

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association (the "NOCPIA") was called to order Tuesday, July 27, 2021, at 4 p.m. by Jay Batt. The meeting was held in-person and via Zoom at the Pavilion of Two Sisters.

**PRESENT:** Commissioners, Batt, Bordelon, Brandt, Cahn, Charbonnet, Coaxum, Dale, Fitzpatrick, Gardner, Giarrusso, Giffin, Hollis, Katz, King, LeCorgne, Leger, Lupo, McNeil, Morrell, Pineda, Powell, Rodriguez, Savoie, Sloss, Spears, Sterbcow, Taylor, Thorpe, Waller, and Worley

**ABSENT:** Commissioners Arata, Banks, DeBlieux, Hardie, Pate, and Williams

**STAFF:** Cara Lambright, Rob DeViney, Keith Hemel, Casie Duplechain, and Denise Joubert

**GUESTS:** Paul Masinter, Stephanie Bell, Ray Seamon, Andrea Legrand, Erin Schilling, and Joseph Sobol

President Jay Batt called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Board.

A quorum is present and voting throughout the meeting.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the June 29, 2021, meeting, as circulated via email. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no public comments

Chief Executive Officer, Cara Lambright reported:

- The Park will adhere to the CDC's recommendations and will require everyone to wear masks indoors.
- Due to COVID –
  - The Thursday night concert series in the garden, as well as Toast in the Oaks, have been canceled.
  - We are temporarily delaying some park hires due to a potential business slow-down.
  - We are deferring non-essential purchases
- The National Recreation and Parks Association awarded the City of New Orleans a \$433,000 grant. The funds will be used to develop a city-wide park master plan. New Orleans was one of seven cities to receive a grant. According to Lambright, this will benefit City Park since we will be included in the planning process, which will allow us to better understand the needs of the community. The City's planning process should take roughly two and a half years. Commissioner Carro Gardner asked about the Park's long-term plans for environmental stewardship. Lambright stated environmental stewardship should be at the forefront of all we do.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**P, A&E/Wisner Tract** – Commissioner Bill LeCorgne reported that the Committee’s focus has been on the old maintenance building. The design architects have developed a preliminary design.

**DEVELOPMENT**– Chief Development Officer, Casie Duplechain reported that the first responder’s event at the Carousel Gardens Amusement Park was well attended. Representative Stephanie Hilferty, Sheriff Gusman, Councilwoman Helena Moreno, and Councilman Joe Giarrusso were among those in attendance. Paul Masinter encouraged everyone to attend the Botanical Garden's Magic in the Moonlight dinner on October 14.

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP** – No Report

**FINANCE & AUDIT** –

**FRIENDS** – Stephanie Bell stated that Friend’s membership continues to grow. Memberships are currently at 5,232.

Bell reported:

- Toast in the Oaks is canceled
- Martini Madness is scheduled for September 10
- Ghost in the Oaks is scheduled for October 21 – October 24.

**NOMINATING** – Commissioner Bryan Fitzpatrick reviewed the current Responsibilities of City Park Commissioners document, as well as the proposed amended version. Fitzpatrick noted that the Nominating Committee reviewed and unanimously recommends the document for approval by the Board. After discussion, the Board unanimously adopted the proposed document.

Resolution 2021-08 was unanimously adopted authorizing the CEO to enter into any and all cooperative endeavor agreements with the Department of the Treasury, to secure line-item appropriations for the “Beautification and Improvement of the New Orleans City Park fund.”

Resolution 2021-09 – was unanimously adopted authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to claim assets from the Unclaimed Property Account administered by the Treasurer’s office of the State of Louisiana.

Resolution 2021-10 – was unanimously adopted authorizing Cara Lambright, CEO by her signature to enter into any and all contractual obligations on behalf of the association as consistent with the By-laws.

**OTHER REPORTS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 28, 2021.