

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association (the "NOCPIA") was called to order Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 4 p.m. The meeting was held in person at City Park Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Batt, Dale, DeBlieux, Giarrusso, Green, Giffin, Hardie, Hollis, Katz, LeCorgne, Leger, Lupo, McNeil, Pate, Savoie, Spears, Sterbcow, Waller, and Arata

ABSENT: Commissioners Coaxum, and King

STAFF: Cara Lambright, Rebecca Dietz, Keith Hemel, Casie Duplechain, Keith Claverie, Jake Webster, and Denise Joubert

GUESTS: Liz Sloss, Catherine Koppel, Ben Myers, Susan Hess, Marc Ehrhardt, Scott Howard, Echo Olander, and Andrea Legrand

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 May 24 meeting, as circulated via email. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** On behalf of Parks For All, Scott Howard expressed support for City Park's transition to a Conservancy operations model. He stated that the model has been successful nationwide and is a dependable mechanism. He is confident that the park will benefit from it.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Commissioner Cleveland Spears moved, and Commissioner Larry Dale seconded and unanimously approved the motion to approve transitioning the operations, management, and care of New Orleans City Park to a non-profit/conservancy model of operations as expressly authorized by Act 569 of the 1989 Regular Session of the Louisiana legislature, as amended and reenacted, and to approve New Orleans City Park Improvement Association negotiating a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with City Park Conservancy in the best interest of New Orleans City Park and authorizing City Park staff to move forward with necessary administrative functions to effectuate the transition. The Cooperative Endeavor Agreement referenced in this motion shall be presented to the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association in advance of the meeting at which its approval will be considered and the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement shall be presented to this Board for final approval.

The Executive Committee met earlier this week and unanimously recommended that Michael DeShazo replace Henry Kinney as CPIA's representative in CEA negotiations. Commissioner Bill LeCorgne moved, and Commissioner Larry Katz seconded, for the CEO to hire Michael DeShazo to represent CPIA in negotiations. Commissioner Robert Lupo received a letter from former president Paul Masinter agreeing with the decision to switch legal counsel to Michael DeShazo.

President Batt stated he will appoint a Finalization Committee consisting of Robert Lupo, Larry Katz, and David Waller to assist him and outside counsel in negotiating the final terms of the CEA with City Park Conservancy. Phelps Dunbar will represent the City Park Conservancy which will also have a similar finalization committee. These committees will work in the best interest of the park to finalize the CEA terms and will present the CEA to this Board for review and consideration prior to final approval. The motion was made by Commissioner David Waller, seconded by Commissioner Paul Sterbcow, and approved unanimously.

In the Management report, Cara Lambright, Chief Executive Officer provided an update on HMGP Stormwater project. The Park presented the city with the following list of concerns including.

- Budget
- Construction Management, and the
- Cooperative Endeavor Agreement

She stated the City recently informed the Park that the funds will be redistributed to various citywide projects due to the inability to meet the FEMA deadline and public concerns. Lambright clarified that the project was not delayed because of the upcoming Master Plan for the park. According to Councilmember Joe Giarrusso, the project's funding is being redirected to several other city initiatives. This project will be supplemented by funding from the city, state, or federal government. On behalf of Lakeview, he requested a drainage study from the city. There was a discussion regarding the project Commissioner Robert Lupo proposed that the P, A&E committee be reappointed.

Keith Hemel, Chief Financial Officer presented and reviewed management's recommendations for the 2022-2023 operating budget Hemel noted that the Executive, Finance & Audit Committee, along with representatives of the City Park Conservancy reviewed management's budget recommendation; and unanimously recommended the budget for approval by the Board. After discussion, the Board unanimously adopted the 2022-2023 budget. President Batt thanked Keith Hemel for his excellent work on the budget.

President Batt recognized outgoing Board Members Cleveland Spears, Mike Hollis, and Cleland Powell. Batt thanked them for their outstanding service to the Board and distributed commemorative plaques.

Cara Lambright recognized Jay Batt as outgoing President and presented him with a plaque thanking him for his hard work, leadership, and passion as President of the Board.

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