# 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, October 24, 2017, at

4 p.m. by President Steve Pettus. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Arnold, Cahn, Chase, Claverie, Guidry, Hess, Hollis, Katz, LeCorgne, Lupo, Masinter, McCrossen, Navarre, Pate, Payton, Pettus, Pineda, Powell, Savoie, Seamon, Slone, Smith, Thorpe, Tregre, Williams, and Wisdom

ABSENT: Commissioners Balart, Batt, Bingler, McKeithen, McNeil, Offner, Schrenk, Sloss,

Spears, and Thomas

STAFF: Bob Becker, Kevin Cox, Meg Adams, Lindsey Loyd, Waymon Morris, Clarence Evans, Rob DeViney, and Denise Joubert

COUNSEL: Henry Kinney

GUESTS: Claire Bynum, Casie Duplechain

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

President Pettus welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

The minutes of the September Board meeting were approved.

Anyone wishing to comment on any item on the agenda must sign the sign-in sheet and indicate what item they wish to comment on.

Steve Pettus, President of the NOCPIA Board of Commissioners, called the meeting to order.

Becker recognized Officer Clarence Evans and Recreation Services Director Waymon Morris who were honored by the City Council for their efforts to save a visitor who suffered a heart attack. Morris and Evans administered CPR and used the defibrillator to revive the guest. Pettus thanked all Commissioners for their support of defibrillators in the Park.

In his President’s Report, Pettus reported:

* Work is underway for a board retreat.
* The Marconi Bike Path is open.
* A new playground was installed on Magnolia Drive south of Harrison and off Marconi.
* Met with Lindsey Loyd, the Park’s Major Gifts/Planning Giving Coordinator and encouraged everyone to meet her.

In the Management Report, Chief Executive Officer Bob Becker mentioned that preparations are underway for the Voodoo Music Experience over Halloween weekend. He reported that the Park had a difficult start to the year financially due to inclement weather conditions in July and August. Operating results for September were ahead of plan and expenses were below the amount budgeted which offset the revenues shortfall.

Becker thanked everyone that attended the dedication of the Marconi Bike Path.

A Resolution was presented to the Board adopting the Louisiana compliance questionnaire, which is part of the Park’s annual audit. The Board unanimously adopted the Resolution.

A Resolution was unanimously adopted that guarantees City Park will provide the required match for the City Park Harrison Avenue Trailhead project. The project was included in the Transportation Alternatives Program through DOTD, in the amount of $183,360.

*Committee Reports:*

P, A&E – No Report

CITO/Special Events – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported that Brews and Boos is scheduled for October 26 and 27, in the Amusement Park.

Development – Commissioner Larry Katz reported:

* The development team is exploring texting options to donate to the Park.
* Launching campaign to renovate Storyland, as well as bring the capital needs outlined in the Master Plan to fruition.
* Board members were reminded to fulfill their give/get commitment.

Finance & Audit – Kevin Cox, CFO reiterated Bob's comments that results is September improved following a rainy July and August.  For the first 3 months of the year, we are behind budget by approximately $60,000 mostly as a result of over spending on the capital side.  He noted that we still have 9 months remaining in the year, which gives us plenty of time to make adjustments, as needed, to meet our yearly budget goals.  Pettus noted that because the Park generates over 90% of our funds needed to operate, we are challenged to meet our capital funding needs.  Cox underscored that point noting that the park is working to avoid deferred maintenance, which was a major problem for the park in the past and look for ways to address that need going forward.  Pettus suggested long term permanent funding as a solution, to which Cox agreed would be a great outcome.

Friends – Commissioner Leigh Thorpe reported that Friends currently have more than 5200 members and would like 100% participation from the Board. Thorpe noted that Ghost in the Oaks was held on October 20 and 21. Due to the weather the Sunday night event was moved to Thursday October 26. Thorpe thanked Waymon Morris and his staff for their help with Ghosts in the Oaks. Thorpe also thanked Commissioner Stephen Pate for his help in securing a donation from the Saints for the proceeds from the 5K season opener race. Lark in the Park is scheduled for March 9, 2018.

H&G/Dog Park – Becker reported that the lighting of the Harrison Circle is complete. This month the lights will be pink in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness. The Park selected the new Elm trees to be planted along Anseman that will replace the palms due to the Texas Palm Decline.

Legal & Risk Management – No Report

Public Relations – Commissioner Laura Claverie mentioned that the Committee did not meet but she read a quote from the Mayor in Golf Course Architecture magazine: “This Park became a symbol for what rebuilding New Orleans was all about.”

Nominating – Commissioner Ray Seamon submitted the names of the officers for 2017 that will be put into nomination at this meeting, and voted on at the November meeting. Those officers are Larry Katz, President-Elect; Ray Seamon, Vice-President; Elizabeth Sloss, Vice-President; Will Tregre, Treasurer; and Ronnie Slone, Secretary. The Committee further recommends Quentin Messer Jr., David Waller, and Walter Leger Jr. for three of the open at-large positions on the Board. The Board will take action on these nominations at the November Board meeting. President Pettus thanked the Committee for their hard work. Commissioner Seamon thanked all the members of the Nominating Committee for their work on the process.

Sports – No Report

Tennis – Commissioner Edgar Chase reported that the Park is hosting the Allstate Sugar Bowl Tennis Level 2 Tournament in 2017 and the Level 1 Tournament in 2018. Chase thanked all Commissioners that were instrumental in helping City Park with obtaining sponsorship from the Sugar Bowl Board. The Committee is finalizing the plans for the MLK Day Family Tennis Event.

Botanical Garden Foundation – No Report

Sustainability Committee – Meg Adams reported that the fall Bio Blitz was successful. Several guest attended the Sustainability Committee meeting to express their concerns about the bird habitat at the Wisner Tract.

OTHER REPORTS:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS: President Pettus congratulated Councilmember Jason Williams for being re-elected for a second term on the City Council.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday,
November 28, 2017 at 4 p.m.

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 Denise Joubert

 Recording Secretary

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 Ronnie Slone

 Secretary