

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of the New Orleans City Park Improvement Association (the "NOCPIA") was called to order Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 4 p.m. The meeting was held in person at the City Park Administration Building.

PRESENT: Commissioners Adams, Arata, Dale, Giffin, Hardie, Keller, King, Laborde, Murray, and Waller

ABSENT: Commissioners Coaxum, Giarrusso, Green, Leger, Robin, Sherman, Sterbcow, and Turner

STAFF: Cara Lambright, Randy Odinet, Keith Hemel, Casie Duplechain, Rebecca Dietz, Keith Claverie, Chris Maitre, and Denise Joubert

GUESTS:

Chairman David Waller called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for coming. Waller introduced and welcomed new board member Greg Keller.

A quorum was present and voting throughout the meeting.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the June 27, 2023 meeting, as circulated via email. The motion was seconded, voted on, and approved unanimously. Myrialis King abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No Public Comments.

MANAGEMENT REPORT:

In the Management Report, Cara Lambright, Chief Executive Officer reported:

- Congratulated Casie Duplechain for being named one of Gambit's 40 under 40 professionals.
- Paul Soniat, Director of the Botanical Garden for the past 41 years, will retire at the end of October. His service will be recognized at Magic in the Moonlight. We will conduct a national search to replace the position.
- Discussion has been taking place with the Louisiana Children's Museum about events held outside their building and ensuring compliance with their contract.
- Conducted a Strategic Planning meeting with the CPC board members and CPIA executive committee members.
- Established City Park's Core Values:
 - Welcoming
 - Inclusive/No Barriers
 - Conservation
 - Timeless
 - Culture
 - Recreation and Fun

- Confirmed Core Purpose: City Park Conservancy will care for, protect, and enhance City Park for the Greater New Orleans community and visitors for the next 100 years.
- Established “BHAG” (Big Hairy Audacious Goal): By 2029, New Orleans City Park and its Conservancy will set the national standard for park excellence.
- Identified Strategic Issues:
 - The Master Plan
 - Risk Management
 - Secure and Stable Funding
 - Human Capital
 - Maintenance and Service Delivery
 - Governance Best Practices
- Staff will develop SMART goals to help achieve the “BHAG”.
- In October, a draft of the action plan will be available for your review.

Rebecca Dietz, Chief Administration Officer, presented a resolution authorizing the Chair of the City Park Improvement Association to execute the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the City Park Improvement Association and the City of New Orleans for the construction and maintenance of a public playground at the Gernon Brown Recreational Center. The resolution was approved unanimously.

Randy Odinet presented a resolution authorizing the procurement and contracting of City Park Marconi Rugby Pitch improvements. The resolution was approved unanimously.

A motion to amend the agenda to include approval of the CPC Procurement Policy was unanimously approved. A resolution approving the Procurement Policy of City Park Conservancy, as presented at the Board meeting on August 22, 2023, was approved unanimously.

The contract for the Master Plan with the Michael Van Valkenburg Association was signed on July 1. Lambright thanked Greg Keller for his generous donation to support the Master Plan.

Created a Master Plan committee comprised of Filippo Feoli, Tania Hahn, Victoria Phipps, Mayra Pineda, Liz Sloss, Chenier Taylor, Doug Thornton, Myrialis King, Edwin Murray, David Waller, Paul Sterbcow, Robert Lupo, Lori Savoie, Rebecca Dietz, Randy Odinet and Cara Lambright. In addition, we are forming a technical advisory panel comprised of specialists from many fields.

MASTER PLAN/CAPITAL PROJECTS

Randy Odinet, Vice President, and Chief Planning Officer provided an update on the Master Plan and Capital projects.

- A Public Meeting is scheduled for September 27.
- A survey will be released later this week.

- Six meetings will be held to solicit public input and focus on various topics. The last meeting will be held in the fall of 2024, at which time the final Master Plan will be presented.
- Monthly Board updates, with approximately 50% and 90% approvals.
- Casie Duplechain reviewed a list of potential community outreach organizations to contact for participation in the survey.

Odinet provided an update on other capital projects.

- Crown Castle – all nodes have been installed.

OPERATIONS:

Chris Maitre, Chief Operating Officer, reported:

- Provided an update on several coyote sightings in the park. We are working with the New Orleans Mosquito and Termite Board on this issue.
- Provided an update on the restoration of the Butler Fountain.
- City Putt repairs are underway. This will be a two-part project, with the first phase projected to cost \$200,000.

GOVERNANCE:

Emily Arata stated that the park's seat on the NOMA board is vacant. Peggy Laborde expressed her willingness to serve. In addition, there is a vacancy on the board of the Lakefront Management Authority. Let her know if anyone is interested in serving as the park's appointee on the board.

FINANCE:

Keith Hemel, Chief Financial Officer, reported that the Finance Committee met with Eric Ramos our discretionary investment manager from Fiducient Advisors. The committee approved the recommended asset allocation portfolio for long-term reserves and endowments, as well as our short-term investments.

Hemel reviewed the consolidated dashboard and reported that July and August are very slow revenue-generating months.

Governments Funds & Leases

- State Slot Tax should be received at the end of the 1st quarter
- City Millage – January thru June - \$2.6 million
- TIF – The City has not communicated the quarterly amount

Reviewed Departments Over/Under Budget

- Café Du Monde – Received an additional \$33,000
- Golf, Tennis, and Amusements were over budget
- Storyland, and Special Events were under budget

FEMA Outstanding Receivables

- Katrina closed out
- Ida \$182,800
- COVID expenses – approximately \$85,000

Update on other financial items

- Sale of Couba Island \$1,128,000
- FOCP Earned Income Tax Credit \$52,000

DEVELOPMENT:

Casie Duplechain, Chief Philanthropy and Engagement Officer reviewed upcoming Fundraising Events and Opportunities:

- September 27 – State of the Park Breakfast
 - Keynote Speaker: Michael Van Valkenburgh
- October 13 – Magic in the Moonlight
- October 19-22 – Ghost in the Oaks
- Received a \$200,000 pledge in remembrance of Thomas Lemann from an anonymous donor for the conservation of City Park's historic oaks.
- The Master Plan has received a lot of media coverage.

Membership as of August 21, 2023

- Friends' Fest is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13
- Members - 4,227

The meeting was adjourned at 5:0 p.m.