

A board meeting of the City Park Improvement Association (CPIA) was called to order on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 4:00 pm. The meeting was held at the City Park Administration Building.

PRESENT: Dale, Davis, Grenrood, Hales, Lappa, Levendis, Lupo, Sterbcow, Turner, Waller, and Watler

ABSENT: Adams, Green, Hardie, Harris, Hilferty, Keller, King, Laborde, Lawson, Murray, Robin, Sherman, Sims, and Solomon

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

Guests: John Fryhling, Bill Plunkett

CHAIRS REPORT

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

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:

John Fryhling, owner and operator of Wheel Fun Rentals, thanked City Park Conservancy for the opportunity to renew their contract to provide bicycle and boat rentals in the park. Dietz thanked John for providing a wonderful operation and encouraged everyone to take advantage of Wheel Fun for Bike Night.

Bill Plunkett requested an update on the practice track renovations.

Sterbcow recognized David Waller and expressed his appreciation for his service on the board. On behalf of the board, he thanked him for his leadership, dedication, and commitment to the park.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

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

Legislative Update – we were successful in securing capital outlay funding for the following projects.

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

Senate Bill 385

- An amendment allowing elected officials to designate an appointee to take their place on the board was passed.
- The proposal for CPC to opt out of state CGL and Workers' Compensation coverage did not pass.

Highlights FY26

- Approved City Park Master Plan 2050
- The Capital Campaign budget for FY 26 is \$5.1million. To date, \$43 million has been committed.
- 17 vehicles removed from insurance
- Hired Park Arborist
- Outsourcing Sales & Catering
- Adopted CPC Values and Vision Statement
- Launched Brand Awareness Campaign
- Increased Donors by 314

Upcoming priorities

- Establish strategic goals for the upcoming year
- Begin planning for a Board retreat in late fall
- Moving forward with a National Park Service grant application of up to \$15 million through the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program, which requires a 50% match. The required matching funds are available, allowing the organization to proceed with the grant proposal.

We are in discussions with the Neutral Ground Group, a New Orleans-based concert promoter, about bringing concerts and festivals back to Tad Gormley Stadium. The group is interested in entering into a two-year agreement that includes shared parking and concession revenues, as well as built-in facility fees, with all proceeds benefiting City Park.

DEVELOPMENT/MEMBERSHIP

Gina Trapani, Chief Philanthropy Officer, reported

She provided an update on development revenue

- Unrestricted/Annual Fund 159% to goal
- Restricted/Projects & Programs 77% to goal
- Sponsorship 87% to goal

Membership Revenue

FOCP active members	4,734
Dog Park active members	1,409

Upcoming Event

Happy 3 rd of July	July 3, 2026
Magic in the Moonlight	October 8, 2026
Ghost in the Oaks	October 15-18, 2026
Merry Maker Mixer	November 29, 2026

EXTERNAL PUBLIC RELATIONS

Casie Duplehcaín, Chief External Public Relations Officer, reported

- A celebration of the return of the Dragon Slide will be held on June 25. Cathy and Morris Bar will take the ceremonial first ride down the slide.
- In honor of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the Happy 3rd of July event has been expanded to include local performances, community partners, and local food vendors.
- A limited-edition Bloom-Balls activation is being held with Imperial Woodpecker.
- July is the annual celebration led by the National Recreation and Park Association, recognizing the important role parks and recreation professionals play in strengthening communities.

FINANCE

Keith Hemel, Chief Financial Officer, presented the FY27 management-recommended operating budget for the City Park Improvement Association (CPIA) and City Park Conservancy (CPC) for fiscal year 2026–2027. He reviewed budget highlights, including Revenue and Funding, Operations, and Pricing.

He explained that the organization currently maintains three budgets: the Operating Budget; the Capital Campaign Budget (FIE), which includes Facility, Infrastructure, and Equipment expenses; and the Capital Campaign Master Plan Budget.

The CPC and CPIA Finance Committees reviewed the proposed budget and unanimously recommended its approval.

Due to the lack of a quorum, the budget will be deferred to the August meeting, where it will be presented for a vote and approval.

BUSINESS

Lauren Clay, Chief Business Officer, reported that the transition of all clients to Joel's Catering is expected to be completed by June 24. She also reported that Joel's will host a tasting for all City Park Conservancy clients on July 9.

Clay presented photos of the planned updates and enhancements to the Pavilion, Parkview Terrace, the Arbor Room, the Botanical Garden Study Center, and the Lath House.

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