

## 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 Thursday, March 2, 2017, at 4:00pm by President Steve Pettus. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Arnold, Batt, Cahn, Chase, Claverie, Katz, Lupo, Navarre, Pate, Pettus, Savoie, Seamon, Slone, Sloss, Smith, Thomas, Thorpe, Tregre and Waller

ABSENT: Commissioners Bingler, Coulon, Guidry, Hess, Hollis, LeCorgne, Masinter, McKeithen, McNeil, Offner, Payton, Pineda, Powell, Schrenk, Spears, Williams, and Wisdom

STAFF: Bob Becker, Meg Adams, Kevin Cox, Rob DeViney, and Denise Joubert

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Casie Duplechain

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

The minutes of the January 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.

A motion was unanimously approved to amend the Agenda to present the audit report at the March board meeting.

President Pettus welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Pettus introduced Billy Arnold, an appointee of the Speaker of the House. Pettus encouraged all Commissioners to sign up to serve on a Committee.

In his President’s Report, Pettus reported the following:

- Attended several Committee meetings
- Briefing with Councilmember Gray on the status of City Park
- The Commissioner of Administration is considering allowing the Park to use the excess funds from the original bid to pay for related expenses for the golf course
- Conversations ongoing in regards to the JFK site
- Scheduled to meet with the management of Morning Call
- Golf Course scheduled to open the week of April 17
- Scheduled to meet with SMG to discuss Tad Gormley Stadium
- Scheduled to attend various editorial board meetings of various media outlets in preparation for the opening of the new golf course

Pettus reviewed the following upcoming events:

March 2	Thursday at Twilight concert series begins
March 3	“Once in a Brew Moon”
March 4	Opening of the Carousel Garden Amusement Park
March 10	Lark in the Park

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Bob Becker reported that the operating results for January were ahead of plan. However, year to date capital expenditures were more than budgeted, resulting in a slight negative variance of (\$18,000).

Becker noted that the Special Session of the Legislature ended without specific cuts to statutory dedicated funds. However, the Legislature passed a Concurrent Resolution directing the Treasurer to develop procedures necessary to divert money from those funds, for the purpose of paying debt service on state obligations. Becker thanked Commissioner Bob Thomas and Representative Polly Thomas for keeping us informed on the session.

Becker also reported:

- Attended the press conference for the Louisiana Children’s Museum
- The Park received a clean financial audit for Fiscal Year 2015-2016
- Work continues on the golf clubhouse and the new golf maintenance facility. A temporary cart shed is being constructed on the north side of Filmore
- The Park hosted the State Soccer Championship games in Tad Gormley stadium on February 22, 23 and 24. Kudos to the Athletic Staff and everyone that worked the event
- The Rock n Roll Marathon was successful
- Pettus and Becker met with the Commissioner of Administration regarding Capital Outlay funding for the Maintenance Complex, the Splash Park, and the remaining funds for the golf course. They also discussed the possibility of the State participating in a TIF. The Commissioner stated that, at this time, the State could not move forward with participating in a TIF

*Committee Reports:*

P, A&E - Commissioner Robert Lupo updated the Board on various projects. Lupo reported that the substantial completion of the golf course is scheduled for March 14. The fencing for the course has been approved, and we are hopeful to use the excess money from the original bid. The fence will run along Wisner, Harrison and portions of Filmore. Completion of the Clubhouse is scheduled for the end of March, and completion of the Maintenance building is scheduled for early May. Work has begun on the Marconi Multi Use Path. Renovation of the old Maintenance building will go out to bid this month. The Committee reviewed the comments and suggestions for the Wisner Tract, and requested Management to provide additional information on alternative locations of the soccer fields currently on Scout Island.

CITO/Special Events – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported that “Once in a Brew Moon” is scheduled for March 3.

#### Development – No Report

Finance & Audit – Cox reported that auditors would be attending the next Board meeting to present the audit of FY16. Cox reiterated that we met budget goals in January, which is typically a slow month for the year. We generate approximately \$1.6 million in net income in December and a combined net loss of \$1.2 million in January and February. We beat the monthly budget number in January by approximately \$20,000 mostly from lower costs. For the year to date, we are slightly behind from the higher than planned capital expenditures, but most of that effect is offset by better than budgeted results in operations.

Friends – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported that there are currently more than 4,900 members, and would like 100% participation from the Board. Thorpe gave an update on Lark in the Park, which is scheduled for March 10 in Tad Gormley Stadium. The funds are dedicated towards the replacement of the turf field at Tad Gormley Stadium. The Saints have agreed to donate the proceeds from the 5K season opener race to Friends, earmarked for Tad Gormley stadium. Thorpe thanked Commissioner Stephen Pate for his help in securing this donation.

H&G/Dog Park – Commissioner Liz Sloss updated the Board on various projects. Sloss reported that 101 Donations is scheduled for August 19 in the Arbor Room. New trees have been planted on the corner of Harrison and Marconi, and near the Arbor Room. Sloss noted that we continue to remove palms in the Park that are showing signs of Texas Palm Disease. The palms around the Goldring/Woldenberg Great Lawn are being treated for the disease. Popp Bandstand will turn 100 in July, and the Park is working to raise money to restore it. The project will include plaster, electrical, and removing the sign, and landscaping around the area. We will also work to restore the Sun Dial. The budget for the project is \$40,000. Becker thanked Sloss for adopting this project.

#### Legal & Risk Management – No Report

Public Relations – Commissioner Laura Claverie reported that editorial board meetings of various media outlets are scheduled, in preparation for the opening of the new golf course. Claverie noted that the Tri-Centennial project with the City is on hold. Claverie mentioned a new fundraiser in the Botanical Garden titled “Response 2017”. Approximately 70 artists will paint scenes in the Park and the Garden from March 28-31, 2017. They will then be sold at an auction in the Pavilion. Fifty percent of the proceeds will go to the Botanical Garden.

#### Nominating – No Report

Sports- Commissioner Will Tregre reported that the State Soccer Championship games were held in Tad Gormley Stadium with approximately 4500 attendees. Tulane will host the first track meet of the season this weekend. Tregre reviewed the schedule of events for the opening of the new golf course. The Committee is reviewing the pricing strategy for the course and working on plans for the permanent fence.

Tennis – Commissioner Edgar Chase reported that the Committee discussed goals for 2017, as well as maintenance for the facility. The Committee also discussed the pricing strategy, and expanding the use of the facility. The Allstate Sugar Bowl tennis tournament was approved for 2017. Chase thanked Commissioner Powell for his help in securing the tournament. The Committee will review the possibility of starting Pickle Ball. Becker noted that Pickle Ball is a cross between tennis and wiffle ball, and is embraced by the older generation. Chase would like to sponsor a tournament that recognizes historic African American Tennis champions. Becker suggested hosting the tennis event on MLK Day in 2018. Becker mentioned that the legal issues surrounding defibrillators had been resolved and we will introduce defibrillators to various sports facilities in the Park. Pettus stated that he appreciates the persistence of the Committee to have defibrillators in the Park.

Botanical Garden Foundation – Commissioner David Waller reported that a conference for the Directors of large Botanical Gardens was held at the Botanical Garden. Magic in the Moonlight is scheduled for October 13. Chef John Folse is the featured chef for the event.

Sustainability Committee – No Report

OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No Report

NEW BUSINESS:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28, 2017 at 4:00p.m.

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Denise Joubert  
Recording Secretary

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Ronnie Slone  
Secretary