

A MEETING OF THE NEW ORLEANS RECREATION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
WAS HELD AT 5:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2015
IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

I. CALL TO ORDER: *Chairman Glapion called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.*

II. ROLL CALL

- Present: Roy Glapion – *Chair*, Rini Marcus – *Vice-Chair*, Michael Darnell, John Sibal, Kelly Brown, James Gray, Adria Kimbrough, (arriving after roll call,) Andrew Kopplin and Nolan Marshall Jr.
- Absent: Ava Rogers, Kira Orange-Jones, Patrick Dobard, and Mayor Mitchell Landrieu.
- Staff: Deborah Langhoff and Anita Curran

III. OPENING CEREMONIES

- Welcoming remarks: Offered by Chairman Glapion who began the meeting looking forward to the next year's important work.
- Invocation: Offered by Commissioner Mike Darnell
- Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chairman Glapion

IV. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: – The adoption of the minutes from the December 9th meeting was moved by Mike Darnell, seconded by Kelly Brown and unanimously adopted, with amendment offered by John Sibal regarding his attendance at the last meeting.

V. 2015 Sub-committee and Officer Recommendations: - In the interest of time, this New Business was brought forward by the Chair, who offered his slate for 2015, having engaged in discussion with each Commissioner. John Sibal moved to accept the Chair's slate of officers, which was seconded by Mike Darnell and unanimously approved. No comment from the public was offered.

VI. TEEN COUNCIL REPORT: Aaliyah Jackson an 11th grade student from Edna Karr High School gave a full report on an active month of events for teens, including etiquette events, and a holiday celebration planned by Teen Council, when teens looked back over the year. Teens hosted a fellowship party and revisited the Ozanam Inn which they found especially fulfilling. She stated that Chevron Future Leaders is helping her develop leadership skills. They are planning our first annual Teen Council Mardi Gras Ball on January 31st.

VII. REPORTS OF SUB-COMMITTEE OFFICERS:

- Programming/Public Relations: Commissioner Marcus delivered her report, stating that the Programming and Public Relations sub-committees met jointly on Monday January 5th at 1:30 p.m. in the Office of Homeland Security, 8th floor, City Hall, and heard standing reports from the divisions of cultural programming, youth and teen programming, athletics, aquatics, outdoor programming, Fit NOLA, and the recreation

centers. She was joined by Commissioner Sibal who will now be Vice Chair of this joint sub-committee.

- Human Resources/Personnel: In the absence of Commissioner Orange-Jones, a summary of the sub-committee meeting was offered by staff. Chair Orange-Jones, with Commissioners Darnell, Glapion, and Kimbrough last met on Tuesday December 16th in 8th floor conference room of City Hall, and approved the minutes from the previous meeting. At the request of the sub-committee, information was gathered by the COO and emailed to the commissioners that, as of Dec 17th NORDC have 18 vacancies with salaries ranging from \$11,838 to \$95,191, without including vacancies that will be created as the new facilities come online in 2015. Hiring from within 2014 NORDC promoted 16 people, just over 10% of the staff, with NORDC demonstrating clear and permanent career paths.
- Governance: Commissioner Darnell delivered a report on the Governance sub-committee which last met on Friday, November 21, 2014 in the Homeland Security Conference room on the 8th floor of City Hall at 1:30 p.m. It will meet again on Wednesday January 23rd at 2:30pm in the afternoon. There have been adjustments in the sub-committee meeting schedule and the 2015 schedule will be posted on the NORDC website as soon as possible. All Commission meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of the month in the City Council Chamber, with the exception of the November 2015 meeting. Because the Chamber is not available in November, that Commission meeting will be held upstairs in the 8th floor conference room.
- Facilities: Commissioner Sibal gave a report on the Facilities sub-committee, which last met on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 in the Homeland Security Conference room on the 8th floor of City Hall at 1:30 p.m., and a quorum was confirmed. Information from that meeting was reported to the full Commission on December 9th. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, January 23, 2015 led by its new Chair Kelly Brown.
- Finance/Audit sub-committee report was offered by Commissioner Kopplin. This sub-committee did not meet this month but will meet on January 30th at 1:30 pm. A report was provided to the commissioners by Chief Operating Officer Mary-Jo Webster on expenditures as of December 30, 2014. Copies of the report are included in the Commissioner's packets and are available at the information table for members of the public. As of December 30, 2014 the NORD Foundation had \$2.8 million and \$1.576 million was expended. The NORDC Revolving fund had accumulated \$251,000 of which \$164,903 was expended. Year to date expenditures as of December 30th are \$10.223 million representing 98.1% of the NORDC budget and there are a few expenditures representing the last few days of payroll outstanding. The CAO reported that this is a terrific effort by the NORDC staff to insure that we expend all of the resources available to us for the public and not a penny more than what we have available to us. Our donors expect us to spend all that is available to us. Please remember as well the reallocation of \$825,000 moved from Personnel to Other Operating to improve our facilities among other priorities.

- NORD Foundation Commissioner Sibal reported that NORDF has made available over \$2.8 million to support NORDC operations in 2014. NORDC has \$1.2 million on hand from the Foundation to start 2015. The Foundation also raised \$43,500 for the booster clubs and \$300,000 to support its own operations.

VIII. PROGRAMMING REPORT

- The Chair introduced Dr. Calvin Mackie to report on STEM NOLA (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Program which he founded and operates in programming partnership with NORDC.
- Dr. Mackie presented a video and a printed report was offered to the Commissioners on this innovative program. Community response has been great, engaging over 500 college students who work with up to 200 kids on any given Saturday at a NORDC facility. We've brought in a NASA astronaut, Xavier University has given STEM NOLA office space on campus, and universities are important to give access and resources to the community.
 - Commissioner Kimbrough asked about date and locations for 2015. He responded this is 2nd Saturday usually but latest information can be found at www.stemnola.com
 - Commissioner Marshall asked his there is a dedicated researcher tracking the program and its activities and students. He responded that in the presentation in the packets data is included on the students. We are tracking 2200 kids and from 182 schools.
 - Commissioner Marcus confirmed that the usual date is the 2nd Saturday of every month and Dr. Mackie confirmed that consistency is important.
 - Commissioner Kopplin commented on the success of this good work and encouraged it continuing.
 - Commissioner Glapion asked Dr. Mackie to share his future dates with the Liaison to share to the Commissioners.
 - Commissioner Gray noted Dr. Mackie is a tenured professor from Tulane with a PhD from Georgia Tech, and thinks it's important to do as much as possible to support his efforts.

IX. 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 spoke about lifeguard recruitment for 2015 with summer just around the corner and new pools opening for the public.

- Entire 2015 Athletics Season is now posted on the website, offering a consistent book of work, with registration and season dates. Volleyball championships will be at Lyons Center. Basketball has begun.
- Allstate sent some children and some staff with gift packages to the Sugar Bowl. Chevron Future Leaders continue to participate in Character Counts recognition at the Pelicans games. NORDC is hosting community meetings to inform the public about MLK recognitions on the upcoming holiday activities.
- FitNOLA continues indoors during the winter session, thanks to our pastors and community partners. This program is expanding to Stallings/Gentilly, Conrad and Behrman on the west bank.
- Outdoor Programs had a successful first winter break camp. NORDC participated in the Christmas Toy Drive through each neighborhood recreation center. Applicants for summer programming partners have been vetted and final service providers will be presented soon.
- Crescent City Classic has selected NORDF to be an Official Charity Partner for the April 4th, 2015 Allstate Sugar Bowl Crescent City Classic.
- Next month I will update the commissioners on our two-year accreditation timeline, and I thank the staff that has been on the ground.
 - Commissioner Sibal echoed the importance of the next two years and asked all of the commissioners and the public to support the effort to move this forward.
 - Commissioner Gray noted that NORD is in the best shape it has been in for the 40 years that he's known it. We need the community's support.
 - Commissioner Glapion recalled a conversation several years ago and noted to the public that we all want it to be better and we will never be satisfied. We are much better now.
 1. VR noted that the public did not know how broke NORD was and the financials and transparency evident now was not there 24 months ago. We will earn your respect and produce results to have your confidence.
 - Commissioner Glapion confirmed that the improvement are not pats on the back but are facts, real accomplishments.
 - Commissioner Kopplin said that in his first week on the job, he spent evenings with DM Judy Reese Morse setting up summer programming with an annual budget of \$5 million, that is now \$13 million with more for next year.

X. CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT

- Vincent Smith, Capital Projects Director submitted the report orally and in written format was well. He stated it's a privilege to serve the commission and the citizens of the city. Here are some highlights from the report:
- CP is tracking 116 projects for \$145.67 million. We added the Peace Playground in NOE at a value of \$95,000 and we continue to track 62 completed priority projects.
- Stallings Community Center will be completed in March.
- Rosenwald Pool awaits final approval from the state to be in procurement by the end of the month.
- Bonds have not yet been sold to get the last grouping of projects underway.
 - JS: When will Sanchez be operating as a rec center for the public.
 - VR: We are planning to have programming and summer camps with a pool, but first must accept the facility in April.

XI. NEW BUSINESS – Election and appointments of sub-committees was held earlier in this meeting.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

- CAT reports: A formal summary report was submitted by Greg Lawson of the Mayor's Neighborhood Engagement Office, for the permanent record.
 - Commissioner Marcus gave the report on District A which has three established CATs.
 - The chair offered the District B report which includes three CATs, in the absence of Commissioner Orange-Jones, as well as his own report on District C's CATs, which include one on the west bank and one on the east bank.
 - Commissioner Kimbrough reported on District D, which now includes three CATs in the district.
 - Commissioner Darnell had to leave the meeting and Commissioner Gray gave a report on the three District E CAT meetings.
- Follow up to Public Comment: There was no follow-up to last month's public comments.

XIII. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS:

- Commissioner Gray asked about projects that we haven't taken receipt of but look like they are completed, noting that we should install signage to communicate that to the public and he asked the CEO to forward that request to staff.

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Amy Stelly – She has not had response regarding unflattering comments about staff made in the last HR sub-committee, and RG requested an email be sent to him. She also said that there is a lack of transparency regarding the condition of Treme equipment.
- Marsha Mackie-Wright – What is a firm re-opening date for Treme? She also complimented the lifeguards and instructors and questioned NORDC's hiring from out of state.
 - VR stated we follow all requirements on hiring, promoting, and terminating employees, but he will not discuss personnel matters.
 - Commissioner Kopplin stated Civil Service Commission must work according to its rules regarding classified positions, which NORDC follows. Once hired, employees must reside in Orleans.
- Eraina Jessie – Requested that NORDC listen to community members regarding problems. Please consider working with the lifeguards who are trying to work.

At this point, the Chair excused himself from the meeting for the first time in his service, and he turned the meeting over to Commissioner Marcus to continue the public comment.

- Renard Thomas – Public relations take forever to get out to the public. He requested security cameras at Joe W. Brown Park. Make job availability more public for longer periods of time.
- Angelina Elder – Children of Hardin Park advocate who researched Dr. Hardin. Hardin Park needs a rec center with a decent bathroom, a water fountain, and a pool for the children.
- Donald Chopin – Stallings/Gentilly and Treme member believes meetings are not operating in good faith, and facilities being closed for repairs that are needed because of shoddy work. His parks are not benefiting from Foundation contributions.
- Ernest Charles – Kids should not be playing outside in the cold when there are schools with gyms that are available for practice.
 - Commissioner Marshall noted that is exactly why he joined the Commission and asked for a little time to do something about it.
 - Commissioner Gray asked the community to believe that we are all on the same team and we need concerned citizens to be engaged in programming.
- Lawrence Crawford said everyone in the room comes from impoverished neighborhoods that are being neglected. CAT activities should address policy. He then addressed particular problems at his playground.

- Dyan French Cole was given 8 minutes by Vice Chair Marcus to offer extensive comments. She talked about racism and recalled historical leaders. She criticized staff decisions and closed her comments with a request for respect.
- Morgan Clevenger introduced herself as a CAT President and expressed discouragement over meetings with disruptive public comments and racial rhetoric. She asked Commission for guidance.
- Labertha McCormick is a parent, teacher, and activist. She sees too many children after school with nothing to do and nowhere to go.
- Mr. Merrick spoke on behalf of Richard E. Lee Playground, asking for funding. He voted in favor of money going to his playground when he voted for NORDC.

XV. ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Kopplin moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Kelly Brown and the Vice Chair adjourned at 7:20 p.m.*