

## 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, June 25, 2013 at 4:00 p.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 Brooks, Crawford, Clarkson (represented by Susan Baxter) DeBlieux, Fernandez, Fierke, Giffin, Guidry, Hess, Hoffman, Johnson, Katz, Laborde, McKay, Palumbo, Pettus, Schrenk, Sloss and Tregre

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Bingler, Brown, Chase, Farnet, Hales, LaFranca, LeGrand, Lupo, Masinter, McKeithen, Payton, Powell, Romig, Shreves, Slone and Vesich

**STAFF:** Bob Becker, Rob DeViney, Kevin Cox, John Hopper, George Parker and Julie LaCour

**GUESTS:** Susan Lavie, Brendan Minihan

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

President Hoffman welcomed and thanked everyone for coming.

The May minutes were approved.

Public comment was then invited; Susan Lavie spoke on behalf of the Mid City Volleyball Group in regards to the potential to construct sand volleyball courts in the Park. Becker responded that he asked the City for \$2 million to fund a first-class volleyball complex and we would probably not construct just one or two courts.

Brendan Minihan spoke on behalf of high school Cross Country coaches who want to improve the course and provide a better experience for the runners. Becker responded he would like to make the course safer and minimize the damage to the grounds, with the understanding this is not a commitment to a permanent cross country course.

In his President's report Hoffman reported the Park had a successful Legislative Session; we received funding for the Splash Park as well as the Maintenance Complex. Becker reported the Louisiana Children's Museum received their project allocation in Priority 5.

In the Management Report Chief Executive Officer Becker reported operating results for May were below budget, the main reason was increased expenses. Year-to-date we are still below budget due to costs associated with Hurricane Isaac; we are expecting to be reimbursed 75% of our costs from FEMA.

- Becker reported FEMA completed its environmental review of the golf course project and signed a “Finding of No Significant Impact”. We are still waiting for final FEMA action on our damage request which will help us finalize our funding for the entire plan. The State included language in HB2 which gives flexibility to pre-qualify golf course contractors. Only contractors certified by Golf Course Contractors Association will be allowed to bid on the project.
- The City Council passed the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement which enables funds to be transferred to the State for the Splash Park project. Becker thanked Councilwoman Guidry and Clarkson for their support.
- Staff met with the promoter of Voodoo Music Experience to review the new site plan for the Festival Grounds.
- Field Turf agreed to replace the synthetic field at Pan American under its warranty program with an option to install an upgraded field at a reduced cost.
- The new “fun house” attraction for amusements arrived and is being installed.

Chief Executive Officer Becker and Controller Kevin Cox presented and reviewed management’s recommendations for the 2013-2014 operating budget. The recommended budget recognizes a continued loss in State general operating support and addresses this loss of revenue through increases in self-generated revenue. After review, Commissioner Tom Fierke moved to adopt the recommended budget Commissioner Edmund Schrenk seconded the motion and the Board unanimously adopted the 2013-2014 budget.

*Committee Report:*

A&E – Commissioner Edmund Schrenk updated the Board on various projects in the Park. The committee discussed parking conflicts presented by Delgado students using the Park. The Park hired a consultant to conduct traffic impact analysis. Additional parking will be added to the volunteer area for access to Couturie Forest which will be funded by a grant and Friends of City Park. Christian Brothers has installed the fence along the back side of the school.

Athletics – Becker reported the Park was awarded the 2014-2015 State Soccer Championships at Tad Gormley.

Golf – No Report

Development – Commissioner Liz Sloss reported the Committee discussed developing a Live Oak Society with funds dedicated for Park operations. The committee is moving forward with the Capital Campaign for the Roller Coaster and the Botanical Garden.

Finance – Commissioner Larry Katz noted year to date revenues were \$11,000 lower, while expenses were \$116,000 higher than prior year. The bulk of increased expenses include

advertising expenses as a result of City Putt, Hurricane Isaac expenses, grand opening party for donors of City Putt and additional one-time item expenses for City Putt.

Special Events/CITO – Commissioner Dessa Giffin reported the Zombie Run was well attended. Julie LaCour reported on the event scheduled for July 3<sup>rd</sup> on the Great Lawn. The Marine Corp band and the Navy band are scheduled to perform.

Horticulture and Grounds – Commissioner Jane Brooks updated the Board on various projects. Brooks reported four large Chinese Elms were planted in City Putt to provide immediate shade. The Committee discussed drainage on Festival Grounds being routed towards bio-swale. The Committee requested Voodoo being confined to the Festival Grounds.

NOMA – No Report

Nominating – Commissioner Larry Katz reported there are no vacancies for new board members in 2013. In 2014 there will be several vacancies therefore any board members wishing to nominate potential candidates to serve on the Board should submit names to Commissioner Larry Katz.

Legal – Commissioner Steve Pettus reported the Committee is working on By-Laws revisions

Public Relations – No Report

Tennis – Becker reported the Committee discussed upcoming tournaments as well as upcoming capital projects.

Friends of City Park – Commissioner Mary Johnson reported the committee has begun working on Martini Madness. The Friends newsletter, which is the membership issue, was mailed. This issue will list all benefits and should help educate members. John Hopper gave a tour of Couturie Forest to members. Additional tours are scheduled for the Carousel and the Ancient Live Oaks. Friends Fest is scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup>.

Dog Park – No Report

New Business:

Additional public comment was then invited; there was no additional public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 23, 2013 at 4:00 pm.

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Julie LaCour  
Recording Secretary

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Jackie Shreves  
Secretary