

## 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, December 16, 2014, at 4:00p.m. by President William Hoffman. The meeting was held in the City Park Administration Building, located at 1 Palm Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70124.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Abbott, Brooks, Chase, DeBlieux, Farnet, Fernandez, Giffin, Hess, Hoffman, Johnson, Katz, Laborde, LaFranca, LeGrand, Lupo, Masinter, Palumbo, Pettus, Schrenk, Seamon, Shreves, Slone, Sloss, Tregre, and Wisdom

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Bingle, Brown, Fierke, Guidry, Hales, McKay, McKeithen, Payton, Powell, Romig, and Williams

**STAFF:** Bob Becker, John Hopper, Kevin Cox, George Parker, Denise Joubert, Amanda Frentz, Julie LaCour, Mo Diaz, Royal Benetrix, Richard Martinez, Russell VanVelsen, Nancy Wadsworth, and Mike Wadsworth

**GUESTS:** Meredith Hathorn, Darrell Hunt, Mary Ann Miller, Sam Farnet, and Mike Marsiglia

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

The November minutes were approved.

President Hoffman welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. Hoffman introduced Andrew Wisdom as the Mayor's appointment to the Board.

In his President's Report, Hoffman stated "what an honor it has been to serve as President to the Board for the last 2 years. For those who had the privilege to serve before me and the opportunity to serve after me, it is one of the most rewarding experiences you could have." Hoffman thanked everyone for allowing him the opportunity to serve and looks forward to great things in the future.

The annual audit presentation has been deferred to the January meeting.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Becker reported that Celebration in the Oaks had a strong start. Great weather, strong advertisement, and the exceptional show are the main factors for success.

Management is reviewing the potential to apply for a Hazard Mitigation Grant as a tool to help revitalize lagoon system.

The roller coaster has been erected and will be operational in March for opening weekend of Amusements. John Hopper reported that the Committee secured sponsorships for six roller coaster cars at \$25,000 each. If anyone is interested in sponsoring a car, contact John Hopper. First NBC has agreed to sponsor the entire Miniature Golf complex.

President Hoffman presented the President's Award to several individuals for their outstanding support of the Park. The recipients were:

Celebration in the Oaks  
Management and Production Team

For your hard work and dedication to producing the region's premier holiday attraction.

Dessa Giffin

Leadership in bringing new ideas and supporters to Celebration in the Oaks.

MaryAnn Miller

Years of volunteer services in the Botanical Garden and helping make Celebration in the Oaks successful.

Meredith Hathorn

Donation of legal services and guidance helping City Park secure State support for recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

Darryl Hunt

Knowledge and guidance in helping secure State funds for Park operations.

Larry Katz

Donation of time and support of the Park and President and bringing outside resources to the Park.

All recipients expressed their gratitude for being recognized by the Park.

*Committee Reports:*

A&E – No Report

Athletics – No Report

Golf – Commissioner Will Tregre reported that the Committee will begin meeting regularly when the construction begins on the course. Tregre congratulated Commissioner Larry Katz for receiving the President’s Award.

Development – Commissioner Ronnie Slone reported that Commissioner Larry Katz will host a development gathering at his home. Slone reminded everyone to fulfill their annual pledges by the end of the year.

Finance – Commissioner Larry Katz reported that Commissioner Steve Pettus will chair the Finance Committee.

Special Events/CITO – Commissioner Dessa Giffin thanked all Board members who sponsored Celebration in the Oaks.

Horticulture and Grounds – Commissioner Jane Brooks updated the Board on various projects. Brooks reported that the Enrique Alferez sculpture garden project is moving forward. The Norfolk Southern Foundation donated funds for additional tree plantings in the Festival Grounds. Construction of a new parking lot at the Arbor Room should start in April and be completed by summer. Commissioner Liz Sloss will replace Brooks as the new chairperson for the Committee. Brooks stated that she enjoyed serving as chair and will remain on the committee.

NOMA – Commissioner Paul Masinter is rotating off of the NOMA board.

Nominating – No Report

Legal – Commissioner Paul Masinter reported that the committee is reviewing ongoing legal issues.

Public Relations – No Report

Tennis – Commissioner Errol Laborde reported that the committee will review the possibility of starting pickle ball. Anyone interested in serving on the Tennis Committee contact Laborde.

Friends of City Park – Commissioner Mary Johnson reported that there are currently more than 4,300 members. Work has begun on Lark in the Park which is scheduled for March 13. Johnson thanked Capital One and Bryan Subaru for sponsoring the event. Jackie Palumbo will replace Mary Johnson as President of Friends. Commissioner Karen DeBlieux thanked Mary Johnson for work as President to bring Friends to a new level.

Dog Park – Commissioner Jackie Shreves reported that a Dog Park supporter from Connecticut agreed to leave the Dog Park in his will.

New Business: Commissioner Ann Abbott updated the Board on future events. Abbott reported that Magic in the Moonlight was very successful. A lecture by Dr. Mark Plotkin was well received. Jenks Farmer is the speaker for the April symposium. Dessa Giffin has agreed to co-chair Magic in the Moonlight which is scheduled for October 16, 2015.

President Hoffman recognized outgoing Board Members Johannah Brown, Mark Romig, Stewart Farnet, Larry Katz, Karen DeBlieux, Jane Brooks, Jackie Shreves, and Robert Lupo. President Hoffman thanked them for their outstanding service to the Board and distributed commemorative plaques.

Commissioner Susan Hess recognized Bill Hoffman as outgoing President and presented him with a plaque thanking him for his hard work, leadership, and passion as President of the Board. Becker also thanked Hoffman and all departing members for their leadership and support.

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, January 27, at 4:00p.m.

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Denise Joubert  
Recording Secretary

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Jackie Shreves  
Secretary