

NOCPIA
BOARD MEETING

3/23/2021

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association (the "NOCPIA") was called to order Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at 4 p.m. by Cara Lambright. The meeting was held in-person at the Pavilion of Two Sisters and via Zoom.

PRESENT: Commissioners Banks, Brandt, Cahn, Charbonnet, Coaxum, Dale, DeBlieux, Gardner, Giarrusso, Hardie, Katz, LeCorgne, Lester, Lupo, McNeil, Morrell, Rodriguez, Sloss, Spears, Taylor, Thorpe, Waller, Williams, and Worley

ABSENT: Commissioners Arata, Batt, Bordelon, Fitzpatrick, Hollis, King, Leger, Pate, Pineda, Powell, Savoie, and Sterbcow

STAFF: Cara Lambright, Rob DeViney, Keith Hemel, Casie Duplechain, Kerry Guillory, Meg Adams, and Denise Joubert

GUESTS: Paul Masinter, Stephanie Bell, Edmund Schrenk, 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.

In the absence of President Jay Batt, Cara Lambright, Chief Executive Officer, called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Board.

A quorum is present and voting throughout the meeting.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the February 23, 2021 meeting, as circulated via email. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved unanimously.

In the Management Report, Cara Lambright commended the Friends of City Park for putting on a fantastic Lark in the Park. She thanked the Board of Directors for their support. She stated that the posters for Floats in the Oaks are available for purchase. The signed and numbered posters are priced at \$70, while the unsigned posters are priced at \$40.

Lambright gave a summary of the upcoming fiscal year's budget. For the coming year, the following will be the primary focus:

- Identify and maintain high priority/visibility areas of the Park
- Increased Use of Volunteers
- Safety/Security
- Park Radio system
- IT technology/structure
- Payroll

We are currently working on contract templates that will be used by all departments.

Lambright distributed and reviewed a dashboard highlighting the financials, fundraising, projects update, staffing, and upcoming events.

Lambright asked the Commissioners for their input on what kind of information they would like to receive in order to fulfill their responsibilities as board members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

P, A&E – Commissioner Bill LeCorgne updated the Board on various projects.

- The funds approved for the old maintenance building will allow the Park to restore the building to prepare it for future use.
- Construction of the Marconi Bike Path will take longer than expected to complete
- Work continues with the City on the Hazard Mitigation project

CITO/SPECIAL EVENTS – No Report

DEVELOPMENT– Chief Development Officer Casie Duplechain reported on the general support campaign. She mentioned that the overall fundraising goal is \$5 million, with \$4.3 million already raised.

Duplechain reported on the following gifts:

- \$200,000 received from Greg Keller/Krystyna Doerfler
- \$25,000 donation from Coca Cola
- \$39,000 increase in individual contributions since last month.
- The spring fundraising campaign will launch next month.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP – No Report

FINANCE & AUDIT – Keith Hemel reported that February's operating results were \$70,000 below budget, year to date, net income is ahead of budget.

- Floats in the Oaks was very successful, bringing in \$290,000
- Golf is doing very well, with a \$500,000 profit year to date.

- Plant Sales continue to perform exceptionally well.
- Catering – Since February, 65 events were canceled. There are four events scheduled for the first weekend in April.
- We received our State slot reimbursement for the second quarter.
- We expect to receive the first millage payment from the City in April.

FRIENDS – Stephanie Bell reported that Lark in the Park fundraiser was successful. Bell thanked the members of the CPIA Board of Directors for their support.

Bell reported on the following upcoming events:

- March 31 - Hike and Hops – A member exclusive event scheduled at Couturie Forest to launch new mobile app.
- April 21 - The Heart of the Park Hat Luncheon
- May 4 - Give Nola Day - funds raised would benefit the Parks general support.

H&G/DOG PARK – No Report.

LEGAL & MANGEMENT – No Report

NOMA – No Report

WISNER TRACT – Lambright stated that we are taking one more look at the Wisner Tract Master Plan before moving to the next stage, schematic design. We need to understand the cost of construction and long-term maintenance before moving the plan forward.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – No Report

NOMINATING – No Report

SPORTS – No Report

TENNIS – No Report

BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION – No Report

OTHER REPORTS: Commissioner Carro Gardner reported that volunteers from the Native Plant Initiative and the New Orleans Town Gardeners planted over 800 native plants at the Big Lake Trail.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Karen DeBlieux inquired about the Park's position on homeless people living in the Park. According to Lambright, increased security and additional training would be beneficial.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 27, 2021.

