

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 28, 2023, at 4 p.m. The meeting was held in person at City Park Administration Building.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Adams, Giffin, Green, Katz, King, Laborde, Leger, Lupo, McNeil, Murray, Sterbcow, and Waller

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Arata, Coaxum, Dale, Giarrusso, Hardie, LeCorgne, Pape, Savoie, and Sherman

**STAFF:** Cara Lambright, Keith Hemel, Casie Duplechain, Rebecca Dietz, Keith Claverie, Chris Maitre, and Denise Joubert

**GUESTS:** Liz Sloss, Andrea Legrand, and Dana Brown

Chairman David Waller called the meeting to order. He stated that the opening of the pickleball courts was a tremendous success. He thanked the staff for their efforts in making it happen.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments.

A quorum is present and voting throughout the meeting.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the February 2023 meeting, as circulated via email. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved unanimously.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT:**

In the Management Report, Cara Lambright, Chief Executive Officer stated:

- We hosted the 74th annual Big Bass Fishing Rodeo the oldest freshwater rodeo in the country.
- The deadline has passed for submitting a statement of interest for the RFP for Master Planning Services. We received responses from a total of twenty firms.
- The City Park Conservancy has issued a RFP for an Investment Advisor. As a reminder, do not interact with any of the RFP participants.
- We are working with the Children's Museum to clarify their agreement with the park regarding Roosevelt Mall greenspace, which they are using to host events. According to the agreement, this greenspace is meant only for passive use. Tifferney White has been named the new CEO of the Louisiana Children's Museum.
- On April 12 and 13 we will host the Central Park Institute Urban Park Roundtable workshop focused on resiliency.

Rebecca Dietz, Chief Administrative Officer provided an update on the legislative session top priorities. She noted that the lobbyist for City Park Conservancy is Suchitra Satpathi of Pelican State Partners.

- Maintain the general fund allocation through the slot tax
- Old Maintenance Corral bids came in at \$1, 000,000 over budget; request Priority 1 funding to cover overage.
- Maintain funding for Native Plant and Greenhouse – approximately \$2 million.
- Remove self-funded \$350,000 from HB2 for Tad Gormley
- Priority 2 funding line of credit for the Master Plan

Chris Maitre, Chief Operating Officer, provided an update on various Park events.

- Tad Gormley hosted two International Soccer games.
- Concessions is currently operating at the Matt Savoie Soccer Complex, the Quadraplex, and Tad Gormley Stadium.

Commissioner Robert Lupo inquired about the current condition of the Amusement Park. There was a discussion regarding maintenance issues at the Amusement Park and Storyland.

#### **GOVERNANCE:**

Paul Sterbcow reported that the committee met and is reviewing a list of potential board candidates.

#### **FINANCE:**

Keith Hemel, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the consolidated cash flow summary.

##### Government funding

- State Slot Tax requested reimbursement of \$2.5 million through December 2022.
- Millage – received \$900,000 through January.
- TIF – consistent to previous years, \$162,000 through 1<sup>st</sup> half of year.

##### Reviewed departmental budgets.

- \$500,000 is budgeted for the Master Plan that has yet to be spent.
- Tennis is ahead of budget.
- Amusement and Storyland are under budget due to training expenses and maintenance.
- Athletics – below budget due to lighting repairs.
- Golf – underperformed in July and August but expects to recover in the spring months.

- Fiscal - exceeded budget due to software upgrades, audit work, and the use of a temporary worker due to an employee's illness.
- Reviewed FEMA outstanding receivables.
- The park was not awarded two NOAA grants totaling \$15 million each.
- Recently submitted a \$50,000 grant to Mary Freeman Wisdom Foundation.
- Budget hearings are underway.

Dietz provided an update on the status of Voodoo Fest. She stated that Live Nation paid the full deposit to secure the date for this year. They are, however, reimagining the event.

There was a discussion regarding the pricing structure of the Amusement Park.

Casie Duplechain, Chief Development Officer reviewed upcoming key events in the park and board support opportunities.

- Swing in the Oaks (LPO) is scheduled for April 25. There will be a tent with refreshments on the Great Lawn for all board members. The April board meeting will be held at the Garden Study Center.
- Received \$137,000 donation for restricted capital improvements to the dog park.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.