

## 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, July 26, 2016, at 4:00pm by President Susan Hess. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Chase, Claverie, Coulon, Guidry, Hess, Katz, Laborde, LaFranca, LeCorgne, Masinter, McNeil, Navarre, Palumbo, Pate, Pettus, Pineda, Schrenk, Seamon, Sloss, Smith, Thomas, Tregre, and Waller

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Batt, Bingler, Hollis, McKeithen, Payton, Powell, Slone, Spears, Thorpe, Williams, and Wisdom

**STAFF:** Bob Becker, Kevin Cox, John Hopper, Meg Adams, Travis Severin, Avery Hebert, Robert Wenger, and Denise Joubert

**COUNSEL:** Henry Kinney

**GUESTS:** Casie Duplechain, Andrea Legrand, Della Hasselle, Mike Rodrigue, and Gerry Barousse

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

President Hess welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

The minutes of the June Board meeting were approved.

In the President's report, Susan Hess introduced Della Hasselle from the MidCity Messenger. Hess also introduced Jerry Barousse and Mike Rodrigue with the Bayou District Foundation. Hess thanked Commissioner Tim Coulon for arranging a tour of the golf course with Senators Alario and Martiny.

The Park is planning an event for the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the stewardship of City Park by the City Park Improvement Association. The event is scheduled for September 14 in the Pavilion of Two Sisters. All past Board members will be invited to this event. Councilwoman Susan Guidry would like to invite the Board to the City Council meeting to make a presentation about the history of the Park. The Council will present a proclamation.

Hess mentioned the possibility of hosting a joint fundraiser with the New Orleans Saints at City Putt. Hess thanked Commissioner Steven Pate for his help in organizing this event.

The Marines are celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 27 at the Festival Grounds.

Hess discussed the responsibility of all Board members to give or raise a minimum of \$5,000 per year. Hess will send a letter discussing various ways to fulfill the annual pledge.

Hess congratulated Commissioner Errol Laborde for being honored by The Press Club of New Orleans with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported that the fiscal year ended on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Despite challenges, we ended the year slightly ahead of budget.

Becker noted that the Governor and the Civil Service Commission issued an Executive Order prohibiting pay raises or salary supplements for employees.

The Park took advantage of Poke-mania to inaugurate a Poke Express train, which allows someone to board a special train that stops along the route to allow players to chase Pokemon characters. The train run was very successful.

Hundreds of Lutherans volunteered and worked on projects in several areas of the Park.

A Resolution was introduced authorizing the Chief Executive Officer and the Board President to execute the Management Agreement and Collateral Assignment of the Golf Facilities Operations Agreement. Becker reviewed a summary of the terms and conditions of the agreements. Commissioner Larry Katz moved to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Commissioners Will Tregre, and unanimously adopted by the Board. Becker thanked Commissioner Paul Masinter and Will Tregre for their work on the agreements. Commissioner Masinter thanked the Bayou District Foundation, Tim Clow, Meredith Hathorn, Henry Kinney, and Bob Becker for their work on the agreement. A discussion took place in regards to the granting of the naming rights at the Golf Complex. Gerry Barousse thanked everyone for their commitment and is looking forward to a longtime partnership.

A Resolution was unanimously passed authorizing Bob Becker to enter into any and all cooperative endeavor agreements with the Department of the Treasury to secure line item appropriations for the “Beautification and Improvement of the New Orleans City Park fund.”

#### *Committee Reports:*

P, A&E - Commissioner Edmund Schrenk reported that construction is underway on the parking lots by the Arbor Room, and the Pelican Greenhouse area. We have been investigating the drainage system at the Festival Grounds to determine the cause of the slow drainage and what improvements have to be considered. To improve the drainage, we are excavating the drainage ditch so there will be better water flow. The Sewerage and Water Board has acknowledged that the lines are theirs but does not have any money for the repairs.

CITO/Special Events – Andrea LeGrand reported that the July 3rd event was a huge success. Moonshine Fever is scheduled for August 19 in the Amusement Park. Work continues on sponsorships for Celebration in the Oaks. If anyone knows of any potential sponsors they should contact Julie LaCour.

Development – John Hopper reported that we have received good response for the spring direct mail appeal. Hopper is working with Commissioners Hess and Slone on major donor initiatives that have been successful in the past. Hopper noted that there are twenty one members currently participating in the Oak Tree Circle; seven of which are Board members.

Finance & Audit – Commissioner Larry Katz congratulated Becker and the staff for finishing nearly \$12,000 ahead of budget despite the reduction of slot machine appropriations by \$250,000. Strong results in Tennis, China Lights and Amusements help offset any weakness we experienced.

Friends – Commissioner Jackie Palumbo reported that Friends currently have 4600 members. Friends Fest was held on July 20 and was very successful. Martini Madness is scheduled for September 16 in the Arbor Room. Meredith Soniat, along with Natalia Weil, will chair the event.

H&G/Dog Park – Susan Hess reported that Barks and Rec is hosting a series of webinars and former Board member Jackie Shreves is one of the speakers .

Legal & Risk Management – No Report

Public Relations – Commissioner Laura Claverie reported that the Pokemon story received great media attention. The photography contest has ended and will be judged tomorrow. The committee is working on goals and objectives for the next twelve months.

Nominating – The Nominating Committee is planning to meet to discuss vacancies. Any board member wishing to nominate potential candidates to serve on the Board should submit names to Susan Hess or Bob Becker.

Sports- No Report

Tennis – Commissioner Errol Laborde reported that the staff secured 250 hotel rooms for the Allstate Sugar Bowl Tennis Tournament. UNO tennis courts will also be used for overflow matches.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner David Waller reported that work continues on the Arrival Garden which is scheduled to be complete for Magic in the Moonlight on October 14. The funds will be dedicated toward a kitchen in the garden.

Sustainability Committee – Commissioner Bob Thomas reported that the committee is developing a list of metrics to be measured by the City Park employees. Testing has begun on the lagoons in the golf course to establish baseline readings so the chemical effects of golf course operations can be monitored.

**OTHER REPORTS:**

Travis Severin, Interim Maintenance Director gave a presentation that reviewed the duties and responsibilities of his department.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Report

NEW BUSINESS: Becker mentioned that Hogs for the Cause has decided to move their event to UNO. Becker also noted that August 13 marked the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the City Park Improvement Association.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at 4:00p.m.

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Denise Joubert  
Recording Secretary

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Elizabeth Sloss  
Secretary