

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE NEW ORLEANS CITY PARK IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order Tuesday, July 24, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. by President Lupo. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Bingler, Brooks, Chase, Clarkson (represented by Baxter), DeBlieux, Fernandez, Fierke, Giffin, Hales, Hoffman, Johnson, Katz, Laborde, LaFranca, LeGrand, Lupo, McKeithen, Palumbo, Pappalardo, Powell, Romig, Schoen, Schrenk, Shreves, Slone, Sloss and Tregre

ABSENT: Commissioners Brennan, Brown, Farnet, Guidry, McKay, Payton, Pettus and Vesich

STAFF: Bob Becker, Rob DeViney, Kevin Cox, John Hopper, Chad Harper and Denise Joubert

GUESTS: Dr. Dennis Gleiber

President Lupo welcomed everyone.

Chief Operating Officer Rob DeViney introduced Chad Harper, who has been hired as the Director of Concessions for the Park.

The June minutes were approved.

A presentation of the 2011 Needs Assessment Survey was presented to the Board by Dr. Dennis Gleiber of the Olinger Group. Highlights include favorable response to the Park's activities, as well as an increase in the number of visits to the Park.

A Resolution was unanimously passed authorizing Robert Becker to serve as the designated representative of the NOCPIA for the purposes of compliance with the provisions of the Louisiana Public Works Act.

In his Management Report, Chief Executive Becker reported the Park had a successful fiscal year which ended on June 30th. Golf and Catering had strong results and for the first time Athletic Services produced a profit. Revenues beat budget expectations by approximately \$610,000. Investments in the Arbor Room, the City Park/Pepsi Tennis Complex, and in Celebration helped account for our increased revenues. Kevin Cox presented two PowerPoint slides highlighting preliminary FY12 results. The first slide showed that City Park FY12 revenues and net exceeded budget by approximately \$580,000 and \$320,000, respectively. The second slide showed that the Endowment increased by \$870,775 to \$2,142,603, mostly from contributions. Cox said that Tennis and Matt Savoie donations accounted for the majority of the increase and commended John Hopper's good work in Development and the good partnership with the Friends of City Park.

A meeting was held with the State Department of Transportation and Development for the second phase of the Tri-Centennial Place improvements. The State selected a consultant to prepare the design for various projects in the Tri-Centennial Place area.

Becker attended the International Urban Parks Conference in New York and gave a presentation on the Park's Master Plan and the recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

Committee Report:

A&E – Commissioner Edmund Schrenk updated the Board on various projects in the Park. The committee met with the Splash Park architect and decided on a design plan. The committee reviewed and approved the Public Art policy. A favorable bid was received for our re-bid in the miniature golf clubhouse. The Committee also reviewed a plan by Tulane Rowing Club for a facility to house skulls.

Athletics – Commissioner Andrea LeGrand reported the final installment of Sugar Bowl funds will be used for HVAC for home side concessions, enhanced lighting, and new track equipment at Tad Gormley Stadium. Tulane will practice track in Tad Gormley and tennis at the Tennis facility.

Golf – Commissioner Will Tregre commended Billy Casper management for maintenance of the course. The new courses should go out to bid by the end of September. Progress is being made with Bayou District Foundation on the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement and hope to finalize and adopt at the September meeting.

Development – John Hopper reported sponsorship has been secured for thirty-three holes for miniature golf.

Finance – No Report

Special Events/CITO – No Report

Horticulture and Grounds – Commissioner Jane Brooks updated the Board on various projects. The Committee discussed Storyland/Garden entrance. Grow Dat and Urban Farms have requested a compost site. The Audubon Society approached the Park in regards to developing a bird habitat. Discussions are ongoing in regards to developing a maintenance policy for the Festival Grounds.

NOMA – No Report

Nominating – No Report

Legal – The committee is reviewing on-going legal issues.

Public Relations – Commissioner Karen Fernandez reported five firms will give a website presentation next week.

Tennis – Commissioner Errol Laborde reported Tennis has begun hosting Friday night tennis socials which have been well received.

Friends of City Park – Commissioner Dessa Giffin updated the Board on upcoming events.

Dog Park – Commissioner Jackie Shreves reported the Dog Park will host a Halloween event.

New Business:

Public comment was then invited; there was no public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled Tuesday, September 25, 2012 at 4:00 pm.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Jackie Shreves
Secretary