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, September 26, 2017, at 3:30p.m. by President Steve Pettus. The meeting was held in the Pavilion of the Two Sisters.

PRESENT: Commissioners Arnold, Balart, Batt, Bingler, Cahn, Chase, Claverie, Guidry, Hess, Hollis, Katz, Lupo, Masinter, McCrossen, McNeil, Offner, Payton, Pettus, Pineda, Powell, Savoie, Schrenk, Seamon, Slone, Sloss, Smith, Thomas, Thorpe, and Williams

ABSENT: Commissioners LeCorgne, McKeithen, Navarre, Pate, Spears, Tregre, and Wisdom

STAFF: Bob Becker, Kevin Cox, Meg Adams, John Hopper, and Denise Joubert

COUNSEL: Michael DeShazo

GUESTS: Claire Bynum, Andrea Legrand, Remie Wood, Kevin McDunn, Joelle Finley, Mike Corn, Scott Howard, Glenn Ousset, Mary Gubana, Jackie Shreves, Daniel Albert, Hilarie Schackai, Rebecca King, Justin Kray, Liz Serra, J Curry, Brendan Minihan, Judy Fisher, John Bowman, Dorothea Dell, Hubie Collins, Janel Hazlett, and Monica Gunderson,

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

President Pettus welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

The minutes of the July Board meeting were approved.

Anyone wishing to comment on any item on the agenda must sign the sign-in sheet and indicate what item they wish to comment on.

Steve Pettus, President of the NOCPIA Board of Commissioners, called the meeting to order. Chief Executive Officer Robert Becker then stated that this is a public hearing for consideration of amendments to the Park Master Plan. Becker presented the proposed changes to the Master Plan that will reclassify the area of the old East Golf Course from “J” Open Areas to “D” Passive Recreation and portion of the area following the lagoon from “J” to “H” Natural Resource area and change the designation of the existing Quadraplex and rugby field from “J” to “A” Active Recreation.

Pettus read the rules for receiving public comments and asked speakers to abide by those rules.

Public comment was then invited, and the Board allowed speakers to make public comments. Pettus thanked all the speakers for their comments. Becker responded to several comments.

Commissioner Robert Lupo, Chairman of the P, A&E Committee thanked the Board and Management for their work on the process and recommends Resolution 2017-02 to amend the City Park Master Plan to change the designation of the old east golf course to passive recreation and natural resource, to change the designation of the quadraplex and rugby field to active sports and to change the designation of the existing sports fields to Scout Island to active recreation, and provide for other technical modifications in connection therewith. Commissioner Robert Lupo moved, Commissioner Susan Hess seconded, and all board members present unanimously approved Resolution 2017-02.

In his President’s Report, Pettus reported:

* The Tennis Committee is finalizing the plans for the MLK Day Family Tennis Event. Chase mentioned that if anyone is interested in becoming a sponsor to contact himself or Patti Todd.
* He attended the joint Finance & Audit Committee meeting and mentioned that operating results were below budget due to inclement weather conditions.
* He commended the Compensation Committee for their outstanding work on the pay analysis.
* Any Board member wishing to nominate potential candidates to serve on the Board should submit names to Commissioner Ray Seamon.
* He introduced Mike McCrossen, an appointee of the Senate.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Bob Becker reported that the operating results for June were below budget. This loss wiped out the surplus we carried into June and resulted in a small loss for the year. Inclement weather conditions caused a loss in virtually all of our operating departments. Operating results for the first two months of the fiscal year were also heavily impacted by the weather. The Park has instituted additional expense controls, a hiring freeze and postponed several capital projects. September is off to a good start and if the favorable weather continues the Park should be very close to its first quarter budget by the end of the month.

Becker reported:

* Construction of The Louisiana Children’s Museum is underway.
* Construction of the golf course perimeter fence is complete.
* The Park was closed on August 29 due to the threat of heavy rain and diminished pumping capacity.
* The City Council honored Waymon Morris, Director of Recreational Services and Officer Clarence Evans for their efforts to save a visitor who suffered a heart attack. Morris and Evans administered CPR and used the defibrillator to revive the guest. Commissioner Susan Hess recognized past board member Errol Laborde for fighting for the need of defibrillators in the Park. Pettus thanked everyone for their support of defibrillators in the Park.
* The Employee Handbook was distributed to all Supervisors.

Councilmember Susan Guidry thanked Becker and the staff for hosting Police Appreciation Day at the Amusement Park, offering free admission to families of law enforcement officers. The event was well attended.

*Committee Reports:*

P, A&E – Commissioner Robert Lupo updated the Board on various construction projects. Lighting of the Harrison Circle should be completed by next week. Construction of the Marconi Bike Path is near completion. Lupo noted that now that the Wisner Tract has been approved, the P, A&E Committee will begin working on recommendations of how to specifically use those areas. The Wisner Overpass is scheduled to open at the end of next week.

CITO/Special Events – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported that Brews and Boos is scheduled for October 26 and 27, in the Amusement Park. Work continues on sponsorships for Celebration in the Oaks. Thorpe thanked Commissioner Jay Batt for bringing in a new sponsor for Celebration in the Oaks.

Development – Commissioner Larry Katz reported that the Committee is focusing on more donor visits to the Park. The Park received $25,000 from Whitney Bank to sponsor a hole at City Putt. Commissioner Cleland Powell arranged a Park tour for Iberia Bank to explore potential partnership. John Hopper mentioned that the Park secured a $250,000 sponsorship from Hahn Industries for the Louisiana Course in City Putt.

Finance & Audit – Commissioner Edmund Schrenk mentioned that July and August are typically the worst months for the Park financially. Because of the rain and short period of time the South Course has been opened, the Park does not have a track record at the Golf Course. Play at the new golf course has been good, whereas play at the North Course is off due to drainage problems from the amount of rain the Park has experienced.

Friends – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported that Martini Madness was held on September 15 and was very successful. The funds will be dedicated to the renovation of Popp Bandstand. Ghosts in the Oaks is scheduled for October 20-22 in the Amusement Park.

H&G/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss updated the Board on various projects. The Park has put a deposit on the new Elm trees on Anseman that will replace the palms due to the Texas Palm Decline.

Legal & Risk Management – No Report

Public Relations – Commissioner Laura Claverie mentioned that she hosted a media luncheon at the Bayou Oaks restaurant. John Hopper gave them an update on the status of the Park. Claverie is hoping to receive more positive media in the future.

Nominating – Commissioner Ray Seamon reported that the Committee met to discuss potential candidates to serve on the Board. Recommendations will be presented at the October board meeting.

Sports – Becker reported that Commissioner Will Tregre reviewed the golf results and is encouraged considering the recent terrible weather. The Park is working with Bayou District Foundation to finalize their donation to the Park.

Tennis – Commissioner Edgar Chase reported that the hardwood floors in the Conference Room were resurfaced. The Committee discussed the need of media sponsorships for the MLK Day Family Tennis Event. The Park is hosting the Allstate Sugar Bowl Tennis Level 2 Tournament in 2017 and the Level 1 Tournament in 2018. Chase thanked Robert Worley who continues to be instrumental in helping City Park with obtaining sponsorship from the Sugar Bowl Board.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Muffin Balart reported that Magic in the Moonlight is scheduled for October 13. The Fall Garden Festival is scheduled for October 7 and 8.

Sustainability Committee – Commissioner Thomas reported that the Committee is working on the fall Bio Blitz to be held on October 21.

OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday,   
October 24, 2017 at 4 p.m.

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Denise Joubert

Recording Secretary

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Ronnie Slone

Secretary