

## 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, September 25, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. by President Lupo. The meeting was held in the Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Brooks, Chase, Clarkson, Fernandez, Fierke, Giffin, Hoffman, Katz, Laborde, LaFranca, LeGrand, Lupo, McKay, Palumbo, Pappalardo, Pettus, Schrenk, Shreves, Slone, Sloss, Tregre and Vesich

ABSENT: Commissioners Bingle, Brennan, Brown, Farnet, Guidry, Hales, Johnson, McKeithen, Payton, Powell, Romig and Schoen

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

GUESTS: Susan Hess, Paul Masinter and Susan Baxter

President Lupo welcomed everyone.

The July minutes were approved.

Chief Operating Officer Rob DeViney reported the Park suffered significant damage from Hurricane Isaac. The damage consisted of loss or damage to hundreds of trees, lost inventory from power outages, fence damage and lost revenue from facilities closed. Weddings were moved to the Pavilion due to having generator power. The Park suffered a loss of around \$160,000 which will come out of reserves. Becker thanked the Friends who provided funds for work not reimbursable by FEMA and also thanked employees for their hard work to bring back the Park's facilities.

DeViney reported the Governor's Office of Homeland Security assigned a new project manager, whom we worked with in the past, to assist with the rollercoaster damage claim.

A Resolution was unanimously passed authorizing Robert Becker to enter into any and all cooperative endeavor agreements with the Department of the Treasury to secure line item appropriations in the Beautification and Improvement of the New Orleans City Park fund.

In his Management Report, Chief Executive Becker reported despite weather conditions operating results for July and August were ahead of budget plan.

A meeting was held with the Director of Civil Service to seek support for an extension and expansion of the Parks unclassified hiring authority. The Director was very supportive of our request and we expect to go before Civil Service Commission in November.

We are in the process of submitting a claim to the state for lost revenue as a result of Hurricane Katrina. The State did not pay for lost revenue because the damages from Katrina were so large they ran out of insurance funds. The State is filing a lawsuit with the insurance carrier for lost revenue and we are submitting our claim to the State's overall claim. We are also submitting a claim with the State for lost revenue from Hurricane Isaac.

The State adopted a new Performance Evaluation System. The plans are the basis for employee evaluations which will occur next July.

*Committee Report:*

A&E – Commissioner Edmund Schrenk updated the Board on various projects in the Park. The committee toured the Festival Grounds site and reported the project should be completed by the end of November. The Miniature Golf project is on schedule. Construction of the covered rink at Equest Farms should begin within two weeks and Morning Call is scheduled to open at the end of October.

Athletics – Commissioner Andrea LeGrand reported Cross Country has relocated to North of I-610 and has been well attended.

Golf – Becker met with Bayou District Foundation and the designer, and is scheduled to meet with representatives from the State to review our golf damage claims. Due to Hurricane Isaac, the State granted the designer an extension to October 15<sup>th</sup> to complete the construction drawings.

Development – Susan Hess reported sponsorship has been secured for thirty-five holes for miniature golf. Becker asked all board members to review the list of potential sponsors for Celebration in the Oaks and notify John Hopper if you know anyone on the list. If anyone has any fond memories or personal stories they would like to share for the year-end mail appeal, contact John Hopper or Linzey Powers. The Park received the third \$250,000 installment from Pepsi for their sponsorship of the City Park/Pepsi Tennis Center. We also received the final installment of \$100,000 from the Sugar Bowl commitment for Tad Gormley stadium. The Park received over \$6,000.00 from donors to help with tree damage from Hurricane Isaac.

Finance – Commissioner Bill Hoffman reported inclement weather conditions reduced the revenue for July and August; however expense control was effective at reducing our expenses. The Committee is reviewing the cost of purchasing additional generators for the Park.

Special Events/CITO – No Report

Horticulture and Grounds – Commissioner Jane Brooks updated the Board on various projects. The Committee toured the Festival Grounds with focus on the Bioswale wetland area. Bioswale is a low lying area which holds water during heavy rain and planted with various aquatic plants designed to remove pollution from surface runoff water. A Wetland conference taking place in New Orleans will be planting in the area. The committee also discussed the planting design for the Festival Grounds and concentrated on screening the service area adjacent to I-610 and

providing shade for walking trail. The majority of trees lost in Hurricane Isaac were termite damaged.

NOMA – Paul Masinter reported the New Orleans Museum of Art suffered significant water damage from Hurricane Isaac. The City of New Orleans and FEMA will pay for repairs to the building. Commissioner Liz Sloss reported Magic in the Moonlight is scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup> in the Botanical Garden.

Nominating – Commissioner Larry Katz reported there will be one vacancy on the board for 2013 and 2014. At the October meeting the names of the officers for 2013 will be submitted and voted on at the November meeting. If anyone knows someone interested in serving on the board, contact Katz. If anyone is interested on serving on a Committee, contact Hoffman.

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

Public Relations – No Report

Tennis – Commissioner Errol Laborde thanked the staff for working to re-open the facility so quickly after Hurricane Isaac.

Friends of City Park – Commissioner Dessa Giffin updated the Board on upcoming events and reported Martini Madness was very successful. Jackie Palumbo reported Lark in the Park is scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup> and she, along with Kimberly Zibilich and Helen Smith, will chair the event. The theme is Cabana Night and will take place on the Great Lawn. The funds will be dedicated towards the Splash Park. The 2012 ornaments are being designed by India Stewart and will be on sale for \$15.00.

Dog Park – Commissioner Jackie Shreves reported the Dog Park will host a Halloween event for permit holders.

New Business: Councilwoman Jackie Clarkson asked if the Park had a preventative maintenance program for trees in the Park. Becker reported the Park has a tree survey which is entered in Arbor Pro and is the basis for our preventative program. The Park also has a program with Mosquito and Termite control to treat large Oaks on City Park Avenue.

Public comment was then invited; there was no public comment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled Tuesday, October 23, 2012 at 4:00 pm.

---

Denise Joubert  
Recording Secretary

---

Jackie Shreves  
Secretary