

A MEETING OF THE NEW ORLEANS RECREATION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
WAS HELD AT 5:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2015
IN THE STALLINGS ST. CLAUDE RECREATION CENTER
4300 ST. CLAUDE AVENUE, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

I. CALL TO ORDER: *Vice Chair Rini Marcus called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.*

II. ROLL CALL

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

QUORUM WAS ACHIEVED.

III. OPENING CEREMONIES

- Welcoming remarks Offered by Vice Chair Rini Marcus, who drew attention to the beautiful new Center, as she introduced the new Booster Club president Mandy Pumillia who announced that Booster Club activities are commencing.
- Invocation: Offered by Commissioner Mike Darnell, reflecting on the losses experienced in communities, as well as the positive growth.
- Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Vice Chair Marcus - The use of a virtual flying American flag when a physical flag is absent was instituted.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: Commissioner Darnell moved for the adoption of the minutes from the September 1st meeting, Commissioner Marshall seconded, and they were unanimously adopted.

V. TEEN COUNCIL REPORT:

- Asia Hentowski is a second year member of Teen Council and she enjoys the positive approach. She outlined service activities and discussed the Leadership Council, expressing her support of them teaching the teens about professionalism.
- Yahsua White described programming and activities that Teen Council has had and it working on, and he outlined his favorites. The Teens invited others to attend future activities.
- Both teens were warmly welcomed by the Commissioners.

VI. REPORTS OF SUB-COMMITTEE OFFICERS

- Programming and Public Relations Joint sub-Committee: This report was presented by the joint sub-committee Chair Rini Marcus who noted that the meeting was held today October 6th at 1:30 pm in the Office of Homeland Security at City Hall.
 - I was joined in the meeting by Commissioner Brown but a quorum was not met and approval of the minutes was deferred.
 - We received a very interesting report on the summer camps from Hamilton Simons-Jones and Marti Dumas on the independent evaluations of our 2015 summer camps.
 - Our summer camps and the NORDC staff are appreciative of their work and reports, and all are looking forward to working with them as we move forward.
 - Reports from Athletics, Fit NOLA, Youth, Teen, Rec Center were also received from the Directors and Managers, and a summary report from the Director of Special Projects included items on Outdoor, Cultural and Seniors programming. The CPO delivered public relations and aquatics information.
 - The next meeting of this joint sub-committee is scheduled to be held on Tuesday October 26th at 1:00 pm. This concludes the report.
- Human Resources/Personnel sub-committee: In the absence of the sub-committee chair, NORDC Secretary and sub-committee member Adria Kimbrough presented a report.
 - The next meeting is scheduled to be held on November 16th at 5:30 pm in the Office of Homeland Security 8th floor conference room in City Hall.
 - City Attorney, Elizabeth Robins, is scheduled to attend the meeting to present information to (and respond to inquiries from) the Commissioners on the Civil Service processes that are involved relative to employee terminations and appeals. She will naturally avoid discussing any specific individuals.
 - A review of the status of the CEO evaluation process will also be on the Agenda for that meeting. This concludes the report.
- Governance: Commissioner Mike Darnell, NORDC Treasurer, offered a report from his sub-committee:
 - The Governance Sub-Committee met on Monday September 28th at 2:30 pm in the Office of Homeland Security 8th floor conference room of City Hall.
 - A report prepared by staff for the sub-committee detailed
 - Ongoing community meetings to organize a Booster Club at Joe W. Brown Park with one scheduled for tomorrow, Wednesday October 7th at 5:30 pm in the Media Room of the Recreational Center.

- An orientation hosted by the Booster Club was scheduled to be held on October 1st for the volunteers at Sanchez Center who will begin Concessions Stand sales on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
 - There is a newly-sanctioned NORDC Booster Club for the Tremé-Lemann community that is underway.
 - NORDC has received an application for a new Booster Club at Stallings Center, called the Stallings Downriver Booster Club.
 - Booster Clubs are being asked to weigh in on a request to extend the terms of Booster Club officers from one year to two years. If a majority of clubs agree with the change, an amendment will go to the Law Department and to the Governance sub-committee for approvals.
 - Several reports from CATs to NORDC are being addressed, including a lighting repair and water fountain replacement at Cabrini Playground and excessive drinking at one of the Playgrounds.
 - The sub-committee is following a request from Commissioner Gray to investigate further development of NORDC's Feeding Program.
- This concludes the report.
- Facilities: The Facilities sub-committee Chair Kelly Brown offered the following information:
 - The Facilities sub-committee met at 1:30 pm on Wednesday August 26, 2015 in the Office of Homeland Security Conference room on the 8th floor of City Hall and will meet again on Tuesday October 22 at 2:30 pm.
 - Information from that meeting was reported to the Commission when we gathered at Cutoff Center on September 1st.
 - We are awaiting the opening of the new Rosenwald Center.
 - Commissioners have been provided the customary monthly reports on projects in the NORDC portfolio from the Director of Capital Projects, and we will hear from the CEO Vic Richard in just a few minutes.
 - These reports are permanently posted on the NORDC website "Commission" page. This concludes the report.
- Finance/Audit: Commissioner Kopplin reported the following:
 - The Finance/Audit sub-committee has not met since our meeting in Cutoff Center but the Chief Operating Officer submitted a report to the sub-committee as of September 27, 2015 which represents 74% of the year.
 - Copies of the financial expenditure report are included in the Commissioners packets and are available at the information table for members of the public.
 - NORDC is on-budget with 27.3% of its budget remaining.
 - As of September 27th the NORDC Foundation had \$2,069,745 of which \$1,017,890 has been spent.

- Total available from self-generated revenues is \$291,669, which is comprised of \$189,822 earned during 2015 and \$101,847 that rolled over from 2014. \$116,906 has been spent. This concludes the sub-committee report.

NORD Foundation Report: This report was delivered by Foundation Vice Chair Louis Lauricella in the absence of the NORDC Commissioner John Sibal, who wrote “Greetings everyone.

- We are pleased to have made over \$2.1 million available so far in 2015 for NORDC programs and other needs such as the fixtures, furnishings and equipment for three recreation centers. With Chevron funds, the NORD Foundation paid to refurbish one-third of the Riddell football helmets that we purchased last year. Chevron also helped us with cheer uniforms for 15 playgrounds, including brand new cheer squads at Bunny Friend, Digby and Conrad. Cox and Harrah’s funds directed to the NORD Foundation by Councilmember Guidry helped us outfit 30 girls on the new cheer squad at Conrad Playground. We just submitted new proposals for Harrah’s funds to every Councilmember requesting support for youth athletics, and we will appreciate the public’s advocacy with their district Councilmembers and the at-large Councilmembers to direct funds to the NORD Foundation for this purpose. We completed the Fit NOLA Parks and Prescriptions Pilot at the end of August, a great partnership with the Louisiana Public Health Institute, NORDC, the City of New Orleans Health Department, Market Umbrella, and the Tulane Prevention Research Center. This is the program that was funded with a \$1 million three-year grant from the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Louisiana Foundation and \$500,000 in matching cash funds; Chevron’s contribution to this program for Fit NOLA Parks was \$354,000 over three years.
- The result of the Fit NOLA Parks program and its benefits for the citizens of New Orleans are as follows:
 - NORDC began offering free exercise classes several times per week at three Fit NOLA Parks in December 2013; the number of parks expanded to six in March 2015. The Fit NOLA Parks are Norwood Thompson, Taylor, St. Roch, Stallings Gentilly, Conrad and Behrman.
 - Over the period, 1,045 of classes took place in which 7,049 youth and adults participated.
 - NOPD officers on paid detail were stationed in the parks before, during and after classes. Over the three year period, over 900 two- and three-hour police details were paid by the grant.
 - There were 13 big family events at the 6 parks, attracting over 3,300 people.
 - All six Fit NOLA Parks now have security camera systems.
 - Other major improvements as a result of this grant include a new concessions unit for Taylor and an outdoor fitness center for St. Roch.
 - We want to thank our partner Chevron for making an additional \$200,000 gift this year to the NORD Foundation to continue the Fit NOLA program at NORDC.”

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. Highlights included:
 - Spotlight on the Lemann Playground and the growth of the Lafitte Greenway.
 - Announcement of the new Aquatics Manager Christopher Lewis, who is an internal promotion resulting from work in both the Treme Center and Joe W. Brown Center pools.
 - Volleyball, Cheerleading, and Football seasons and championships were covered. Brief description was included of the recent paddling incident and the policies that were in place to govern the matter.
 - The CEO announced the 3rd Annual “Thriller” Flash Mob Friday, October 30 on the Steps of City Hall, as well as at the Taylor Playground Movies in The Park.
 - Shonnda Smith said there would be a meeting on October 16th with all Feeding Program partners to explore Kids Café as revenue-producing.
 - Three candidates are being vetted for the Outdoor Programming Manager position. StemNOLA continues, and NORDC has two tennis centers
 - Shonnda Smith is hosting a Volunteer Orientation on Friday October 9th at the Lyons Recreation Center. Commissioner Kopplin suggested additional outreach to City Council offices, and Neighborhood Engagement for outreach, as well as the Mayor’s Faith-based Liason.
 - RecTrac Accomplishments include 15,000+ key cards distributed, and 100% rental event permitting, with programmatic milestones being set in tackle football, structured programming and Rec Center attendance.
 - A Timeline of Accreditation was offered in the form of an update through the Fall of 2015, and the coordination of a comprehensive master recreation plan. A breakdown of Policy and Development in six key areas of established Standards was shown in bar graph format.
 - The CEO reported on the NRPA 2015 in Las Vegas, which seven staff members attended.
 - A brief report on Employment Opportunities was offered in administrative, athletics, maintenance and special programs divisions. Jermaine Hall, a district manager, is the new Rec Center Manager for Rosenwald Center. Born and raised in Hollygrove, Jermaine represents another internal promotion.
 - The CEO summarized the work accomplished in the facilitated meetings for our leadership team. NORDC has 186 employees on the payroll, and 154 participated in two recent All-Staff meetings to share in the work.
 - Commissioner Kopplin noted the impressive number of staff, the 15 operating recreation centers, etc., and he further commented that no organization is growing faster in the City of New Orleans than NORD. He expressed his appreciation of the work and the time involved.

- Commissioner Rogers commended leadership for doubling-down to continue to improve, through leadership trainings, with the staff being NORDC's No. 1 resource.
- Commissioner Darnell expressed approval of advance and wide notice of employment opportunities. He emphasized the need to recognize the importance of customer relations.

Following the reports and at 6:10 pm, it was necessary for the Vice Chair to attend another event and for the duration of this meeting, the presiding officer was NORDC Secretary Adria Kimbrough.

- Commissioner Kimbrough asked for more details about the paddling report regarding any new policies that may be needed. The CEO responded that no new policies are necessary because the policies were already in place. After a 3-year relationship with USAFootball. Internal and external discussions were held, and with rules committees so that they reflect the needed guidelines.
- Commissioner Kopplin noted his appreciation that appropriate policies were in place and additionally that the CPO and AD called a meeting to reiterate the policies, which were already in place, to all coaches citywide.

VIII. CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT

- Vincent Smith, Capital Projects Director reported that NORD Capital Program represents 120 projects totaling \$157,302,630, with 71 Priority Projects completed. The Grand Opening of Rosenwald Center is imminent.
- There are three projects in construction: Milne Gym, St. Bernard Center Phase III, and Rosenwald Center Phase II which is the work on the Pool house.
- Three projects are in Bid & Award phase: St. James Playground, Behrman Center Roof and Phase II Hunter's Field, where renovations will add a modern expansion of 3,000 square feet to the historic older building.
- There are 11 projects currently in the Design Phase and 32 projects are currently in Pre-Design.
- Commissioner Darnell asked about the status of funding for Richard Lee Playground, and a discussion ensued among Commissioners regarding collaborations among entities for shared use of facilities, funding avenues for rebuilding, achievements thus far, and challenges.
- MD asked about the status of the bridge at Joe W. Brown Park. Commissioner Kopplin observed that while there is an inconvenience, the safety issue is paramount. He agreed with MD that this is a priority issue, as it is for DM Grant.

IX. NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Marshall noted that a follow-up on the Commissioners' suggestions should be tracked. He requested information about the ongoing, coordinated meeting among representatives of the agencies controlling the City's recreational and educational assets. The CEO shared information about meetings organized by Deputy Mayor Grant. Commissioners shared information about ongoing collaborations.

X. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Follow up to Public Comments:**

- The Chief Programming Officer followed up at the end of the last meeting with discussions on programming at the Cutoff Center with the parents who presented their comments and which constituted the bulk of the public comments. She received their input, responding where possible.
- An ability to address offers to volunteer like that described by Mr. Edgar Dansby at the last meeting will be outlined at the first Volunteer Orientation meeting to be held on Friday, October 9th from 6:30 – 8 p.m. at the Lyons Center, hosted by the Chief Programming Officer. This Orientation will be for participants to hear about all of the opportunities to volunteer at NORDC, the application process, and the placement process.

- **Follow up to New Business:** The presiding officer requested that this line item be added to future monthly minutes.

XI. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS: none

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT: Based on the time allotted for the meeting and the number of public comments cards, each commenter will be offered three minutes to speak to the Commission.

- Bernard Merrick took a moment before discussing Richard Lee Playground, as he often advocates for, to reflect on parenting.
- Brandon Dorrington came to the meeting to highlight Jackson Park at Louisa & Mereaux Streets. He told the Commissioners that after a rain water remains on the basketball court, which is being used.
- Dyan Cole expressed her opinions, including: She doesn't like having the meetings move around the City; African American children are not urban thugs, and are suffering; when did playing become a business; and she requested a serious meeting about racism because she doesn't want to use old tactics to change the actions of the Commission.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: *With a motion from Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Darnell, the presiding officer adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.*