

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, May 22, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. by President Lupo. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Brennan, Brooks, Clarkson, Fernandez, Fierke, Giffin, Hoffman, Katz, Lupo, McKeithen, Pappalardo, Payton, Pettus, Schoen, Shreves

ABSENT: Commissioners Binger, Brown, Chase, DeBlieux, Farnet, Guidry, Hales, Johnson, Laborde, LaFranca, LeGrand, McKay, Palumbo, Powell, Romig, Schrenk, Slone, Sloss, Tregre and Vesich

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

GUESTS: Henry Kinney, Trevor Haynes, Susan Hess, Paul Masinter, Laura Claverie, Susan Baxter and Katie Adams

President Lupo welcomed everyone

The April minutes were approved.

In his management report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported budget preparations have begun for FY 2012-2013. Recommendations will be presented to the Finance/Executive Committee and to the Board at the June meeting.

The bids for the miniature golf clubhouse were received and greatly exceeded the budget. All bids were rejected and the designer will make design changes to the building. Bids for the courses also exceeded the budget. However the low bidder is a contractor the Park has previously successfully worked with. In addition the amount over the budget is not as large as the clubhouse. Therefore the Executive and A&E Committee recommend the Park accept the bid. The low bidder was Durr Heavy Construction.

A meeting was held with the splash park consultants to review state of the art water park features.

Becker thanked President Lupo and Commissioner Hoffman for attending Employee Appreciation day at the Quadraplex.

Becker updated the Board on the Legislative Session and reported:

- The proposed TIF legislation which ran into opposition from the Governor's office has been resolved. The bill removed the State Secretary of Economic Development from the approval process necessary for the State to participate in the TIF. The amended bill substitutes the Commissioner of Administration for the Secretary since the Commissioner is not bound by the strict criteria as the Secretary.

Becker also reported on Senate Bill #734, which would remove the exemption from paying for water below a legislatively described threshold, has not advanced through the legislative process.

Henry Kinney reported the lawsuit filed by Crescent City Show Stables in Federal Court has been dismissed.

Becker reported FEMA requested additional documentation in regards to the damage claim to the roller coaster. The manufacturer wrote a letter emphasizing why the damage to the roller coaster should be a FEMA claim.

Committee Report:

A&E – Becker updated the Board on various projects in the Park. The A&E committee reviewed the plans for the covered rink at the Equestrian Facility. When the final drawings are complete, Becker will bring them back to the committee for review. Festival Grounds schedule has been updated with a completion date of October.

Athletics – No Report

Golf – A meeting took place with Bayou District Foundation to review the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement.

Development – Susan Hess reported sponsorship has been secured for thirty two holes for miniature golf. Hess requested board members notify the committee if they know of any potential sponsors.

Finance – Commissioner Bill Hoffman reported operating results for April were below plan. Catering and Amusements accounted for the majority of the budget variance. For the year, operating results are still ahead of budget.

Special Events/CITO – No Report

Horticulture and Grounds – Commissioner Jane Brooks updated the Board on various projects. The Committee considered the proposed public arts policy which would guide the Committee in considering future art acquisitions. The policy will be brought to the A&E committee for review. The Committee is also developing goals and objectives, continuing training for the staff and better coordinating the maintenance of grounds in the Park.

NOMA – Masinter reported management is examining the expansion plans for the Sculpture Garden and the Museum.

Nominating – No Report

Legal – The committee is reviewing on-going legal issues.

Public Relations – Commissioner Fernandez reported there were seventy-four responses to the RFPs for the website design. Final bids are due by the end of June.

Tennis – Becker reported all court repairs have been completed.

Friends of City Park – Commissioner Giffin updated the Board on upcoming events. Friends will be featured on the June/July issue of Tourism Matters magazine. Sales of car raffle tickets are ongoing.

Dog Park – Commissioner Shreves reported within two weeks the Dog Park had over 3000 swipes. The new hours of the Dog Park are 5:30am to 9:00pm.

New Business:

Public comment was then invited; there was no public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled Tuesday, June 26, 2012 at 4:00 pm.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Jackie Shreves
Secretary