

A board meeting of the City Park Improvement Association (CPIA) was called to order on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 4:00 pm. The meeting was held at the City Park Administration Building.

PRESENT: Adams, Arata, Dale, Davis, Grenrood, Hales, Hardie, Keller, King, Laborde, Murray, Sterbcow, Waller, and Watler

ABSENT: Giarrusso, Green, Harris, Hilferty, Lappa, Robin, Sherman, Sims, Solomon, and Turner

STAFF: Rebecca Dietz, Casie Duplechain, Keith Hemel, Randy Odinet, Gina Trapani, Lauren Clay, Brian Daly, Keith Claverie, and Denise Joubert

Guest: Liz Sloss, Diane Hollis, MVVA Design team, Gullivar Shepard, and Jon Fehling

CHAIRS REPORT

PUBLIC COMMENT: Anyone wishing to comment on an agenda item must sign in and specify the item they want to comment on.

There were no public comments.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the April 22, 2025, meeting, as circulated via email. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved unanimously.

In the Chair's report, David Waller called the meeting to order and reported:

Waller stated that this was his final meeting as board chair. It has been an interesting and challenging three years. He reflected on his time as President and thanked the Board and staff for their support. He recognized Paul Sterbcow, the incoming board Chair.

Waller thanked Joe Giarrusso and Emily Arata for their exemplary service to the Board and presented them with commemorative plaques. Rebecca Dietz thanked Emily Arata, stating that she is an incredible board member and friend.

Magic in the Moonlight is scheduled for Thursday, October 9. We are still looking for exclusive items for the auction.

Rebecca Dietz thanked David for his thirteen years of service on the board and his commitment to City Park's mission. She acknowledged his leadership through transitions, including the appointment of a new CEO, forming a new nonprofit, and adopting new Bylaws, among other challenges. On behalf of the board and staff, she thanked him for his leadership and dedication as Board President. She presented him with a plaque and noted that a bench would be dedicated in his honor.

Paul Sterbcow reflected on being approached by Jay Batt to join the board. He stated that this board is unique and dedicated to the park's mission. He thanked David for his leadership and is looking forward to the park's future.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

In the Management Report, Rebecca Dietz, President and Chief Executive Officer, reported:

- Thanked Lacey Watler, who agreed to serve as the Chair of Lark in the Park.
- Congratulations to Larry Dale on becoming a new grandfather.

Legislative Update:

- The slot tax appropriation remains intact
- The state allocated \$7MM to support LIV Golf (\$2MM will be used for course improvements)
- Representative Hilferty secured \$25,000 for Big Lake sidewalk repairs

Capital Outlay Request

- Reallocated funds for the Old Maintenance Corral

GOVERNANCE

The Board voted unanimously to elect Paul Sterbcow, Chair; Myrialis King, Vice-Chair; Doug Adams, Treasurer; and Edwin Murray, Secretary. In addition, the Board voted unanimously to elect Michelle Bourg, Sean Bruno, Ruth Lawson, Tom Lupo, and Catherine Levendis for open at-large positions on the Board.

FINANCE

Keith Hemel, Chief Financial Officer, reported that the CPC and CPIA Finance Committees have evaluated the budget and have unanimously recommended its approval. Hemel presented and reviewed the FY26 management recommendation for the CPIA and CPC operating budget for 2025-2026. Following a discussion, the Board unanimously approved the budget.

Dietz presented a resolution of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association directing the disbursement of millage funding in the amount approved by the voters and in the same manner as the City disburses its millage funds. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

Keith Hemel, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the consolidated dashboard and reported:

- CPIA Net Income - \$1.1MM
- CPIA TIF - \$400,000
- CPC Net Income - \$3.9MM
- CPC Restricted Funds - \$1.5MM
- CPC Deferred Revenue - \$1.1MM
- CPC Operating Reserves - \$4.9MM
- CPC Long Term Investment - \$15.1MM

Government funding

- Slot Tax - \$1.6MM
- City Millage - \$2.7 through April
- City TIF - \$212,000

Reviewed department over/under budget

COVID expense reimbursement – moved to Phase II

MASTER PLAN/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Randy Odinet, Vice President and Chief Planning Officer, reported:

- Pan American lighting project is underway, with lights being installed in the parking lot along the interstate and the stadium's entrance.
- The Maintenance Corral should go out to bid soon.
- Plans for a new storage building within the maintenance facility are progressing.
- We are currently in the design phase for improvements to the golf course and driving range.

Following a brief discussion, a motion was made to approve the competitive selection of and a construction contract between City Park Conservancy and the selected responsive and most advantageous proposer in an amount not to exceed \$2.2M for golf course improvements and authorizing the President & CEO of City Park to execute the contract and any related documents or necessary orders. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved unanimously.

On behalf of the design team, Gullivar Shepard of MVVA expressed excitement about their participation in the planning process. He presented an overview of the Master Plan and outlined the next steps for implementation.

Dietz stated that the cost of the plan is still to be determined. Regardless of the cost, she emphasized that this is what the city and park deserve. She thanked everyone for attending the board meeting. We will vote to approve the Master Plan at the August meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.