

NOCPIA
BOARD MEETING

1/26/2021

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association (the "NOCPIA") was called to order Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at 4 p.m. by President Jay Batt. The meeting was held in-person at the Pavilion of Two Sisters and via Zoom.

PRESENT: Commissioners Arata, Batt, Bordelon, Cahn, Coaxum, Dale, DeBlieux, Fitzpatrick, Gardner, Giarrusso, Katz, King, LeCorgne, Leger, Lester, Lupo, Pate, Pineda, Savoie, Sloss, Spears, Sterbcow, Taylor, Thorpe, Waller, and Williams

ABSENT: Commissioners Banks, Brandt, Hollis, McNeil, Morrell, Powell, Rodriguez, and Worley

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

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Sean Bruno, Paul Masinter, Andrea Legand, Stephanie Bell, and Ray Seamon

In accordance with Executive Orders issued by Governor John Bel Edwards, this notice shall serve as a certification of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association's inability to operate in accordance with the Louisiana Open meetings law as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Members of the public may attend the meeting in person, observing all appropriate public health guidance or submit an email before the beginning of the meeting, which will be read to the Association's members before any action on any agenda item.

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.

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

A quorum is present and voting throughout the meeting.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the October, November, and December 2020 board meetings as circulated via email. The motion was seconded, vote on and unanimously approved.

President Jay Batt introduce Sean Bruno, the independent auditor for the Park. Mr. Bruno thanked City Park for the opportunity to perform the audit. Bruno presented the financial audit and delivered an unmodified opinion. The only issue noted was in regards to the Park's

accounting system. Bruno explained that a component of the audit process is to test the controls. Because of the outdated accounting system, transactions requested to perform the test could not be easily generated. Additional testing was performed by the auditors to overcome the outdated system. The Park is in the process of implementing a new system. Because of COVID and the uncertainty of the future, Bruno stressed the importance of monitoring the budget and making adjustments as needed. Batt thanked Sean Bruno for their work on the audit. The board unanimously voted to accept the audit report.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported that operating results for December were \$3,000,000 ahead of budget. Year to date the Park is ahead of budget by \$4.2 million. This was a result of a successful Celebration in the Oaks driving tour, golf outperforming its budget, unrestricted year-end donations, and the receipt of \$2.5 million in general fund support from the Legislature. The reserve funds in LAMP stand at \$3.7million.

Becker said that for the 1st time in the 130 years, City Park Improvement Association will receive city property tax proceeds. Because the City sent the property tax bills later than usual it is likely that the Park's distribution will be delayed until the end of February or beyond.

Becker stated that when the Mayor called for creative ideas to celebrate Mardi Gras, staff began to consider several possibilities. After a successful Celebration in the Oaks driving tour, we began to develop the concept for "Floats in the Oaks," a Mardi Gras driving tour. He noted that Chief Operating Officer Rob DeViney secured floats from various Mardi Gras krewes to place along Roosevelt Mall. The event is receiving tremendous support from multiple organizations and the public. Chief Operating Officer Rob DeViney reported that we already sold 9,500 of the 20,000 available time slots. He noted that when tickets were purchased, we included a donation option. So far, we have grossed more \$25,000 in unrestricted donations. In addition to the driving tour experience, visitors can add-on Parade Packs or the Grandstand Experience. He commended the employees for their tremendous efforts. He continued by saying that we have not even been able to strike the Park from Celebration in the Oaks, and they have already started to strike Roosevelt Mall for Floats in the Oaks. We are also fabricating new exhibits, and reprogramming all the light displays purple, green, and gold.

He thanked Commissioner Liz Sloss and the Rex Organization, who was the first to commit to being a part of the event. The Rex Organization has a special connection to City Park; our past Executive Director Beau Bassich served as the King of Rex in 1989. The event will run from Thursday, February 4th through Sunday, February 14th, weekdays 5 pm -10 pm and weekends 1 pm - 10 pm. City Park has created hours for bike riders: \$5/bike: Saturday 2/6 and 2/13 from 11 am to noon. DeViney explained that it is the responsibility of the Park to protect the floats against the weather. He promised the organizations that their assets would be protected. He thanked Sheriff Marlin Gusman for donating the overnight security. President Batt and the Board thanked DeViney for his efforts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

P, A&E – No Report

CITO/Special Events – No Report

Development – Chief Development Officer Casie Duplechian reported that we are continuing to work with the Friends of City Park and the Botanical Garden Foundation on the general support campaign. She said that the overall fundraising goal is \$5,000.00. We are currently at \$4 million which includes:

- \$2.5 million from the State;
- \$840,000 - Covid campaign
- \$121,980 - End of the Year campaign
- \$120,000 – Celebration in the Oaks
- \$271,000 – Magic/Botanical Garden Foundation
- \$63,000 - Ghost in the Oaks

Of the \$4 million pledged, \$513,000 is restricted.

Duplechain distributed a list of anyone who contributed to the Oak Tree Circle. There are currently 193 members participating in the Oaks Tree Circle, which is a 51% increase since the meeting on December 14, 2020.

Environmental Stewardship – No Report

Finance & Audit – No Report.

Friends – Stephanie Bell reported that Friends of City Park organized a volunteer service day on January 18. In August, they expect to schedule another day of service. She stated that Clean-Up Krewe is scheduled to start in February. She mentioned that Friends of City Park will host Picnic in the Park fundraiser, a Covid-safe variation of Lark in the Park. The fundraiser will be held on Sunday, March 14 in the Botanical Garden. There will be two daytime seating options (11am and 4pm) to allow for limited attendance, and social distancing. Bell thanked Commissioners Leigh Thorpe, Larry, Katz, Robert Lupo, Jessica Brandt, Mayra Pineda, Karen DeBlieux, and Paul Masinter for their support. The event will raise funds for the endowment of City Park.

H&G Committee/Dog Park – No Report

Legal & Risk Management – No Report

NOMA – No Report

Wisner Tract – No Report

Public Relations – No Report

Nominating – According to the By-Laws, the President makes all appointments to the Committees with the exception of the Nominating Committee, which is voted on by the Board. The Nominating Committee members are Bryan Fitzpatrick, Larry Katz, Mayra Pineda, Richard Cahn, Cleveland Spears, and Robert Lupo. Commissioner Bryan Fitzpatrick reported that the Nominating Committee met and recommends Noah Hardie and Storey Charbonnet for two of the open-at-large positions on the Board. Commissioner Fitzpatrick presented a brief bio on each

candidate. The Board voted unanimously to elect Noah Hardie and Storey Charbonnet to the Board effective February 1, 2021. For 2021 Commissioner Lupo's four year term as a member of the Nominating Committee will expire, therefore there will be one vacancy. If anyone is interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, contact Jay Batt. The election for the Nominating Committee will be held at the February meeting

Sports – No Report

Tennis – No Report

Botanical Garden Foundation – No Report

OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Becker presented Paul Masinter with a commemorative plaque, thanking him for sixteen years of outstanding service to the Board. Masinter was unable to attend the board meeting in December to accept the award. Masinter thanked Becker and said that after Hurricane Katrina the Board decided not only to rebuild City Park, but to make it a World Class Park, which we have done because of your leadership. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve and is looking forward to continue working with the Board. President Batt said that this is Becker's last official board meeting. He said that Becker has been a great leader for the Park over the last 20 years. He thanked him for his service and for the sacrifices he made for the Park, not the least of which was the time he lost with his family.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23, 2021.