

NOCPIA
BOARD MEETING

12/15/2020

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association (the "NOCPIA") was called to order Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 4 pm by President Larry Katz. The meeting was held at the Pavilion of Two Sisters.

PRESENT: Commissioners Arata, Batt, Cahn, Dale, DeBlieux, Fitzpatrick, Gardner, Hess, Katz, LeCorgne, Leger, Pineda, Savoie, Seamon, Thorpe, Waller, and Williams

ABSENT: Commissioners Adkinson, Baker, Banks, Giarrusso, Hollis, King, Lester, Lupo, Masinter, McNeil, Morrell, Pate, Rodriguez, Spears, Taylor, and Worley

STAFF: Bob Becker, Rob DeViney, Keith Hemel, Casie Duplechain, and Denise Joubert

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Stephanie Bell, Andrea LeGrand, Karen Coaxum, JoAnn Katz, Edmund Schrenk, Steve Pettus, Jeff Burkhardt, Brad Giacone, Jason Villemarette, Representative Stephanie Hilferty

Anyone wishing to comment on any item on the agenda must sign-in or submit their comments via email and indicate what item they wish to comment on. There were no public comments received.

Larry Katz, President of the NOCPIA Board of Commissioners, called the meeting to order. The board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

A quorum was not present for the meeting, therefore no action was taken.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker recognized Presidents Katz's wife, JoAnn. Becker stated that Celebration in the Oaks is going extremely well. He announced that the \$2.5 million allocated to the Park was sent by the State.

Chief Financial Officer Keith Hemel reported:

- We are right on par with what we expected to receive from the state slot tax. We received approximately \$200,000 in September and \$230,000 in November. The money is being used on debris removal from Hurricane Zeta. We expect to be reimbursed 75% of the amount spent.
- The Park submitted about \$600,000 of COVID related expenses to the State under the Cares Act. The State approved about \$300,000, but they ran out of money and can only pay \$50,000 to the Park.

- For the Celebrations in the Oaks walking tour, we normally budget about 150,000 participants. To date, there were about 35,000 vehicles drive-through, which translates to about 133,000 individuals. We are on track to surpass what we usually budget for the walking tour. We have budgeted revenue to gross \$938,000 and are currently at \$1.2 million.
- The Finance Committee received a draft of the year-end audit report. Our auditors will give their unqualified opinion at the January board meeting.

President Katz introduced Karen Coaxum, who was elected to serve on the Board for one of the open at-large positions in 2021. Coaxum said that City Park is a crown jewel of New Orleans and is thrilled for the opportunity to serve on the Board.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E – No Report

CITO/Special Events – No Report

Development – Chief Development Officer Casie Duplechian reported that work continues on the general support campaign. She said that the fundraising goal set by the steering committee in August was \$5,000,000. We are currently at \$3.4 million, which includes \$2.5 million from the State. Since the November board meeting, we are up \$271,000

Duplechain reported on the following gifts:

- The Helis Foundation increased its annual donation by 50% compared to 2019.
- Goldring/Woldenberg Foundation provided funding for maintenance of the Great Lawn
- Cathy and Morris Bart donated \$75,000 for Storyland Dragon Slide
- Larry and JoAnn Katz donated the wind element in the Botanical Garden
- The Botanical Garden received a \$50,000 donation from an estate for flowerbed planting

Duplechain distributed an application to join the 1,000 for \$1,000 Oak Tree Circle, as well as a list of everyone who donated in 2020.

President Katz recognized outgoing Board Members Ray Seamon, Ryan Adkerson, Susan Hess, and Paul Masinter. Katz thanked them for their outstanding service to the Board and distributed commemorative plaques. Becker also thanked all departing board members for their support.

Commissioner Ray Seamon thanked President Katz and the board members and said that serving on the board has been amazing. He expressed his desire to continue working with the Board.

Commissioner Susan Hess reflected on the last 16 years of serving on the Board. She said that it had been a great honor. She thanked everyone for the opportunity to be a part of a tremendous organization.

Commissioner Ryan Adkerson and Commissioner Paul Masinter were unable to attend the meeting. Katz noted that Paul Masinter would remain as Chair of the Legal Committee.

Environmental Stewardship – No Report

Finance & Audit – No Report.

Friends – No Report

H&G Committee/Dog Park – No Report

Legal & Risk Management – No Report

NOMA – No Report

Wisner Tract – No Report

Public Relations – No Report

Nominating – No Report.

Sports – No Report

Tennis – No Report

Botanical Garden Foundation – No Report

President Katz presented the President's Award to several individuals for their outstanding support of the Park. The recipients are:

Jeff Burkhardt – Active Solutions in-kind donation of security solutions for the Park

Brad Giacone - Active Solutions - in-kind donation of security solutions for the Park

Darren Martino – Coca-Cola help in securing Coca Cola's support of the Park through sponsorships and donations

Jason and Nicole Villemarette - Support by creating commercials and communications to help the Park through the 2019 millage campaign, and community support during COVID-19.

Representative Stephanie Hilferty - Support in the State Legislature to secure desperately needed funding for the Park during the COVID crisis.

Senator Jimmy Harris - Support in the State Legislature to secure desperately needed funding for the Park during the COVID crisis.

All recipients expressed their gratitude for being recognized by the Park.

Jay Batt recognized Larry Katz as outgoing President and presented him with a plaque thanking him for his hard work, leadership, and passion as President of the Board. He highlighted some of his outstanding accomplishments, including being instrumental in the millage passage and outstanding leadership during the Covid crisis. He recognized Katz's monumental fundraising campaign and his role in getting a \$2.5 million emergency appropriation from the State. Katz recapped his years as President and thanked his wife JoAnn for her support. He also thanked Bob Becker, the staff, and the Friends of City Park for their support during his Presidency. He mentioned some of the accomplishments during his tenure as President, such as the Storyland renovation, re-opening of Café DuMonde, negotiation of the new Voodoo contract, the opening of the Children's Museum's, the passing of the millage, as well as many more. Finally, he thanked the Board for allowing him to serve.

OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 26, 2021, @ 4 pm.