

A MEETING OF THE NEW ORLEANS RECREATION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
WAS HELD AT 5:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2014
IN 8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** *Chairman Glapion called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm*, and he included brief explanation that the change of the usual meeting venue to this small room was due to a one-time extension of City Planning Commission proceedings prior to passing the new Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance on to the City Council for consideration. NORDC proceedings were recorded for NOATV broadcast throughout the month, as is customary.

II. **ROLL CALL**

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

III. **OPENING CEREMONIES**

- Welcoming remarks: Offered by Chairman Glapion
- Invocation: Offered by the Chair
- Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chairman Glapion

- IV. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:** – *Commissioner Sibal moved and Commissioner Gray seconded a motion to approve the August 5, 2014 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.*

Prior to the reports CEO Vic Richard took a moment to ask Mary-jo Webster to introduce his new directors, clarifying their particular area of responsibility. She began with Christine Aguirre the Aquatics Director, Maya Wyche advances from her former position as Commission Liaison to the Management Services Director, Keith J. Wright will be Athletic Director, Jahanna Brightman was promoted to Director of Special Programs, managing Leonard Zanders, L'Oreal Evans, and Emily Snyder. VR expressed appreciation to the commissioners for building the organization, noting that each member is growing professionally and personally.

- V. **TEEN COUNCIL REPORT:** Russell Tanner submitted the Teen Council report and noted that he is a junior at Landry/Walker High School on the West Bank. He reported on the teen dance at Lyons Center and a kick off meeting at Joe W. Brown Park where parents were also in attendance. He offered information on the Chevron Future Leaders gathering on September 20th from noon until 2pm and noted that there is a planned social at Airline Skate Center on September 27th. Teens showing teens what to do is what we need in New Orleans. He also introduced the Commissioners to his very proud father.

VI. REPORTS OF SUB-COMMITTEE OFFICERS:

- Governance: In the absence of Commissioner Darnell a written and oral report was submitted by Chair Glapion. There was a discussion of the proposed resolution to amend the NPP Policy Manual, which had been considered by the sub-Committee. The goal of the amendment is to create one election period in November 2015 for all 15 CATs which will be constituted by that time. A vote was taken and the policy manual is amended, copy added for the permanent record.
- Programming/Public Relations: Commissioner Marcus's report was submitted in written format and delivered by her orally with special notation of NORDC's new staff member focusing on Teen programming.
- Human Resources/Personnel: This sub-Committee did not meet this month due to a scheduling conflict but will meet on October 13th.
- Facilities: Commissioner Sibal submitted a brief report on the Facilities sub-committee with timelines of the previous and upcoming meetings. He continued with reports on the Finance/Audit sub-committee and the NORD Foundation report. He noted that NORDC is completely out of maintenance funds and is awaiting \$625,000 that was approved to move from personnel to other operating for maintenance. Special appreciation went to Chevron, NORDC's largest benefactor, for an additional \$450,000 to support football and cheerleading. First NBC committed a \$500,000 pledge of \$100,000 a year for the next five years, and these are flexible funds and especially appreciated. NORDF has been named an official charity partner in the 2015 All State Sugar Bowl Crescent City Classic, and fellow commissioners will have an opportunity to participate.

VII. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

- Victor N. Richard, III, NORDC CEO, submitted the report, both orally and in written PowerPoint presentation format for the permanent record.
- VR continued his opening comments with appreciation for the work of his team, including Mary-jo, Maya, and Annie and especially Cooper Manning for putting NORDC in touch with Riddell to facilitate the upgraded helmets to mark the emphasis on player safety.
- Other programming notes included Character Counts training for staff, mandatory safety training with Riddell and Dr. Bryan George, a neurosurgeon, a pilot computer program evaluation at Lyons Center, workshops in all programming departments, free meals for children at playgrounds, Movies in the Park, and security planning.
 - RG asked to compare to four years ago.
 - VR responded that while I came in four years ago, the commission and policies had not been developed. This work is less than three years old (actually, 28 months). There is more to do, especially in the field of asset management, turnaround time needs improvement.

VIII. CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT

- Vincent Smith, Capital Projects Director submitted the report orally and in written format, including information on the Gernon Brown Center, Stallings/St. Claude, and Rosenwald. There are seven projects under construction, with nineteen projects in pre-design. He noted that the Treme Center gym floor has been ordered and is sitting on the docks in England waiting for the ship that will bring it to the States. The Skate Park at St. Bernard Center Phase I will be completed by the beginning of the year.
 - AR: I'd like to go back to Slide 6, Joe W. Brown enhancements will be completed in October, 2014 – I believe that 2015 date is a typographical error.
 - VS: Yes, thank you.
 - Commissioner Kimbrough: Concerning the Treme floor, what will be the difference in December 2014 from before?
 - VS: An original Grandwood "Classic floor" will be installed, which has proven much better for multi-purpose use. It is what we're using at other locations because it is much stronger.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. OLD BUSINESS

- CAT reports: A formal report was submitted by Greg Lawson of the Mayor's Neighborhood Engagement Office, as part of the permanent record.
 - Adria Kimbrough gave the report on District A in the absence of Rini Marcus who had left the meeting due to a schedule conflict, and on her own District D CATs, Kira Orange-Jones gave the report on District B, James Gray gave the report on District E in the absence of Mike Darnell, and the Chair gave the report on District C.
- Follow up to Public Comment:

Commissioner Sibal: Requested rotating reports from the CAT officers.

Commissioner Glapion: Requests implementation of CAT officer speaking rotation, and reassurance to the CAT teams that their input is most welcome at either sub-committee meetings or during the Commission meetings.

XI. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS:

- There were no other matters to come before the Commission.

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT: The Chair limited public comment to two minutes per person per subject card.

- Diana McDermott from My NOLA Parks stated that she met with Vic Richard and Vince Smith two years ago on 1151 Esplanade. It is currently zoned as green-space but the CZO has it as commercial. Where are we with Cabrini Park?
 - VR responded that Cabrini is not a dog park and will not be. There are three dog spaces currently, Wisner, Crescent, and City Bark. At the end of October there will be a new playground at Cabrini and 60-70% of it is owned by OPSB, dedicated for human use. There is a legal CEA with McDonough 15 School, OPSB, and CNO regarding this property. Funding for playground equipment was privately raised, with the CNO directing \$20-25,000 for fencing and masonry. NORDC is recommending a dog park study for 1151 Esplanade, and wants part-children and part-dog use. In 2015 Capital Projects budget there is a request of \$1.5 million for that project. NORDC would love to pick up that conversation.
- Gwendolyn Bland brought photographs of the stairs and other areas around Joe W. Brown pool, with signatures asking for time to be put back to what it was. Swim schedules change every week. She has concerns dressing in a room with young children and believes that ages and sexes should not be mixed. She asks that adults and children be given different times. VR will review.
- Amy Stelly said that the showers and toilet rooms should be improved and secured at Stallings/Gentilly. She is bringing petitions for the record. Extended hours are appreciated. At Tremé, the community needs proof that the dehumidifying equipment is new. She is speaking at Rising Tide blogging conference about this on Saturday at Xavier University at 3pm.
- Dyan French made a number of comments, including a request to investigate why after \$.5 million of work on the pool, the ground is soggy, she is requesting for NORDC to remove her name from the booster club roster, to recognize that she is the oldest living past president of the NAACP, to know that Faith Unites Neighbors (FUN) is working in the neighborhood and a CAT isn't needed, to note that the oldest participant at Stallings/Gentilly playground is 92 years old, to answer why NORDC fires African American males and hires white females, to not select the movies for Movies in the Park.
 - The Chair stated that other speakers had to speak.
- Reynard Thomas asked what the deadline is for submitting ideas for summer programming. He stated that NORDC needs to promote from within. He requests to have Fit NOLA programming at Joe W. Brown Park. He asked that the football field be inspected two hours before a game – Joe W Brown has ants and pothole issues. He wants to know the process for submitting CAT requests to NORDC.
 - CAT representatives can come before the NORDC, in addition to commissioners attending the CAT meetings.
 - VR stated that at the October meeting we will present announcements on the process for partnerships for summer, 2015.

- Renard M. “Lone Ranger” came to speak about Richard Lee Playground, stating that the 9th Ward – Richard Lee Playground - needs funding. Channel 6 and 8 News focused on murder in the lower 9th Ward – no one plays at Oliver Bush. Portable toilets and keeping the grass cut are what’s needed at Richard Lee Playground.
 - Commissioner Gray noted that a slow walk from Bush to Richard Lee is 3 or 4 blocks.
 - Mr. Renard responded that Sanchez Center was created as a thank you from politicians. No one went to Oliver Bush before it was rebuilt. Kids went to Richard Lee Playground which needs to be restored.
 - VR stated that a master plan was completed at a cost of \$78-80,000 which was created with the community. \$4.3 to \$4.5 million was presented to the CPC for funding.

(Unfortunately the visual and audio recording stopped after the Chair’s introduction of the next speaker, Ms. Lynette Adams, and the minutes are from manual notes thereafter.)

- Lynette Adams, leader in the District D CAT team came to say that an additional CAT team is being established as misunderstandings at one playground disrupted the work of one of the CAT meetings.
 - Commissioner Orange-Jones asked where the misunderstandings come from.
 - Ms. Adams replied that there are tensions between Stallings/Gentilly and the CAT and a perception that they want to keep CAT folks out of the park.
- Ronnie Tyler(?) stated that he felt harassed. At Lyons Center the dog situation is bad and 6-8 kids have ringworm. The Chair agreed to meet with him.
- Morgan Clevenger thanked the commission for extending pool hours at Stallings/Gentilly and for the Capital Projects funding for the fence. She asked what happened to Richard Carr, and noted that the neighborhood is disappointed not to have football. She was interrupted by Dyan French from the back of the room, but the commissioners urged her to continue delivering her questions which included budget priorities.
 - Commissioner Gray noted that the City Council is in charge of the NORDC budget, and that we all care about the same things.
 - Commissioner Kopplin added that the NORDC Finance/Audit Committee reviews the budget monthly, and that meetings and documentation are open and available to the public. Additionally the Mayor will make his budget announcement on October 15, 2014.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Gray moved to adjourn and the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m. The motion passed unanimously at 7:30 pm.