

## 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, February 28, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. by Commissioner Hoffman. The meeting was held in the Administration building.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Bingler, Brennan, Brooks, Chase, Clarkson (Baxter) Fernandez, Fierke, Giffin, Hales, Hoffman, Katz, Laborde, LaFranca, LeGrand, McKay, Palumbo, Payton, Pettus, Powell, Schoen, Schrenk, Shreves and Vesich

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Lupo, Brown, DeBlieux, Farnet, Guidry, Johnson, McKeithen, Pappalardo, Romig, Sloss, Slone and Tregre

**STAFF:** Bob Becker, Rob DeViney, Kevin Cox, Beau Bassich, Tony Biagas, John Hopper and Denise Joubert

**GUESTS:** Trevor Haynes, Leslie Kramer, Susan Hess, Mark Stein, Daphne Derven, Kristin Shannon

Commissioner Bill Hoffman welcomed everyone and introduced Marie McKay as the appointee of the Senate to the Board.

The January minutes were approved.

Commissioner Hoffman introduced Leslie Kramer, the operator of Equest Farms, who reported on the "Tails but no Black Tie" fundraiser scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup>. Hoffman thanked Kramer for her presentation and hard work on this event.

Commissioner William Hoffman introduced Resolution 2012-01, authorizing the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association to accept the terms and conditions of a non-binding term sheet with The Administrators of the Tulane Educational Fund d/b/a Tulane University of Louisiana; requesting and authorizing the Park Employment and Procurement Corporation to prepare and execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with The Administrators of the Tulane Educational Fund d/b/a Tulane University of Louisiana in accordance with the terms and conditions of the non-binding term sheet; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. Commissioner William Hoffman read the resolution and Bob Becker provided comment on the terms and conditions of the term sheet and the Resolution. The Board allowed for public comment, but none were offered. Commissioner Steve Bingler moved, Commissioner Gerald Schoen seconded, and the Board unanimously accepted the terms and conditions of the term sheet and approved Resolution 2012-01.

Commissioner William Hoffman introduced Resolution 2012-02, authorizing the new Orleans City Park Improvement Association to accept the terms and conditions of a non-binding term sheet with The Emeril Lagasse Foundation; requesting and authorizing the Park Employment and Procurement Corporation to prepare and execute a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with The Emeril Lagasse Foundation in accordance with the terms and conditions of the non-binding term

sheet; and providing for other matters in connection therewith. Commissioner William Hoffman read the Resolution and Bob Becker provided comment on the terms and condition of the term sheet and the Resolution. The Board allowed for public comment, but none were offered. Commissioner Steve Bingler moved, Commissioner Jackie Shreves seconded, and the Board unanimously accepted the terms and conditions of the terms sheet and approved Resolution 2012-02.

Hoffman introduced Mark Stein, Daphne Derven and Kristin Shannon of the Emeril Lagasse Foundation. Mr. Stein said it has been a pleasure working with the Park and they are excited about the project.

In his management report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported mid-year budget meetings were held with department Directors to get an update in regards to the annual budget.

Becker introduced Tony Biagas, Director of Athletic Services who reported on the Louisiana High School Athletic Association State Soccer championship games which was held in Tad Gormley stadium. Biagas commended his staff as well as Denise Joubert and Commissioner Andrea LeGrand for their work in making this event successful.

Chief Operations Director, Rob DeViney updated the Board on the claim with FEMA to replace the Lady Bug roller coaster.

The Park received bids from Equest Farms and Crescent City Show Stables for the stables lease. The Park will examine the bids to be sure both parties submitted responsive bids according to bid specifications.

#### *Committee Report:*

A&E – Commissioner Edmund Schrenk updated the Board on various projects in the Park. The Park is reviewing the completed plans for the Miniature Golf project. Restoration of the Peristyle is ongoing. In mid-March, the State will select a design firm for the splash park. The Children’s Museum has reduced the scope of their project and will make a presentation to the Park.

Athletics – Commissioner Andrea LeGrand reported the high school football draw is scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Golf – A design review meeting was held on the latest construction drawings of the new championship golf course. The committee anticipates the project going to bid by the end of June.

Development – Susan Hess reported sponsorship has been secured for thirty holes for miniature golf. The endowment for the Soccer Pavilion has exceeded its goal of \$500,000. Hess reported the Park has reached \$100 million in public and private funding for the Park’s recovery.

Finance – Commissioner Bill Hoffman reported year to date the Park is ahead of budget. Management is reviewing concession operations and is in the process of recruiting a Director of

Food and Beverage. Postlethwaite and Netterville reviewed cash management procedures and efforts are on-going to address concerns.

Special Events/CITO – Commissioner Susan Brennan reported Lark in the Park is scheduled for Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Horticulture and Grounds – Commissioner Jane Brooks updated the Board on various projects. The committee toured the Tulane University Grow Dat Youth Farm site. High school students will work as paid interns at the farm.

NOMA – Paul Masinter reported Art in Bloom is scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Nominating – The 2012-2013 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 third term, Commissioner Romig to a second term and Commissioner Chase to a first term. Hoffman thanked everyone for serving on the Committee.

Legal – The Committee is reviewing ongoing legal issues.

Public Relations – Commissioner Karen Fernandez reported the committee is working on website re-design requests for qualifications.

Tennis – Commissioner Errol Laborde reported the Park will host USTA Sanctioned Tennis tournament on March 23- 25<sup>th</sup>. Court repairs are ongoing and lighting at the entrance to the Tennis Center is being reviewed.

Botanical Garden- No Report

Friends of City Park – Becker reported this is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lark in the Park. The Friends have secured a car to be raffled. The theme for this year is “Love Makes a Grand Entrance,” with the funds dedicated towards the entrance into the Botanical Garden.

Dog Park – Commissioner Jackie Shreves reported the irrigation project is completed and the lighting project is near completion. A bead dog is scheduled to be installed by the end of the week.

New Business: Becker reported a meeting is scheduled for tomorrow with members of the Legislative Delegation to discuss the upcoming Legislative session. Becker congratulated Karen Fernandez for being elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners.

Public comment was then invited; there were no public comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled Tuesday, March 27, 2012 at 4:00 pm.

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Denise Joubert  
Recording Secretary

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Jackie Shreves  
Secretary