

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

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association (the "NOCPIA") was called to order Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. by President Bill Hoffman. The meeting was held in the City Park Administration Building, located at 1 Palm Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana 70124.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Brooks, Brown, Chase, Clarkson, Crawford, DeBlieux, Fernandez, Fierke, Giffin, Guidry, Hess, Hoffman, Katz, Laborde, LaFranca, LeGrand, Lupo, Masinter, McKay, Palumbo, Pettus, Schrenk, Shreves, Slone, Sloss, and Vesich

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Bingler, Farnet, Hales, Johnson, McKeithen, Payton, Powell, Romig and Tregre

**STAFF:** Bob Becker, Rob DeViney, Kevin Cox, George Parker and Denise Joubert

**GUESTS:** Leslie Kramer, Susan Baxter

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

President Hoffman welcomed everyone and introduced Billy Crawford as the Governor's appointee to the Board. He then thanked Gerry Schoen for his service. The President then recognized Commissioner Edgar Chase who was named Board Chairman of the Metropolitan Crime Commission. Commissioner Robert Lupo congratulated Commissioner Liz Sloss whose daughter reigned as queen of Rex.

The January minutes were approved.

In his Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported operating results for January were ahead of budget, mainly due to several major events revolving around the Super Bowl including ESPN party and halftime practice in Tad Gormley Stadium and the NFL Owner's party in the picnic area next to Amusements. The three events in the Park will produce unbudgeted revenue. Year-to-date we are still below budget due to costs associated with Hurricane Isaac; we are expecting to be reimbursed 75% of our costs from FEMA.

The first annual Color Run was held in the Park the morning of Endymion parade. This was the first event held on the Festival Grounds and was well attended.

Becker thanked the Friends of City Park for helping with funding to purchase a new fun house the "Wacky Shack" to replace the pirate ship which cannot be repaired. Delivery of the new fun house should take place in June. We are still waiting on action from FEMA on our claim for the roller coaster.

Becker and DeViney participated in a conference call with the Governor's Office, State Department of Facilities Planning, and representatives of FEMA, and learned that FEMA has decided that a complete Environmental Assessment of the golf project will be undertaken. In addition FEMA will conduct a complete archaeological analysis of the entire 250-acre project which will involve shovel testing over the entire ground with more intensive shovel testing in the area between the lagoon and Wisner. This additional testing will delay the project between two to four months from going out to bid.

Becker introduced Leslie Kramer, operator of Equest Farms, who invited all Commissioners to visit the facility to see all improvements and progress of the Covered Riding Rink. The grand opening for the Covered Riding Rink will be May 18, 2013, which is also the date for Tails but no Black Tie. Commissioner Robert Lupo encouraged all board members to attend.

The Board Retreat has been scheduled for March 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:30 to 11:30am.

#### *Committee Report:*

A&E – Commissioner Edmund Schrenk updated the Board on various projects in the Park. The old tennis courts lot between Irby and Anseman will be paved and become a parking lot. The H&G Committee will devise a landscaping plan for the area. The contractors for the miniature golf project have made significant progress over the last month but are still behind schedule. The footprint of the covered rink at Equest Farms is extensive although the building is not very high. The Committee visited Christian Bros School to discuss the school's request to fence in the campus due to increase traffic from the Festival Grounds. The Committee is working with them on a plan acceptable to both parties.

Athletics – Commissioner Andrea LeGrand reported the event held by ESPN in Tad Gormley Stadium caused damage to the field, track and the gravel parking lot. All repairs have been completed. Tad Gormley hosted the State Soccer Championship which was well attended. A discussion took place in regards to the need of better coordination between departments regarding scheduling of events. Tulane track team, as well as the New Orleans Voodoo, are practicing in Tad Gormley Stadium.

Golf – No Report

Development – Commissioner Susan Hess encouraged everyone to review the five-year Strategic Development Plan for the Park, which Julia Walker will present at the board retreat. President Hoffman reported the Executive Committee held a special meeting to review the plan and is looking forward to everyone's input. The plan will significantly impact the future of fundraising capabilities.

Finance – No Report

Special Events/CITO – Commissioner Dessa Giffin updated the Board on future events. Giffin reported the Rock n Roll Marathon has acknowledged responsibility for damage to the grounds due to rain. The Committee is working on formulating a Master calendar.

Horticulture and Grounds – Commissioner Jane Brooks updated the Board on various projects. The Committee is planning a board planting day in May at Miniature Golf. Bayou Tree is scheduled to remove over one hundred trees and move four Live Oak trees from the Golf course in May. The Park currently has over 20,000 trees. The Committee discussed ways to address drainage issues on the Festival Grounds. Paul Soniat and Dan Preziosi are developing plans to screen the service area adjacent to I-610 corridor. The Committee also discussed replacing the City Park hedge along Lelong Avenue with funds dedicated for maintenance from the Lelong family. Commissioner Liz Sloss asked if the Live Oak trees will survive the move. John Benton of Bayou Tree reported he had great success in the past with the process.

NOMA – Paul Masinter reported NOMA hosted numerous events in conjunction with the Super Bowl. Johannah Brown reported Art in Bloom is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup>. David Edwards is the new Chair of the Museum. Discussions are ongoing in regards to expansion plans of the Sculpture Garden.

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 2013 Nominating Committee consist of Commissioners Larry Katz, Errol Laborde, Tom Fierke, Mark Romig and Edgar Chase. The Board unanimously re-elected Commissioners Katz, Laborde and Fierke to a fourth term, Commissioner Romig to a third term and Commissioner Chase to a second term, Commissioner Fernandez and Giffin to a first term. President Hoffman thanked everyone for serving on the Committee.

Legal – Paul Masinter reported the committee is reviewing on-going legal issues.

Public Relations – No Report

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

Friends of City Park – Commissioner Jackie Palumbo reported Friends currently has more than 3500 members. Lark in the Park is scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup> and the theme for the event is “Cabana Nights,” with the funds dedicated toward the Cabana Plaza in the Splash Park. The Friends have secured a Subaru Outback and Vespa to be raffled. Board members are not eligible to participate in raffle. Commissioner Susan Hess encouraged everyone to participate in Lark in the Park which will towards your Park contribution.

Dog Park – Commissioner Jackie Shreves reported 101 Donations fundraiser is scheduled for August 24<sup>th</sup> in the Arbor Room.

New Business: Becker reported the black swan is still in the hospital and will hopefully be returned to the Park in a week. Commissioner Errol Laborde suggested that when a final proposal is advanced for the fence at Christian Bros. that the entire board discuss the issue.

Additional public comment was then invited; there was no additional public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at 4:00 pm.

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Denise Joubert  
Recording Secretary

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Jackie Shreves  
Secretary