

A board meeting of the City Park Improvement Association (CPIA) was called to order on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at 4:00 pm. The meeting was held at the City Park Administration Building.

PRESENT: Dale, Davis, Grenrood, King, Laborde, Lappa, Levendis, Lupo, Sims, Sterbcow, Turner, and Watler

ABSENT: Adams, Green, Hales, Hardie, Harris, Hilferty, Keller, Lawson, Murray, Robin, Sherman, Solomon, and Waller

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

Guests: Tania Hahn, Bob Becker

CHAIRS REPORT

In the Chair's report, Paul Sterbcow called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for coming.

- The LPO Symphony concert was held on April 21 and was a fantastic event.
- The Heart of the Park Hat Luncheon was held on April 22 and was a great success.
- Give NOLA Day is on May 5. Our goal is \$30,000, and we are aiming for 100% board participation.
- Sterbcow introduced Bob Becker, who thanked the Board for its continued support of the books he has written about the park following his retirement.

Peggy Laborde, CPIA's representative on the NOMA board, provided an update on NOMA projects

- The sculpture located in front of the museum will be relocated to the sculpture garden and replaced with *The Mississippi*, a sculpture by Noguchi, which is currently located at Harmony Circle.
- The plaza in front of the museum will be redesigned to create a more welcoming and user-friendly space.
- An ADA-accessible ramp will be added to the front entrance of the museum to improve accessibility for all visitors.

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

Public Comment was then invited:

MANAGEMENT REPORT

In the Management Report, Rebecca Dietz, President and Chief Executive Officer, welcomed everyone. She congratulated Ruth Lawson on the birth of her baby boy.

LIV Golf update

- The LIV Golf event originally scheduled for June at Bayou Oaks has been postponed, with plans to potentially host an event in the fall. The State approved \$7.2 million in funding for the event, including \$5 million in hosting fees and \$2.2 million for renovations to the Bayou Oaks golf course. LIV entered into a restricted donation agreement with CPC and has paid all but \$200,000 of the committed funds.

Legislative Update

HB2 Capital Bill

- Practice Track renovation \$3.1M
- Driving Range structure \$3.4M

Senate Bill 385

- A proposed amendment that would allow elected officials to appoint appointees to serve on the board in place of themselves.
- Allow CPC to opt out of state CGL and Workers Compensation coverage if they carry their own coverage and indemnify CPIA.

State TIF

The State will contribute 50% of the sales tax collected within City Park back to the park. This follows the current City practice and is consistent with the State's authority in place since 2008. The Governor's Office and Senate President fully support the bill. The proposal will be presented to the Joint Budget Committee in August.

FINANCE

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

- CPIA Accounts Receivable \$1.5 MM
- CPIA TIF balance \$145,000
- CPC Deferred Revenue \$1.3MM
- CPC Long Term Investment \$13.8MM
- CPC Restricted Funds \$16.4MM
- CPC Capital Campaign \$5.7MM

Government funding

- State Slot - \$1.8MM
- City Millage – \$1.8MM
- City TIF - \$168,000

Reviewed department over/under budget

- Botanical Garden, Tennis, and Celebration in the Oaks are over budget

FEMA Outstanding Receivables

- Pan Am Lighting 90% \$189,000

Long-term investments with Fiducient have exceeded the target allocation.

MASTER PLAN/CAPITAL PROJECTS

Randy Odinet, Vice President and Chief Planning Officer, provided an update on the Master Plan, noting that the focus is on design progress around the quad area. On the south side, the design team is reviewing several iterations for the area located behind Tad Gormley Stadium.

A project diagram was presented, showing the progression from the master planning phase into schematic design and design development, with future phases leading toward construction and implementation. The current schematic design concept retains the existing quad layout while incorporating user feedback to create a more open, park-like setting with flexible use of ball fields. We are also exploring a new quad building concept featuring expanded seating areas, exterior-facing concessions, and restroom facilities.

Other facilities and amenities currently under study include a nature play area off Harrison Avenue on the north side of the site, the Quad Building, a boathouse, a client comfort station, and a concession building.

The board unanimously supports City Park Conservancy to solicit proposals for a Construction Manager for preconstruction services.

On-going Capital Improvements

- Mirabeau Culvert replacement is substantially complete
- Driving Range improvements

OPERATIONS

Kylie Lesko, the park's Arborist, provided an update on the tree inventory and mapping efforts. The park uses Tree Plotter inventory software, which is ideal for mapping and tracking trees. To date, 550 trees have been inventoried. The software can track detailed information on each tree's condition, location, risk assessment, and maintenance history, including work records and past care activities. Future plans include reforestation and replanting in areas where large trees have been lost.

BUSINESS

Lauren Clay, Chief Business Officer, reported

RecTrac Software Implementation

- The Park is implementing a new software system that will consolidate all park transactions into one system. The system is scheduled to go live in July and is expected to streamline operations and improve overall efficiency.
- Reviewed Spring Special events

DEVELOPMENT/MEMBERSHIP

Gine Trapani, Chief Philanthropy Officer, reported

- We are currently selling stadium sponsorship signage for Tad Gormley Stadium, Pan American Stadium, and the Quadraplex.

EXTERNAL PUBLIC RELATIONS

Casie Duplechain, Chief External Public Relations Officer, reported that the Park hosted its second Partnership Day with Grow Dat Youth Farm. The event was very successful.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.