

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, January 24, 2017, at 4:00pm by President Steve Pettus. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Batt, Bingler, Cahn, Claverie, Coulon, Hess, Hollis, Katz, LeCorgne, Lupo, McNeil, Offner, Pettus, Pineda, Savoie, Schrenk, Seamon, Sloss, Smith, Thomas, Thorpe, Tregre and Waller

ABSENT: Commissioners Chase, Guidry, Masinter, McKeithen, Navarre, Pate, Payton, Powell, Slone, Spears, Williams, and Wisdom

STAFF: Bob Becker, John Hopper, Meg Adams, Rob DeViney, and Denise Joubert

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Casie Duplechain, Andrea Legrand, Claire Byun

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

President Pettus welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Pettus introduced new Board members Robert Lupo, Richard Cahn, Sarah Offner, and Lori Savoie. Pettus also welcomed Claire Byun from the MidCity Messenger. Pettus encouraged all Commissioners to sign up to serve on a Committee.

The minutes of the December Board meeting were approved.

In his Presidents Report, Pettus said that it has been an exciting and busy first month as Board President.

Pettus reported on the following:

- Attended several Committee meetings, as well as the ground breaking for the Marconi Bike Path.
- Attended a meeting with Susan Taylor of the New Orleans Museum of Art and appointed Commissioner Jay Batt to serve as the CPIA appointment on the NOMA board.
- Pettus and Becker met with the Commissioner of Administration regarding Capital Outlay funding for the Maintenance Complex, the Splash Park, and the remaining funds for the golf course. They also discussed the possibility of the State participating in a TIF. The Commissioner stated that at this time the State could not move forward with participating in a TIF.
- Engaged in discussions with GrowDat in regards to their future plans in the Park.

All Commissioners received a briefing binder with all the comments on the Wisner Tract. We will begin a review process with the Planning Committee and present the recommendations to the Board.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Bob Becker reported that the operating results for December were ahead of budget mainly due to a successful Celebration in the Oaks. Nearly 162,000 people attended the event over thirty-one days. Becker noted that we were successful in increasing weekday attendance at the event which was one of goals for this year. Celebration represents 15% of our total revenue for the year. Becker commended the staff for their hard work in hosting a successful event. We concluded the first six months of our year ahead of budget by nearly \$40,000 which helped us erase the year to date deficits experienced in the first quarter of our fiscal year.

Becker also reported:

- Construction of the Marconi multi-use path is underway.
- The Bayou District Foundation will take over the management of the North Golf Course and the Driving Range from Billy Casper on February 1.
- Work continues on the golf clubhouse and the new golf maintenance facility. A temporary cart shed is being constructed on the north side of Filmore.
- State Soccer Championship games will be held in Tad Gormley stadium on February 22, 23 and 24.
- Volunteers worked in Couturie Forest and Scout Island on Dr. Martin Luther King Day.

Committee Reports:

P, A&E - Commissioner Robert Lupo updated the Board on various projects. Lupo reported that the Committee is reviewing the comments and suggestions for the Wisner Tract and will present their recommendations to the Board. Becker is working with the Orleans Parish School Board in regards to the status of the JFK site. A discussion took place in regards to securing the perimeter of the new golf course and this Committee will present their recommendations to the Board. Becker noted that a new fence has been installed along Mona Lisa Drive to replace the old fence that was taken down during the construction of the golf course. Becker attended a meeting with Delgado in regards to the parking issues in the Park. Lupo stated that Commissioner Edmund Schrenk has chaired the P, A&E Committee for the past eleven years and thanked him for his work and dedication.

CITO/Special Events – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported that “Once in a Brew Moon” is scheduled for March 3.

Development – No Report

Finance & Audit – Commissioner Edmund Schrenk reported that P&N attended the committee meeting and presented an overview of the audit which was favorable. The auditors are scheduled to make a presentation at the next board meeting. Schrenk mentioned that the total revenue for CITO is \$2.8 million. The revenue for the train was approximately \$200,000. He mentioned that

there were four trains running on busy nights and that the process was very efficient. Schrenk noted that the Park's operating budget is approximately \$16 million of which \$6 million of expenses are from non-revenue generating departments and the other \$10 million is from departments that generate revenue of approximately \$14 million. The difference of \$2 million comes from the state and represents the Park's public support.

Friends – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported that there are currently more than 5,000 members and would like 100% participation from the Board. Thorpe gave an update on Lark in the Park which is scheduled for March 10 in Tad Gormley Stadium. The funds are dedicated towards the replacement of the turf field at Tad Gormley Stadium. The honorary chairs will be the Jerry Romig Family. Thorpe thanked Entergy, First NBC, Hollis Company, Commissioners, Schrenk, Hess, Katz, Masinter and Thorpe for their sponsorship. The Saints have agreed to donate the proceeds from the 5K season opener race to Friends earmarked for Tad Gormley stadium. Thorpe thanked Commissioner Stephen Pate for his help in securing this donation.

H&G/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss updated the Board on various projects. Sloss reported that 101 Donations is scheduled for August 19 in the Arbor Room. Large planters have been placed across from Morning Call to force the busses to park in the large parking lot. Commissioner Liz Sloss mentioned that thousands of tulips were planted around Big Lake. Some additional palms in the Park are showing signs of Texas Palm Disease. The palms around the Goldring/Woldenberg Great Lawn are being treated for the disease. Popp Bandstand will turn 100 in July and the Park is working to raise money to restore it. Becker thanked Sloss for adopting this project.

Legal & Risk Management – No Report

Public Relations – No Report

Nominating – No Report

Sports- Commissioner Will Tregre reported that the new golf course is scheduled to open in the spring. On February 1, the Bayou District Foundation will take over the operations of the North Course. The Committee also discussed developing a list of priorities for Tad Gormley Stadium and other sports fields throughout the Park.

Tennis – No Report

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner David Waller reported that work continues on a new fundraiser for the Botanical Garden titled “Response 2017”. It is a plein air style art event. Approximately 50 artists will paint scenes in the Park and the Garden from March 28-31, 2017. They will then be sold at an auction in the Pavilion. The Thursday night concerts series in the Botanical Garden have begun.

Sustainability Committee – Commissioner Bob Thomas passed around a newsletter created by the Green team staff that provides an update on the sustainability efforts in the Park. Thomas noted that he is organizing a Bio-Blitz for the Park where experts will do a survey in the Park to

identify and record the various species of plants and wildlife. A new composting area has been developed. Earth Day is scheduled for April 25.

OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Report

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Ray Seamon welcomed all new Commissioners and is looking forward to working with them.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 4:00p.m.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Ronnie Slone
Secretary