

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, February 25, 2014 at 4:00p.m. President Bill Hoffman. The meeting was held in the City Park Administration Building, located at 1 Palm Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana 70124.

PRESENT: Commissioners Bingler, Brooks, Chase, Clarkson (represented by Susan Baxter), DeBlieux, Fernandez, Giffin, Hess, Hoffman, Johnson, Katz, Laborde, LeGrand, Lupo, Masinter, McKay, Palumbo, Pettus, Schrenk, Shreves, Slone, and Tregre

ABSENT: Commissioners Brown, Farnet, Fierke, Guidry, Hales, LaFranca, McKeithen, Payton, Powell, Romig, Sloss and Vesich

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

GUESTS:

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

The January minutes were approved.

President Hoffman welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. Hoffman reported we are still aggressively working to find ways to get the State to release the funds for the golf course. Hoffman thanked all board members who attended the Public Hearing. At the meeting the Board voted unanimously to adopt a resolution to amend the Master Plan.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported operating results for January were below budget as a result of Celebration in the Oaks. Fortunately we carried a budget surplus into the event, which will help modify the impact. Kevin Cox met individually with all the Department Directors to review their budget and plan for the rest of the year. Commissioner Larry Katz noted the \$1 price increase in admission to Celebration in the Oaks helped minimize the loss.

The Tax Increment Finance District was renewed by the City Council for another six years. Becker thanked Councilwoman Guidry and Clarkson for their support on the ordinance's renewal.

Committee Report:

A&E – Commissioner Edmund Schrenk updated the board on various projects in the Park. Schrenk reported the committee met with representatives from Delgado to review the recommendations of the parking study.

Athletics – Commissioner Andrea LeGrand reported the turf field at Pan American is scheduled to be replaced in March. State Soccer Championship games will be held in Tad Gormley February 26, 27 and 28. The 2014 Football draw is scheduled for March 19. The committee will meet prior to the draw to discuss the football rates at Pan American Stadium.

Golf – No Report

Development – John Hopper reported the Committee secured sponsorship for two roller coaster cars and a partial sponsorship for a third car. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a car, contact Liz Sloss or Susan Hess.

Finance – Significant items were covered in the Management Report.

Special Events/CITO – Commissioner Dessa Giffin reported the committee is in the planning phase for Celebration in the Oaks.

Horticulture and Grounds – Commissioner Jane Brooks reported the committee discussed moving forward with the following projects: planting 2 fields of wildflowers; planting ground cover around the Arbor Room and ivy on buildings to prevent graffiti; using crushed granite around areas near Morning Call; and protection of the ancient grove of Live Oaks from lightning. Several palm trees have been infected with Texas Palm Disease. The palms along Anseman have been removed and the palms around the Great Lawn are being treated. The disease is spread by insects and is affecting other palms around the City.

NOMA – Commissioner Paul Masinter reported Art In Bloom fundraiser will take place in March.

Nominating – Commissioner Larry Katz reported the Nominating Committee consists of Commissioners Larry Katz, Errol Laborde, Tom Fierke, Mark Romig, Edgar Chase, Dessa Giffin and Karen Fernandez. For 2014 Commissioners Katz, Laborde, and Fierke's four-year terms expire. The Board unanimously re-elected Commissioner Romig to a fourth term, Commissioner Chase to a third term, Commissioner Fernandez and Giffin to a second term and Commissioner Shreves and DeBlieux to a first term. President Hoffman thanked everyone for serving on the Committee.

Legal – Commissioner Paul Masinter reported the committee is reviewing ongoing legal issues. Commissioner Steve Pettus reported the By-Laws are almost complete and will be presented to the Executive Committee for review.

Public Relations – Commissioner Edgar Chase reported the Committee is moving forward with a photography contest which will run from April until June. The Committee is currently working on a tagline for the 160th anniversary of the Park. The Committee is also working on activities to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Beatles playing at Tad Gormley in September.

Tennis – Commissioner Edgar Chase reported the Committee discussed expanding the tennis courts to incorporate the lagoon area.

Friends of City Park – Commissioner Mary Johnson reported invitations were mailed for Lark in the Park which is scheduled for March 14th.

Dog Park – Commissioner Jackie Shreves reported the Dog Park is scheduled to close for two weeks for projects and improvements. It will re-open on March 22nd to celebrate its 4th year anniversary.

New Business:

Public comment was then invited.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 4:00 pm.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Jackie Shreves
Secretary