

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, April 24, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. by President Lupo. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Bingler, Brooks, Brown, Chase, Clarkson (Baxter), Fernandez, Fierke, Giffin, Hales, Hoffman, Johnson, Katz, Laborde, LaFranca, LeGrand, Lupo, McKay, Palumbo, Pappalardo, Payton, Pettus, Powell, Romig, Schrenk, Sloss, and Tregre

ABSENT: Commissioners Brennan, DeBlieux, Farnet, Guidry, McKeithen, Schoen, Shreves, Slone and Vesich

STAFF: Bob Becker, Rob DeViney, Kevin Cox, George Parker, John Hopper and Denise Joubert

GUESTS: Henry Kinney, Trevor Haynes, Susan Hess, Paul Masinter, Ricardo Gutierrez

President Lupo welcomed everyone and thanked Commissioner Mark Romig for a wonderful and successful Navy Week. Volunteers from various branches of the Navy worked all week throughout the Park.

In his President's report, Lupo reported that he, Becker, Bill Hoffman and Mike Marsiglia met with the Mayor and briefed him on the Park's progress and discussed issues important to the Park and the City.

Lupo also reported that the City of New Orleans – Office of Community Development conducted an onsite fiscal monitoring review of the Festival Grounds project. No findings or concerns were identified regarding the use of D-CDBG funds on behalf of the Park.

The March minutes were approved.

In his management report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported Miniature Golf Clubhouse and Courses are both out to bid.

Representatives from the Children's Museum provided an update on their project to members of the Executive and Architectural Committee. They reduced the scope of the first phase and will submit new building and architectural plans for review.

A kickoff meeting was held with the State on the Splash Park. A meeting is scheduled with aquatic consultants who will make a presentation on state of the art water park planning.

Becker attended a picnic with several national board members from Trust for Public Land and thanked them for their support of the Park.

Becker updated the Board on the Legislative Session and reported:

- House Bill 1 - unlikely the Park will be put back in the bill
- House Bill 2 - At this time the Park was not approved for any additional projects.
- The proposed TIF legislation has run into opposition from the Governor's office, as have a number of other TIF bills being considered by the Legislature.

Becker also reported on Senate Bill #734 which would remove the exemption from paying for water below a legislatively described threshold.

A Resolution was unanimously passed authorizing Robert Becker to apply for grant funds from the FHWA Recreational Trails Program.

Chief Administrative Officer, George Parker reported effective January 1, 2012 all employees and Commissioners are required to complete mandatory Ethics training on an annual basis. The required training is available online. Once you have completed the training, print the Certificate of Completion and give a copy to Denise Joubert for your file.

Henry Kinney reported Crescent City Show Stables has filed a lawsuit in Federal court. The Park has filed a motion to dismiss the suit from Federal Court.

Committee Report:

A&E – Commissioner Edmund Schrenk updated the Board on various projects in the Park. The Festival Grounds schedule has been updated with a completion date of September. Schrenk reported that Harrison, Wisner, Marconi and Robert E. Lee have been resurfaced. Filmore is scheduled to be resurfaced and a new bike path constructed. Commissioner Steve Bingler commended the staff for their hard work.

Athletics – Commissioner Andrea LeGrand updated the Board on upcoming events. LeGrand reported the 2012 football draw took place with 20 games scheduled for Tad Gormley and 47 games at Pan American stadium. Scout Island is scheduled to close early 2013 which will result in a loss of revenue due to not being able to accommodate several sports. Commissioner Powell asked if the field at Tad Gormley was still “Alerion Field.” Becker replied the naming rights for the field are expired. Powell recommended marketing the naming rights for several available facilities.

Golf – Discussions continue with Bayou District Foundation. Becker anticipates the project going to bid by the end of July. Depending on growing season, the completion date of the course could be Fall, 2013 or Spring, 2014.

Finance – Commissioner Bill Hoffman reported operating results for March were below plan, mainly due to inclement weather conditions several weekends during the month. For the year, operating results are still ahead of budget. Commissioner Hoffman commended Kevin Cox for providing the Committee with detail reports analyzing weather conditions and its impact on the budget.

Special Events/CITO – Commissioner LeGrand reported Symphony in the Oaks is scheduled for May 2nd and Cork in the Park is scheduled for May 18th.

Horticulture and Grounds – Commissioner Jane Brooks updated the Board on various projects. The Committee has begun review of a proposed public arts policy which would guide the Committee in considering future art acquisitions. The Committee is undertaking goals and objectives implementing green elements in the Park. Commissioner Bingler asked if the Park has an Architectural Standards Plan in place. A discussion took place in regards to developing architectural design guidelines and Master Landscape Plan within the Park.

NOMA – An event took place honoring Leah Chase.

Nominating – No Report

Legal – Paul Masinter reported the Personal Financial Disclosure forms are due in Baton Rouge by May 15th. Notify Denise Joubert once the forms have been completed.

Public Relations – Becker reported website design bids are due by the end of June.

Tennis – Commissioner Errol Laborde reported the Oilmans Tennis tournament was successful. The Committee discussed removing the fence and expanding the land to Lagoon area.

Friends of City Park – Commissioner Giffin updated the Board on upcoming events. Sales of car raffle tickets are ongoing.

Dog Park – No Report

New Business:

Public comment was then invited; Mr. Gutierrez spoke on behalf of the DeSaix Neighborhood Association in regards to bicycle and pedestrian access at the Festival Grounds and the I-610/railroad sound walls.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled Tuesday, May 22, 2012 at 4:00 pm.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Jackie Shreves
Secretary