The City Park Improvement Association (CPIA) board meeting was called to order on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at 4:00 pm. The meeting was held at the City Park Administration Building.

PRESENT: Adams, Dale, Hilferty, Hughes, Keller, King, Laborde, Lappa, Lawson, Levendis, Lupo, McCarron, Murray, Sterbcow, Sims, and Watler

ABSENT: Davis, Grenrood, Hales, Hardie, Harris, Sherman, Solomon, and Turner

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

Guests: Tania Hahn, Councilmember Eugene Green

CHAIRS REPORT

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

P**UBLIC 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:

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the CPIA board meetings held on January 27, April 28, and June 23, 2026, as circulated via email. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved unanimously.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

In her Management Report, President and Chief Executive Officer Rebecca Dietz welcomed everyone and introduced New Orleans City Council appointees, Councilmembers Aimee McCarron and Jason Hughes. She thanked Councilmember Eugene Green for his service on the board.

A motion was made authorizing Rebecca H. Dietz, President & Chief Executive Officer, to execute leases, contracts, cooperative endeavor agreements, or any other instruments as needed to conduct the business of New Orleans City Park Improvement Association and City Park Conservancy. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved unanimously.

She reported:

- The Jefferson Parish City Council appointed Nora Vaden Holmes to the board.
- She thanked Representative Stephanie Hilferty for securing $35,000 to repair the lights on the bridges in City Park.

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 is being redesigned.

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.

The CPC and CPIA Finance Committees reviewed the proposed budget and unanimously recommended its approval. Following discussion, the FY27 operating budget was unanimously approved.

A motion was made authorizing Rebecca Dietz, President & Chief Executive Officer, to execute all documents necessary for the slot tax reimbursement Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved unanimously.

Keith Hemel, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the consolidated dashboard and reported that July and August are typically slow revenue-generating months.

CPC Net operating revenue	($500,000)
YTD CPIA Accounts Receivable	$398,000
CPC Pledge Payments	$823,000

- TIF payments in April, May, and June exceeded $100,000 for the first time since before COVID-19.
- Both Amusements/Storyland and the Botanical Garden/Greenhouse exceeded their budget projections.
- Golf revenue was below budget, primarily due to inclement weather.

Long-term quarterly investments with Fiducient were consistent with their benchmark.

MASTER PLAN/CAPITAL PROJECTS

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

2050 Projects Update

Signage:

- The bid process begins in late 2026; fabrication and installation scheduled for January 2027

Multi-Purpose Field:

- Design complete; anticipate construction to begin in January 2027

Quadraplex Improvements:

- Included as match in upcoming grant request
- An application for ORLP funding will be submitted at the end of September, with notification of the award expected in May. If funding is awarded, the project will proceed through the agreement process with the National Park Service, followed by construction of the improvements included in the grant. If ORLP funding is not received, construction of the quad will begin in summer 2027.

Old Corral building

- State bid process begins January 2027

DOTD Transportation Alternative Plan (TAP) projects

- Thirteen responses were received, with two firms tied for first place. Both firms were interviewed, and Thompson Engineering was selected.
- Palm Drive: Design phase underway; anticipated design timeline of approximately 18 months
- Zachary Taylor Trail: Agreement in process; design completion within approximately 24 months

Great Lawn Fountain

- We have a grant to renovate the Great Lawn Fountain. We will meet with a local landscape architect and will develop a concept for review by the donor

Construction Manager AT Risk (CMAR)

- Six qualification packages were received from local firms, and four firms were selected for interviews.
- Renegade Construction (RNGD) was selected and has begun developing pricing based on the schematic design package and options for the ORLP grant application.

- He reviewed the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program areas of interest on the north and south sides of the park.

A motion was made to approve the federal grant application for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program and authorize Rebecca Dietz, President and CEO, to execute all related documents. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved unanimously.

A motion was made to authorize Rebecca Dietz, President and CEO, to execute documents related to TAP grant awards. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved unanimously.

OPERATIONS

Brian Daly, Chief Operating Officer, reported on the following:

- A new Botanical Garden Director has been hired and will begin in mid-September.
- The Fall Garden Festival is scheduled for October 3, 2027.
- A video was shared highlighting the water lily weigh-off in which City Park participated.
- Practice track repairs have been completed.
- Tad Gormley upgrades were reviewed, including:
    - Replacement of the turf
    - Painting of the home-side press box
    - Pressure washing of the interior seating area
    - Replacement of all the PA speakers
    - Deep cleaning and painting of the visitor-side press box
    - Restriping of parking spaces
- The locker room renovations at Pan American Stadium are expected to be completed by mid-September.

This year, we are offering a comprehensive game-day package that includes rental, security, and EMS services for one fee. We will also introduce a tiered pricing structure based on projected game attendance.

BUSINESS

Lauren Clay, Chief Business Officer, reported that all clients have transitioned to Joel's Catering. Joel's will begin accepting reservations for future events on September 8. The first event in the Pavilion, Tuesdays at Twilight, is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22. Renovations to all facilities are ongoing.

Upcoming events:

- St. Aug Tailgate/football game — September 26
- Holy Cross vs Jesuit Tailgate/football game — October 2
- Brews & Boos — October 23 -24

- Beignet Fest — November 7
- Fit Fete — November 13-14
- Jingle Bells & Beer — November 21
- Celebration in the Oaks — November 27 – January 1, 2027

RecTrac software is launching today. The new program will provide access to previously unavailable data, such as contact information, purchase history, inventory tracking, and improved reporting capabilities. All departments will operate under one centralized system, streamlining information. A "Super Grid" calendar will provide a full overview of all activities and events taking place throughout the park.

Additions to Concessions

- Imperial Woodpecker Snoballs launched last week outside City Putt, with satellite stands also planned at Tad Gormley Stadium, the Quad, and the Carousel Garden.
- Dat Dog will be located at Tad Gormley for several football games.
- ICEEs are now available at Parker's Café.

DEVELOPMENT/MEMBERSHIP

Gina Trapani, Chief Philanthropy Officer, reported

Gina Trapani, Chief Philanthropy/Membership Officer, presented the following:

- Membership has transitioned to RecTrac, with Friends of City Park, Carousel Gardens Amusement Park, and NOLA City Bark passes now linked to digital barcodes.
- A Fall mail campaign is underway, with materials being prepared for distribution to 25,000 households.

Upcoming Event

Happy 3rd 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 Duplehcain, Chief External Public Relations Officer, reported that the park is hiring a Community Programs and Partnerships Manager to lead the development of community-centered programming and partnerships across the park.

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