

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, June 26, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. by President Lupo. The meeting was held in the Pavilion of Two Sisters.

PRESENT: Commissioners Brooks, Chase, Clarkson, Fernandez, Fierke, Giffin, Guidry, Hoffman, Johnson, Katz, Laborde, LaFranca, Lupo, McKay, Palumbo, Pappalardo, Pettus, Romig, Schoen, Schrenk, Slone and Vesich

ABSENT: Commissioners Bingler, Brennan, Brown, DeBlieux, Farnet, Hales, LeGrand, McKeithen, Payton, Powell, Shreves, Sloss, and Tregre

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

GUESTS: Trevor Haynes, Paul Masinter and Susan Baxter

President Lupo welcomed everyone

The May minutes were approved.

Chief Executive Officer Becker and Controller Kevin Cox presented and reviewed management's recommendations for the 2012-2013 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, the Board unanimously adopted the 2012-2013 budget. President Lupo thanked Kevin Cox for all his work on the budget.

A Resolution was unanimously passed authorizing Robert Becker to sign the CEA with Louisiana DOTD for the Marconi bike path.

In his Management Report, Chief Executive Becker reported operating results for May were slightly ahead of plan. Golf and Catering had strong results offsetting Amusements and Storyland. For the year operating results are still ahead of budget.

The City Park Tax Increment Finance Board met and approved an allocation of \$400,000 from tax increment revenue through June of 2013. \$300,000 was allocated to miniature golf and \$100,000 was allocated for improvements at the Arbor Room.

The Legislative Session has ended and Becker reported:

- The TIF legislation passed, this bill substitutes the Commissioner of Administration for the Secretary of Economic Development in the TIF process.

The Park was not included in HB#1 the State's Operating Budget for the 3rd year. In HB#2 (the State's construction budget), the appropriations from last year remain unchanged. We also received \$50,000 in Priority #2 for additional tennis center improvements and \$135,000 for maintenance center improvements in Priority #2 and #5.

Senate Bill #734, which would remove the exemption from paying for water below a legislatively described threshold, did not pass.

The construction contract was signed with Durr Construction for the two 18 hole miniature golf courses. The Miniature golf clubhouse will be re-bid on July 17th.

Becker reviewed a proposal from Morning Call to operate Parkview Café. The Board unanimously approved Managements recommendation that City Park Improvement Association authorize the Park Employment and Procurement Corporation (PEPCO) to negotiate and enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Morning Call.

Committee Report:

A&E – Commissioner Edmund Schrenk updated the Board on various projects in the Park. Representatives from the Children's Museum presented the new plan which reduces the scope of the first phase of the project. The A&E Committee approved the revised plan. Commissioner Schrenk reviewed site plans prepared by Torre Design for the Splash Park.

Athletics – No Report

Golf – Becker reported progress is being made with Bayou District Foundation on the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement. Budget issues over the construction of the championship course have been resolved and the State has been requested to authorize the design consultants to complete the plans so the project can be bid.

Development – John Hopper reported sponsorship has been secured for thirty-three holes for miniature golf. Paul Masinter commended John Hopper and his staff for the great press the project has been receiving.

Finance – No Report

Special Events/CITO – No Report

Horticulture and Grounds – Commissioner Jane Brooks updated the Board on various projects. The Committee discussed planting designs to enhance Filmore Avenue. Training for the staff to maintain grounds in the Park is scheduled to begin.

NOMA – Paul Masinter reported Susan Taylor continues to pursue great events for the Museum. NOMA has hired a consultant to develop a concept for the expansion of the Sculpture Garden and the Museum.

Nominating – No Report

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

Public Relations – Commissioner Karen Fernandez reported proposals for the website design are being reviewed.

Tennis – Commissioner Errol Laborde reported a golf ball, which appeared to be embedded in the concrete, expanded and burst through a tennis court due to the heat. Tennis has begun hosting Friday night Tennis socials which have been well received.

Friends of City Park – Commissioner Dessa Giffin updated the Board on upcoming events. Memberships are going well, with a 63% retention rate. A professionally produced Public Service Announcement for the car raffle will begin airing in July.

Dog Park – No Report

New Business: The Park participated with WYES on a film about City Park. The film will debut August 8th.

President Lupo commended Commissioner Ronnie Slone for being selected as a Role Model by the Young Leadership Council.

Public comment was then invited; there was no public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled Tuesday, July 24, 2012 at 4:00 pm.

Denise Joubert
Recording Secretary

Jackie Shreves
Secretary