

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association (the "NOCPIA") was called to order Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at 4 p.m. The meeting was held in person at the Garden Study Center in the Botanical Garden.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Adams, Giarrusso, Giffin, King, Laborde, LeCorgne, Lupo, Savoie, Sterbcow, and Waller

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Arata, Coaxum, Dale, Green, Hardie, Katz, Leger, McNeil, Murray, Pate, and Sherman

**STAFF:** Cara Lambright, Keith Hemel, Casie Duplechain, Rebecca Dietz, Keith Claverie, Chris Maitre, and Denise Joubert

**GUESTS:** Liz Sloss, and Myron Firmin

Chairman David Waller called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for coming. He stated that Dessa's term as President of the Botanical Garden Foundation has ended. He thanked her for her service. Cara also thanked Dessa for all her hard work.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.

A quorum was not present for the meeting.

#### **MANAGEMENT REPORT:**

In the Management Report, Cara Lambright, Chief Executive Officer stated:

- Adam McNeil, Robert Lupo, Bill LeCorgne, Stephen Pate, Larry Katz, and Lori Savoie will rotate off the board in June. Following the board meeting on June 27, we will host a reception to recognize their service.
- Thirteen firms responded to our request for Master Planning Services. We formed a selection committee comprised of staff, CPIA and CPC board members, and outside members with expertise in master planning to identify the best fit for the park.
- As part of the CEA – CPC must operate in accordance with a strategic plan. We engaged Dini Spheris, a national philanthropy firm, to facilitate a proposed plan for input.
- The bill of sale for Couba Island has been finalized but has not been fully executed.

Rebecca Dietz, Chief Administrative Officer provided an update on the legislative session. She noted that HB1 and HB2 have been published in their current state.

- \$1.9 million for the state slot tax.
- \$1.8 million in Priority 1 for the greenhouse and native plant program
- \$2,089,000 in Priority 1 for the Old Maintenance Corral
- \$350,000 in "self-funded" HB2 for Tad Gormley has been removed.
- Will request funding for the Master Plan in next year legislative session.

## **OPERATIONS:**

Chris Maitre, Chief Operating Officer, reported:

- We hosted the Central Park Institute Urban Park Roundtable workshop focused on resiliency.
- We hosted the American Public Garden Board of Directors meeting in the Botanical Garden.
- ReSET will host a three-day concert series on the Festival Grounds from June 9 to 11.
- We hired two new police officers.
- Working to establish a rapport with the 3rd District Commander.
- Working on the restoration of the exhibits at Storyland.
- The restoration of Butler Fountain is ongoing.
- The installation of 5G nodes throughout the park will begin soon.

## **GOVERNANCE:**

Waller reported that the committee met and is reviewing a list of prospective board candidates and contacting them to determine their interest in serving on the board. The slate will be presented during the board meeting in May.

## **FINANCE:**

Keith Hemel, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the consolidated dashboard, and reported

### Government funding

- We submitted \$572,000 for reimbursement for the state slot tax through the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. We were awarded \$2.2 million in the current fiscal year with an additional \$900,000.
- Millage – We received \$1.9M through February.
- TIF – \$162,000 through 2 quarters.

### Reviewed departmental budgets.

- City Putt has outperformed the budget year to date.
- Amusement and Storyland reduced their year-to-date deficit.
- Athletics – below budget due to lighting repairs.
- Golf failed to meet its budget in July and August and has not yet recovered. There was a discussion regarding Golf operations and budgetary projections. Peggy Laborde remarked that the golf clubhouse appears to be underutilized. Cara stated that they have a new manager of food and beverage, and the food is wonderful. There was a brief discussion on marketing and advertising the clubhouse.
- The final PW reimbursement due to the park for Hurricane Katrina closed last week.

- According to the CEA, the budget will be presented to the CPIA board no later than May 1. We are working to meet the deadline.

**DEVELOPMENT:**

Casie Duplechain, Chief Philanthropy and Engagement Officer reviewed upcoming key events in the park.

- April 26 - Heart of the Park Hat luncheon
- May 2 - Give NOLA Day
- May 18 - Toast in the Oaks
- September 27 – State of the Park Breakfast
- October 13 – Magic in the Moonlight

Working with Donor Voice to identify existing constituents based on their online behavior and personality. Will soon begin to see targeted ads.

Friends of City Park currently has 4,356 members, with an 87% renewal rate.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.