

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association (the "NOCPIA") was called to order Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 4 p.m. by President Jay Batt. The meeting was held in-person at the Pavilion of Two Sisters.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners, Batt, Cahn, Charbonnet, Dale, Fitzpatrick, Hollis, Katz, LeCorgne, Lupo, Morrell, Powell, Savoie, Sloss, Sterbcow, Taylor, Waller, and Worley

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Arata, Banks, Bordelon, Brandt, Coaxum, DeBlieux, Gardner, Giarrusso, Giffin, Hardie, King, Leger, McNeil, Pate, Pineda, Rodriguez, Spears, Thorpe, and Williams

**STAFF:** Cara Lambright, Keith Hemel, Casie Duplechain, Jake Webster, and Denise Joubert

**GUESTS:** Andrea Legrand, Erin Schilling, Bill Goldring, Ronald Rabin, Roger Wheaton, Cindy Hart, Dominique Ellis Falcon, Lisa Blount, Susan Hess, and Edmund Schrenk

President Jay Batt called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Board.

A quorum was not present for the meeting.

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

**PRESIDENTS REPORT:** President Jay Batt stated that the Park sustained a considerable amount of damage from Hurricane Ida. He expressed his gratitude for City Park's role as a distribution point for food and supplies.

Chief Executive Officer, Cara Lambright introduced Jake Webster, the new Capital Projects Manager for the Park.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT:** Chief Executive Officer, Cara Lambright reported:

- She complimented the staff for their outstanding efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. Dan Preziosi, Director of Park Grounds was recognized for his leadership following the hurricane. She also praised the efforts of Keith Hemel and Jake Webster for their assistance with insurance claims.
- Casie Duplechain created a booklet with before and after photos of the park following the storm.
  - The Park hosted the lineman from the Georgia Power Company.
  - More than 150 volunteers assisted in the clean-up of hurricane debris.
  - The Park served as a distribution point for a food drive
  - Hosted football games that were unable to be played elsewhere due to hurricane damage

The Park sustained approximately \$750,000 in damages from Hurricane Ida to date.

- We lost about 125 specimen trees.
- Storyland, Quadraplex, and the Arbor Room all suffered significant damage.
- The Tennis Center's clay courts were damaged. Resurfacing the courts is expected to cost more than \$200,000. The courts are covered by the State of Louisiana's insurance and are awaiting an assessment. As a result of Covid, we are concerned about a potential supply slowdown. We added this information to the City Park website and sent a text message with a link to Tennis Center users to improve communications in the tennis community. Ms. Lambright also noted the number of guest attending that were interested in tennis and said she would follow up and host a round table discussion.
- There has been an uptick in crime in the park since the hurricane, notably among the homeless, who have become more aggressive. We had an incident at the Tennis Center where one of our employees was attacked randomly during the day. We immediately implemented additional policies and security measures including a camera system to keep visitors and staff safe.
- Post hurricane it was noted that having a tree inventory and arborist would have aided recovery. We requested \$150,000 in funding from the City's Capital Improvement budget for a tree inventory. We also need a full-time arborist on staff.
- The business continuation and the hurricane preparation plan both worked very well.
- The Park implemented a vaccine mandate for all employees.

The Wisner Tract Master Plan won an honor award from the Louisiana Chapter of the Society of Landscape Architect in Analysis and Planning.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **P, A&E/Wisner Tract** – Commissioner Bill LeCorgne reported that the CEA with the City for bond projects is still unresolved.
- Work continues on the food and beverage RFP for City Putt.
- The old Maintenance building's design development drawings have been submitted to the State and are awaiting approval.
- We are reviewing the Hazard Mitigation Project design to make sure that it is favorable to the park.

**DEVELOPMENT**– Chief Development Officer, Casie Duplechain reported:

The following events were canceled due to COVID or Hurricane Ida

- Toast in the Oaks
- Martini Madness
- State of the Park Breakfast

- Ghost in the Oaks

Upcoming fundraisers include:

- Botanical Garden Magic in the Moonlight dinner– October 14
- Celebrations in the Oaks – Sponsor Preview Party - November 19  
month long event starts November 25 through January 2. It will be a driving tour with the ability to purchase an add on ticket for the Carousel Garden Experience.
- Launching year end giving campaign

The Hurricane Ida Disaster Relief Fund received \$27,000 in donations from 211 donors. We also encouraged individuals to volunteer, and 510 new volunteers have signed up since the hurricane.

We are working on the State Capital Outlay, which is due on November 1

Upcoming Park/Community Events

- Crescent City Farmers Market
- Evenings with Enrique begins on October 6 and continuing every Wednesday in October
- The Louisiana Philharmonic will perform its season opener on the Goldring/Woldenberg Great Lawn on October 20.

**FINANCE & AUDIT** – Chief Financial Officer Keith Hemel reviewed year-end summary of last year’s financials. He noted that we ended the year with a \$2,000,000 net income. This net income replenishes prior year losses. Note, we already spent \$750,000 on Hurricane Ida debris removal that will be reimbursed by FEMA at some point in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26, 2021.