

A MEETING OF THE NEW ORLEANS RECREATION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
WAS HELD AT 5:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 2014
IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

I. CALL TO ORDER: *Chairman Glapion called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.*

II. ROLL CALL

- Present: Roy Glapion – *Chair*, Rini Marcus – *Vice-Chair*, Michael Darnell – *Treasurer*, John Sibal, Adria Kimbrough, Kira Orange-Jones, Ava Rogers, and Andrew Kopplin – **QUORUM AFFIRMED** (after the NORD Foundation Report)
- Absent: Patrick Dobard, Woody Koppel, Kelly Brown, and Mayor Mitchell Landrieu
- Staff: Deborah Langhoff and Anita Curran

III. OPENING CEREMONIES

- Welcoming remarks: Offered by Chairman Glapion who recognized the work of staff member Maya Wyche as she assumes other responsibilities at NORDC and welcomed Deborah Langhoff to the position of Commission Liaison and Booster Club Liaison.
- Invocation: Offered by Commissioner Darnell
- Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chairman Glapion
- Swearing in of Deputy CAO of Operations Ava Rogers

IV. TEEN COUNCIL REPORT: Kara Zorin from Lusher Charter School and David Bartholomew from St. Augustine High School, two Teen Council members, submitted reports. Mr. Bartholomew, accepted to attend the United States Air Force Academy noted that NORDC allowed African American teens to demonstrate community leadership. The Chair noted the particular value of teen-to-teen communications.

V. REPORTS OF SUB-COMMITTEE OFFICERS

- Governance: Commissioner Darnell submitted the report.
 - Commissioner Darnell noted the committee met on May 16th reviewing CAT meeting schedules and Booster Club memberships.
 - Noted requests for NORDC ID cards for commissioners, as well as the expansion of NORDC information on the website. Requested confirmation that the meeting schedule is included on the website.
 - Requested the production and maintenance of a calendar for the Commission, inclusive of all meetings and Capital Projects deadlines and activities.
- Facilities: Commissioner Sibal submitted the report.

- Representatives from Dana Brown and Associates presented a Louisiana Urban Storm Water Coalition presentation proposed for Conrad Park.
- Comments from Donald Chopin and Janet Hayes were offered relative to obtaining a comprehensive list of green spaces and areas of responsibility.
- Belton Batiste commented on ongoing issues at the Treme Center.
- Finance/Audit: At Commissioner Kopplin's request, Commissioner Sibal summarized the financial report that was prepared by Mary Jo Webster.
- Programming/Public Relations: The sub-Committee did not meet due to Splash Day marking the annual opening of NORDC pools.
- Human Resources/Personnel: The sub-Committee did not meet.
- NORD Foundation Report: NORDF Chair John Sibal submitted the report and noted that NORDF enjoyed 22 donors on GiveNOLA Day which was held on May 6th and presented by the Greater New Orleans Foundation www.givenola.org

VI. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – *Upon achieving a quorum, the motion to accept the minutes of the May 6th meeting was offered by Commissioner Sibal and seconded by Commissioner Darnell, passing unanimously..*

VII. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

- Victor N. Richard, III, NORDC CEO, submitted the report, noting the 2015 Capital Budget submission is due on Friday, June 13th
- Chairman Glapion opened the floor to discussion regarding the CEO's Report.
- Commissioner Darnell asked about the number of participants in New Orleans East camps.
- Vic Richard responded that while projections are used, financials are adjusted based on delivery.

VIII. CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT

- Vincent Smith, Capital Projects Director submitted the report, offering updates on Gernon Brown, Milne, Joe W. Brown, Sanchez, Stallings St Claude, Carrollton Hollygrove and Rosenwald. A report on Treme Gym was added.
- Chairman Glapion opened the floor to discussion regarding the Capital Projects report.
 - Questions of responsibility for the flooring as well as upcoming meetings ensued among Commissioners Sibal, Glapion, Darnell, Rogers and Vincent Smith.
 - Commissioner Kimbrough asked about the chemicals in the Treme pool, and Vic Richard noted that the mechanics had been addressed including chlorination and climate controls, stating that he personally tested the dehumidifier.

- Commissioner Darnell asked for an invitation to meetings on the Treme pool and asked if Capital Projects has a protocol for addressing problems. Vincent Smith answered in the affirmative and that the protocol includes many options.
- Commissioner Rogers assured the Commission and the public that these questions are being addressed appropriately.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. OLD BUSINESS

- CAT reports were submitted by the District appointed Commissioners.
- Follow up to Public Comment: A preliminary list provided by Parks & Parkways was forwarded to Donald Chopin and Janet Hays on Thursday May 29th. However, NORDC staff is working cooperatively with other departments on an in-depth project to categorize greenspaces more precisely than has been previously achieved. That work is underway.

XI. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS:

- Chair Glapion recognized two members of the City Council in the audience and offered Councilmembers Ramsey and Gray an opportunity to address the Commission.
- Councilmember Ramsey noted her engagement on Cabrini Park matters and her concerns about Treme.
- Councilmember Gray stated he will serve on NORDC as the member representing the City Council, noting his long history of involvement in recreation.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Eraina Jessie spoke about Willie Hall asking for a home park. Noted that she had filled out an online survey and wanted the results posted online. She also had the opinion that at Treme it is too cold in the showers.
- Pat Bryant, as co-moderator for Justice and Beyond, commended the NORDC staff for the opportunity to dialogue, but stated that the organization is not on it's A-game in providing information.
- Mr. Williams left the Chamber.
- Reynard Thomas spoke about Joe W. Brown: Unsatisfactory information sharing and scheduling, noting that advance notice of the Piano Recital was lacking. Concessions at football stadium needs attention as the windows are leaking; the air conditioning doesn't work in the locker room. Two lights on the infield are broken. Commissioner Darnell noted that Joe W. Brown Park boosters are making a punch list. Vincent Smith noted that they are aware of problems.

- Dyan French Cole asked how a person gets a job at NORDC. She spoke in a historic context about Stallings/Gentilly, Treme Center and referenced a new project to improve community conversations around the issue of race.
- Amy Stelly spoke about Treme noting that the community meeting had 70 people in attendance. She stated that her research showed that 8% of the funding was FEMA and 92% was unrestricted funds. She requested increased avenues of direct communication with the commissioners.
- Brandon Darrington stated he attended St. Bernard Center but the weight room has been closed since May, 2010. He presented a plan to Vincent Smith through Andre Keller.
- Belton Batiste asked why all of the Commissioners had not come to the community meeting in Treme.
- Edward Parker asked about compliance with DBE requirements, asked who the plumbing contractor is for the Treme project, and requested a formal response.
- Nashawn Price, Booster Club President, spoke about Joe W. Brown Park, asking for better communications to give the Booster Club more advance time for events. Where does the Joe W. Brown rental income go? Why were the Crescent City Kings denied beer sales? How is the maintenance punch list being addressed? Joe W. Brown Booster Club requested a meeting with the CEO, which the CEO instructed staff to arrange.
- Amy Stelly addressed the Commissioners a second time to state that the equipment in the Treme Center is not new and is a pile of junk.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Darnell made and Commissioner Sibal seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm. Commissioner Rogers added her conviction to work together and Commissioner Darnell requested a full, detailed report on the progress made at Treme Center. The Chair noted that a face-to-face meeting would occur. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 7:10 pm.