

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, April 22, 2014 at 4:00p.m by President Bill Hoffman. The meeting was held in the City Park Administration Building, located at 1 Palm Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana 70124.

PRESENT: Commissioners Abbott, Bingler, Brooks, Clarkson, DeBlieux, Fernandez, Fierke, Hess, Hoffman, Johnson, Katz, Laborde, LaFranca, Lupo, Masinter, Palumbo, Payton, Pettus, Schrenk, Shreves, Sloss, and Tregre

ABSENT: Commissioners Brown, Chase, Farnet, Giffin, Guidry, Hales, LeGrand, McKay, McKeithen, Powell, Romig, Slone and Vesich

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

GUESTS: Leslie Kramer, Della Hasselle and Susan Baxter

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

The March minutes were approved.

President Hoffman welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. In his President's report, Hoffman reported that he, Becker, and Susan Hess met with Mayor Landrieu and briefed him on the Park's progress and various activities in the Park. Mayor Landrieu is very supportive and complimentary of the Park.

Hoffman also reminded everyone the Personal Financial Disclosure forms are due in Baton Rouge by May 15th.

Hoffman introduced Leslie Kramer, operator of Equest Farms, who reported Tails but no Black Tie is scheduled for May 10th. The funds will be used to re-roof several barns and construct an office.

A Resolution was unanimously passed authorizing Robert W. Becker, CEO by his signature to apply for grant funds from Recreational Trails program.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported operating results for March were ahead of budget. Year-to-date we are slightly over \$80,000 ahead of budget, which is an excellent outcome considering the bad weather experienced during Celebration in the Oaks. Catering and City Putt had a very good month.

The Garden Show was successful despite the threat of rain.

There were large crowds in the Park for the Easter weekend, resulting in an unfortunate train accident.

Becker thanked all board members who attended the opening of “Parker’s Café.” We are going to experiment over the summer with opening the gate between Amusements and the Garden to allow the Garden visitors access to the new café and bathrooms.

Commissioner Steve Bingler suggested the possibility of the Mayor providing assistance in receiving funds from national programs. Becker replied the Mayor encouraged us to look into Agricultural programs.

Becker reviewed the proposed change in Park operating hours. The Attorney General noted the official hours of operation are not in line with other entities particularly our evening hours which do not provide an exemption for Morning Call (currently open twenty-four (24) hours per day). He suggested amending the Parks hours to conform to normal police patrolling and change to ½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset with numerous exemptions for special events. Once the hours are determined we will ask the City Council to amend the ordinance to modify the new hours. A motion was made by Commissioner Tom Fieke, seconded by Commissioner Robert Lupo and unanimously adopted to amend the Park’s operating hours.

A resolution was unanimously adopted expressing appreciation and gratitude to Councilwoman Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson for her commitment to making New Orleans City Park the best urban park in the country and for her outstanding service on the Board of Commissioners of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association. Councilwoman Clarkson stated serving on the City Park board has been a wonderful experience and one of her greatest endeavors.

Committee Report:

A&E – Commissioner Edmund Schrenk reported we accepted the low bid from HUDA Construction for the new bridge to Couturie Forest. The Marconi Bike path should go out to bid next month. Design plans are underway for the Maintenance/Greenhouse project.

Athletics – No Report

Golf – No Report

Development – Commissioner Liz Sloss reported John Hopper is working with a potential prospect for sponsoring a roller coaster car. The first of a series of development gatherings was held in the new café. Becker thanked Sloss for organizing the event.

Finance – Commissioner Larry Katz reported budget hearings will begin in two weeks; he encouraged board members to attend the meetings of interest. The Bike and Boat rentals are very successful; Katz congratulated Rob DeViney and Kevin Cox for recognizing a great opportunity.

Special Events/CITO – No Report

Horticulture and Grounds – Commissioner Jane Brooks updated the board on various projects. The wildflowers plantings are underway. The first treatment has been completed on the palm trees infected with Texas Palm Disease. The Committee briefly discussed the potential of a Chinese Lanterns Festival. The Committee also discussed the art installation for Prospect 3 art exhibit that is coming to the City.

NOMA – No Report

Nominating – Commissioner Karen DeBlieux reported the committee is working on a list of potential future board members.

Legal – Commissioner Steve Pettus reported the By-Law revisions are almost complete and will be presented to the Executive Committee for review.

Public Relations – No Report

Tennis – Commissioner Errol Laborde reported the Sun Belt Conference tournament was very successful. The SWAC Conference tournament is scheduled April 25 – 27th. Unfortunately there has been a spike in the vandalism at the tennis complex.

Friends of City Park – Commissioner Mary Johnson reported Friends currently has over 3900 members. On May 6th the Park will participate in GiveNOLA Day, the community's first one-day, online giving event.

Dog Park – Commissioner Jackie Shreves reported the Dog Park is listed in the National Geographic Dog Lovers guide. All improvements at the Dog Park have been completed. Planning is underway for Bark Fest, which will be held in June. The permit fees for the dog park will increase next year.

New Business: President Hoffman encouraged all Board members to attend Cork in the Park which is scheduled May 16th. Commissioner Ann Abbott noted Magic in the Moonlight is scheduled for October 17th and Mark Plotkin will conduct a lecture on September 13th in the Botanical Garden. Becker stated all board members are required to take Sexual Harassment training; the training tape will be shown at 2:45pm prior to the next board meeting.

Commissioner Steve Bingler asked if the Park considered joining together with other recreation facilities to mutually seek dedicated funding sources. President Hoffman replied there have been discussions in regards to establishing a permanent funding source for Parks.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at 4:00 pm.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Jackie Shreves
Secretary