

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, May 27, 2014 at 4:00p.m by Commissioner Susan Hess. The meeting was held in the City Park Administration Building, located at 1 Palm Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana 70124.

PRESENT: Commissioners Bingler, Brooks, Chase, DeBlieux, Fernandez, Fierke, Hess, LaFranca, LeGrand, Lupo, McKay, Payton, Romig, Schrenk, and Tregre

ABSENT: Commissioners Abbott, Brown, Farnet, Giffin, Guidry, Hales, Hoffman, Johnson, Katz, Laborde, Masinter, McKeithen, Palumbo, Powell, Pettus, Shreves, Slone, Sloss, and Vesich

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

GUESTS: Mark Zimmer, Sarah Tan, and Jacob Peters

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

The April minutes were approved.

Commissioner Susan Hess welcomed and thanked everyone for coming.

Public comment was then invited; Mr. Zimmer commended management for a great job and expressed the need for additional sports fields. Mr. Becker responded there is a tremendous demand for sports fields, and the Park is currently reviewing ways to get additional use from existing fields. Commissioner Steve Bingler recommended contacting the school district to utilize their available fields. Commissioner Payton offered his assistance locating available green space in the City. Hess thanked Mr. Zimmer for his concerns.

In the President's report, Commissioner Hess reported we are continuing our efforts with the State to move the Golf Course and Splash Park project from Priority 5 and add money to the Maintenance project to complete the design; the session will end on June 2nd.

A meeting is scheduled with representatives from various organizations to discuss permanent public funding for the Park. A specialist from Boston will assist with strategizing about long term financing for the Park.

We are working with the Children's Museum to finalize the proposed Cooperative Endeavor Agreement. The agreement has been sent to the Attorney General for guidance.

At the April board meeting, the Board agreed to amend the existing hours of the Park to ½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset with numerous exemptions for special

events. This ordinance will be presented to a committee of the City Council on June 23rd for consideration.

Becker introduced and commended Sergeant Billy Mims who apprehended a car burglar who was able to provide information on other crimes in the area. The Board applauded to thank Sergeant Mims.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported operating results for April were slightly below plan; year-to-date we are ahead of plan. Typically April is a strong month for the Park so we budgeted accordingly.

We are cooperating with Homeland Security in efforts to address the coyote problem in the City.

The gate between Amusements and the Garden is open, which will allow Garden visitors access to the new café and bathrooms.

We held a celebration for the one year anniversary of City Putt on Memorial Day, and characters similar to Disney's "Frozen" were at the amusement park.

The "Tails but no Black Tie" and "Cork in the Park" events were well attended.

Committee Report:

A&E – Commissioner Edmund Schrenk reported construction is scheduled to begin for the new bridge in Couturie Forest. The Committee reviewed the proposed parking design which provides 92 parking spaces at the Arbor Room facility. The Committee also reviewed options to connect the North and South section of the Park in regards to vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Athletics – Commissioner Andrea LeGrand reported Athletic Services would like to begin making incremental purchases of track and field equipment. This will avoid a future major expense of replacing the bulk of the equipment at one time. The Committee is also reviewing the possibility of developing a sports field on Marconi and Harrison, opposite the baseball field.

Golf – No Report

Development – John Hopper reported the committee secured sponsorship from the Jones Foundation for a roller coaster car.

Finance – Commissioner Karen DeBlieux reported the committee is in the process of reviewing management's recommendations on the FY 14-15 operating budget, which will be presented at the June board meeting

Special Events/CITO – No Report

Horticulture and Grounds – Commissioner Jane Brooks updated the board on various projects. The evaluation of the trees in the historic oak grove is 50% complete and there are some

immediate problems that need to be addressed. The committee recommends developing a plan with Morning Call to better delineate boundaries so there is not continued encroachment. Jackie Sullivan, formerly from New Orleans Museum of Art, is working on a cost analysis for the Chinese Lanterns Festival. The Committee also discussed the installation for a Prospect 3 art exhibit, which has been secured for two years.

NOMA – No Report

Nominating – Commissioner Karen DeBlieux reported in 2015 there will be six vacancies on the board. The committee agreed to fill five of the six vacancies at this time. The committee reviewed the list of potential candidates by profession. Any board member wishing to nominate potential candidates to serve on the Board should submit names to Commissioner Karen DeBlieux or Bob Becker.

Legal – The By-Law revisions are complete and will be presented to the Executive Committee for review.

Public Relations – Commissioner Edgar Chase passed around pictures from the photo contest. The committee discussed the Beatles anniversary concert. Chase thanked management and staff for a beautiful Park.

Tennis – Becker reported we held a “pickle ball expo” at the tennis center to introduce the sport.

Friends of City Park – Commissioner Karen DeBlieux reported Jennifer Montgomery has been hired as Special Event Coordinator. City Peek tours of the Botanical Garden, Couturie Forest, and the Carousel begin June 14th. Friends currently have more than 3800 members with a goal of 4000 by year-end. Friends Fest is scheduled for July 23rd.

Dog Park – No Report

New Business:

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at 4:00 pm.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Jackie Shreves
Secretary