner Tract.

Public Relations – Commissioner Laura Claverie reported that the Park has received lots of great media coverage focused on the Scream Park. A new birthday video is steaming on social media.

Nominating – Commissioner Ray Seamon submitted the names of the officers for 2019 that will be put into nomination at this meeting, and voted on at the November meeting. Those officers are Jay Batt, Vice-President; Stephen Pate, Vice-President; Bill LeCorgne, Vice-President; Will Tregre, Treasurer; and Elizabeth Sloss, Secretary. Commissioner Jay Batt and Elizabeth Sloss

recused from voting due to their involvement. The Committee recommends Jay Batt, and Cleveland Spears to serve a second four-year term on the Board. The Committee further recommends Bryan Fitzpatrick, Chenier Taylor, Carro Gardner, and Emily Arata for four of the open at-large positions on the Board. The Board will take action on these nominations at the November Board meeting. President Pettus, and Commissioner Robert Lupo thanked Commissioners Seamon, and the Committee for their hard work. Commissioner Seamon thanked all the members of the Nominating Committee for their work on the process.

Sports – No Report

Tennis – Commissioner Cleland Powell distributed an invitation for the Allstate Sugar Bowl Tennis Tournament and encouraged everyone to attend. He reported that the 2018 tournament will be a USTA National Level Tournament. This tournament is returning to its status as one of the premier tournaments in the Country. USTA declared the 2017 Allstate Sugar Bowl tournament the number 1 tournament in the South. Commissioner Susan Hess mentioned that Mike Marsiglia is donating and preparing the dinner for the event. The Committee is reviewing options for the expansion of the tennis courts.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner David Waller reported that Magic in the Moonlight and the Moonlighters was successful. The event should generate enough funds to complete the outdoor kitchen. Waller mentioned that a fundraiser in the Botanical Garden is scheduled for April 5-7, 2019. Artists will paint scenes in the Park and the Garden. They will then be sold at an auction in the Pavilion. Waller mentioned that they will work with the H&G Committee to discuss the landscaping plans for the Louisiana Children’s Museum.

OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 27, 2018 at 4 p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Ronnie Slone