

A MEETING OF THE NEW ORLEANS RECREATION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
WAS HELD AT 5:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2015  
IN THE ANDREW P. SANCHEZ & COPELIN-BYRD MULTI-SERVICE CENTER  
1616 CAFFIN AVENUE, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

**I. CALL TO ORDER: *Chair Roy Glapion called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm.***

**II. ROLL CALL**

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

**III. OPENING CEREMONIES**

- Welcoming remarks Offered by Chair Glapion, highlighted the newly-opened, award-winning venue for this meeting, fulfilling a promise to bring NORDC meetings to the public. The next meeting will be held in Gernon Brown Recreation Center at 1001 Harrison Avenue.
- Invocation: Offered by Commissioner Darnell spotlighting the blood, sweat, tears in rebuilding this community, this small but significant strip of land.
- Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chair Glapion
- Report from the Chair: The Chair had four additional announcements. He stated that being here in the Sanchez Center is a joy, seeing the activity in the neighborhood and in this new center, using the facility and changing the quality of life for the better.
  - The Chair reported that NBRPA Executive Director and former Councilmember Arnie Fielkow organized the 6<sup>th</sup> annual excursion of 200 of our youngsters in the NOLA Youth Civil Rights and Sports Mission to Alabama on July 22nd. This trip broadens our youngsters' view of the Civil Rights movement with visits to the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, the Historic 16<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church, and the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. New to the itinerary this year is a stop in Selma, the starting point of the 1965 Selma-to-Montgomery March. In addition to the NBRPA, trip sponsors include Friends of King Schools, Jones Walker Law Firm, First NBC Bank, Entergy New Orleans, WBOK Radio, and the NORD Foundation.
  - A Proclamation from Mayor Mitch Landrieu recognized July 2015 as Parks and Recreation month in the City of New Orleans and it was read into the record by the Chair.

- The Chair described the process of public comment to be used at the meeting, bringing the CEO and the Director of Capital Projects to the dais for discourse with the public. Greg Lawson and Noraann Winbush from the Mayor’s Neighborhood Engagement Office will assist the Chair in organizing the public discourse and recognizing members of the public. Time limit is controlled by the number of cards submitted. Public comment cards can be submitted between 5 pm and 6:15 p.m.
- The next Commission meeting will be August 4<sup>th</sup> at Gernon Brown Center, same time, different location.

**IV. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: Commissioner Darnell moved for the adoption of the minutes from the June 2nd meeting, Commissioner Marshall seconded, and they were unanimously adopted.**

**V. TEEN COUNCIL REPORT:**

- Ivan Johnson, a 16-year old Teen Council member from Landry-Walker High School, sang his Message, “All of us need all of you, need your support and direction, your support and affection...” His presentation ended in thunderous applause.
- Caitlyn Wallace, also a 16-year old, attends Landry-Walker High School. She reported on the Teen Vocal and Dance Competition held at Lyons Center, and she congratulated the winners, thanking the NORDC administrators and Commissioners for their support and encouraged others to join Teen Council.
- Kara Azur, a recent graduate of Lusher and 4-year veteran of the Teen Council, commented on the benefits of events she has enjoyed as a member of the Teen Council over the years, but she also pointed out the benefits of her being exposed to the management side of producing events for Teen Council.

**VI. REPORTS OF SUB-COMMITTEE OFFICERS**

- Programming and Public Relations Joint sub-Committee: Chair Marcus was out-of-town and requested that joint sub-committee member Kelly Brown deliver her report, which follows:
  - The Programming and Public Relations joint sub-committee met on Friday, June 26 at 1:30 PM in the Office of Homeland Security, 8<sup>th</sup> floor, City Hall. Commissioner Marcus was joined by me, and approval of the minutes was deferred.
  - We heard reports from the divisions of Aquatics, Athletics, Fit NOLA, Outdoor, Teen, Youth, Cultural Programming, as well as news from our Rec Centers and items of Public Relations. That information will be summarized in the CEO’s report but of special note are:

- The new Recreation Activities Coordinator Sam Cook was introduced to the Commissioners.
  - The public was informed about the availability of NORDC's improved fleet of 10 brand new canoes, which are available for use by the public on Saturdays at Joe W. Brown Park through August 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - A successful Glam Pajama Jam was held for 85 girls at Cutoff, with plans finalizing for a similar event for boys aged 6 – 15 to be held August 15 – 16 and planned for the Sanchez Center.
- The next meeting of this joint sub-committee is scheduled to be held on Thursday July 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in the early evening, to accommodate a request from the Chair to hold some meetings after-hours. This concludes her report.
- Human Resources/Personnel sub-committee: The Chair was absent from the meeting, and the report was delivered by sub-committee member Michael Darnell:
  - The Human Resources/Personnel joint sub-committee last met on Monday, June 15, 2015 in the 8<sup>th</sup> floor conference room of City Hall at 5:30 pm. The Chair was joined by Commissioners Glapion, Kimbrough and I to achieve a quorum and the minutes from the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.
  - The sub-committee received a report on staffing, vacancies, internal promotions, and potential salary adjustments - as well as the possibility of outsourcing certain positions where applications had not come in.
  - We discussed a site facilitator for Oliver Bush, which is a budgeted position for 2016, but could be posted and filled during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2015.
  - The CEO evaluation process was discussed and it may be that the Commission's timeline will extend beyond the internal administrative timeline. It was noted that to the extent that NORDC develops separate expectations, that those will be communicated to the CEO in advance. It's hoped to provide evaluation feedback by the end of the year.
  - Public comment included a request for an outline of avenues of communications used to resolve problems. The next sub-committee meeting is currently scheduled for July 20th and this concludes the sub-committee report.
- Governance: Commissioner Darnell offered a report from his sub-committee:
  - The Governance Sub-Committee last met on Wednesday July 1st at 2:30 pm in the Office of Homeland Security 8<sup>th</sup> floor conference room of City Hall.
  - I was joined in the meeting by Commissioner Dana Peterson, approval of the minutes of the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting was deferred.
  - An active discussion on Booster Clubs and CATs was pursued with staff reporting the resignation of the officers of the Joe W. Brown Booster Club.

- We noted some deficiencies in the CATs and that the sub-committee would be reviewing their effectiveness.
  - Letters of resignation have been received, and it was reported by the Booster Club that uniforms and equipment purchased by the Booster Club is in the possession of NORDC staff. We will look into assertions that money was not applied properly.
  - There was a meeting with coaches, Councilmember Gray and myself concerning recruitments. Joe W. Brown Park is large and there is a great opportunity to utilize concessions to produce income.
  - I requested an outline of the process being used to quickly resolve all matters pertaining to the Booster Club status, both for this club and for other clubs failing to comply with the NORDC regulations and requirements. This concludes the report.
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- Facilities: This report was delivered by sub-committee Chair Kelly Brown.
  - The Facilities sub-committee was scheduled to meet on Wednesday July 1, 2015 at 1:30 pm in the Office of Homeland Security Conference room on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of City Hall.
  - Staff was in attendance, but I was the only commissioner present. Assured that reports from the CEO and the Director of Capital Projects would be included in tonight's presentations, the meeting was not called to order due to a lack of a quorum.
  - The next meeting of the Facilities sub-committee is currently scheduled for Wednesday August 26<sup>th</sup>, in the 8<sup>th</sup> floor conference room of City Hall. As always, should matters arise in the interim that require a vote from the Facilities sub-committee, I will schedule a special meeting. This concludes my report.
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- Finance/Audit: Commissioner Kopplin reported the following:
  - The Finance/Audit sub-committee met last on Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> but the Chief Operating Officer submitted a report to the sub-committee as of June 25, 2015 which represents 50% 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 60% of its budget remaining.
  - As of June 25th the NORDC Foundation had \$1,955,301 of which \$735,000 has been spent.
  - Total available from self-generated revenues is \$221,117, which is comprised of \$119,270 earned during 2015 and \$101,847 that rolled over from 2014. \$51,000 has been spent. YTD rental Waivers are at \$20,463.

- Summer Programming expenditures: 2/3 of the CDBG funds have been expended; 100% will be expended by next month's report. Most of the related summer expenses (drug tests, Teen Stipend, supplies) have not yet hit this report. One cycle of summer staffing has hit, and lifeguard expense is as expected.
- Maintenance: Aquatics repairs are exceeding budget. Grass cutting expense is under budget. It is anticipated that these two line-items balance each other out.
- Athletics: FitNOLA expenses include \$62,000 in security cameras installed at six parks (NORDF funded). Commissioner Kopplin complimented the detail of the report submitted by Mary-jo Webster, describing it as the gold standard of departmental budgets. This concludes the sub-committee report.
- NORD Foundation Report: As a member of the Board of Directors of the NORD Foundation, Chair Glapion offered a brief report from John Sibal, in his absence, which read "Greetings everyone. I want to thank the donors to the NORD Foundation who enabled NORDC to outfit this beautiful center: Boh Brothers, Chevron, the RosaMary Foundation, the Patrick F. Taylor Foundation, and the Legends of Basketball, a program of the National Professional Retired Basketball Players Association. Currently, NORDC has access to almost \$2 million raised by the NORD Foundation to support operations and programs in 2015. We are also happy to work with booster clubs to raise funds for organized youth sports. To date, we have worked with Stallings Gentilly, Norwood Thompson, Harrell, Pontchartrain, Goretti and Taylor Parks. Please contact Annie LaRock and she will give you her card. Thank you."

## **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. The front photography spotlighted the Teen Vocal and Dance competition. Other highlights include:
  - The Mayor's use of NORDC aquatics facilities citywide. The summer aquatics participation number is 10,384.
  - Athletics highlights include July 11 USA Football Player Safety Coach Training at the Saints Facility, July 25 USA Football Saints Coaching Clinic, July 19 2015 Allstate Sugar Bowl Clinic presented by Chevron at Joe W. Brown Park. NORDC was selected by USAF to be in a pilot exchange program with Miami for Little League Football. Our goal is to educate parents.
  - Cultural events included a Senior Recital at Sanchez. Fit NOLA Parks hosted Family Fests at Hollygrove and Algiers. Outdoor programs hosts

free canoeing at Joe W. Brown and this program exposes urban youth to a natural environment.

- Summer Youth Camp Annual Culminating Day is tomorrow July 8<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 2 pm. Summer Teen Camp growth in participation is notable, averaging a daily attendance of 875 teens. The commissioners were invited to visit the Teen Rooms in the Sanchez Center before leaving after tonight's meeting.
- NOLA for LIFE Midnight basketball season will be held at Sanchez Center July 18 – September 12<sup>th</sup>.
- STEM NOLA Saturdays with Dr. Calvin Mackie continue at Lyons Center July 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The CEO reviewed employment opportunities in aquatics, athletics, and maintenance and at Atkinson-Stern Tennis Center.
- July is Park and Recreation month and NORDC hosts a Family Fun Walk on Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup> 9 – 11am.
- More information will be forthcoming on our accreditation process in a report next month.

**(NOTE THAT AT THIS POINT, THE CHAIR RE-ITERATED TODAY'S PUBLIC COMMENT PROCESS.)**

#### **VIII. CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT**

- Vincent Smith, Capital Projects Director orally submitted the report and included a PowerPoint, stating that CP tracks 120 projects at a value of \$151.3 million.
- 69 projects are completed at a value of \$92 million.
- 3 projects are in construction:
  - Stallings St. Claude Community Center is 99% complete and should be opened 1<sup>st</sup> week of August.
  - Rosenwald Center Phase 1 Gymnasium is 95% complete.
  - Milne Boys Home is 57% complete and scope was broadened to include a new roof and parking lot.
- 4 projects are in Bid & Award, 11 are in Design, and 33 are in Pre-Design.
- Commissioner Kopplin led an appreciation of Vince Smith and his team for the new award-winning Sanchez Center, now one of the top facilities in the country.

#### **IX. NEW BUSINESS:**

- Commissioner Rogers noted that two suggestions from the May meeting public comments have been implemented:

1. Including all areas of the City in the weekly newsletter for all Recreation Centers, so users at any Rec Center can be knowledgeable about activities at all other Centers.
2. Complimentary off-street parking now exists for Treme Center users on a first-come first-served basis. Parking is available all day and most evenings (except when needed by the Theater users).

**X. OLD BUSINESS:**

- Follow up to public comments:
  - In response to Ms. Stelly's request last month, staff has the report offered by Capital Projects Director Vince Smith on the specifications of the epoxy flooring at Treme Center and delivered it to her by hand.
  - Staff provided Mr. Chopin information that he requested on the fiscal ordinance Cal No. 30,585, mailed to his residence.
  - The dates of Community Advisory Team meetings and Booster Club meetings are being noted on the NORDC website as they are received. Website updates are underway.

It should be noted that these are community-led meetings, and cancellations can occur as late as the day of the event. NORDC staff makes every effort to keep the website information up-to-date.

**XI. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS: none**

**XII. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Vanessa Gueringer asked about summer camp enrollments and how outreach was conducted, and how neighborhood children can be included.
  - VR responded that the partners were evaluated and no children should have been left out. He stated that each camp is monitored throughout the camp. This will be reviewed for inclusion and service to the public. Every parent should have a fair shot at enrolling their children. For next summer we must be able to insure that preferences are not shown.
- Gwendolyn Adams asked what effort was made to solicit volunteers from the Lower 9 for the camps.
  - VR responded that the partners and not NORDC solicit volunteers for their camps.

- Warrenetta Banks is a coordinator for Sustain the Nine and I'm interested in renting space at Sanchez. We cannot rent the space in the gym because we cannot have refreshments.
  - Refreshments can now be done with a new floor covering. VR referred her to Maya Wyche for resolution.
- Jannie Hamilton asked about renting a room for her dance class. She filled out an application and she was told the date and hours were good, but she did not receive an approval. There were multiple rooms that she is not allowed to use.
  - This matter was referred to Maya Wyche to resolve.
- Ronald Roberts of Spartan's Boxing Club asked about the status of the relationship of NORDC with Spartans.
  - VR noted Spartan is working out of JWB and conversations are ongoing for future permanent arrangements. Open discussions among a number of community members ensued.

VR outlined the process of evaluating programming at the future Milne campus through the Mayor's NOLA for Life. AR added comments on the design of the Milne campus, describing coordination of different spaces in the future design. VS is restoring the building as it currently exists in the scope of work. Spartans wants input in the Design. NM summarized the conversation by saying that NORDC does not have responsibility for use of the building, NOLA for Life. That is the organization Spartans should advocate to for use of space. Part of the building will be turned over to NORD and NOLA for Life will organize the use. The Commission can stand firm on the commitment to Boxing, if not at Milne, then somewhere.

- Muhammad Soddig of Spartan's Boxing Club reiterated the need to finalize planning because they have no boxing ring. DP asked for the commissioners to receive a copy of the letter of proposal submitted by Spartan.
  - The Chair asked staff to organize another meeting at NORDC for him to speak with boxing advocates.
- William Montgomery of Spartan's Boxing Club is the trainer of the Boxing club. They are training only three days a week, and we have to step up to the plate to train every day and have the necessary equipment to succeed. He shared information about a New Orleans Boxing Show on October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Alicia Plummer of Spartan's Boxing Club reiterated expressions previously stated. Milne Boys Home gym was a boxing gym and should be returned to that use. She stated that boxing is a vehicle that takes kids off of the street.

- She asked for confirmation of an October 17<sup>th</sup> event request at Joe W. Brown.
- The Chair again asked staff to organize another meeting at NORDC with the CEO and Chair to speak with boxing advocates.
- Harry Sims of the Boxing Team of the Lower 9 Ward has a facility on Flood Street and would like to bring his ring.
- Reynard Thomas submitted cards on the Foundation, Governance, Personnel, and Facilities. He shared antidotal stories about a number of staff members.
  - He asked what companies are new contributors, prior to the formation of the Commission. Annie LaRock summarized Friends of NORD activities. Reynard said he is researching public records. The Chair discussed being able to donate dedicated funding to NORDF.
  - He asked about finalizing the CEA for Spartan Boxing and the October 17<sup>th</sup> event.
  - He asked for a NORDC organization chart and job description of every NORDC staff member. He wants the site supervisors to be able to be volunteer coaches as well. Evaluations are not resolved to his satisfaction.
  - Why is F H Paschen signing off on facilities punch lists where they were the prime contractor? VS asked for an offline conversation to clarify the issues.
- Amy Stelly, an advocate for Treme, asked for clarity on the hours of parking lot availability. AR clarified that the parking is available during the day and at night when there is no event conflict. Passes are available at the front desk.
  - She asked about the heater. Maintenance Director Jim Austin responded to the question: there was a malfunction with the heater that is being corrected under warranty and caused the clicking noise. The smell of smoke was coming from a nearby fire in the neighborhood. The heater is under warranty but was not burning.
  - She asked if the elevator is funded and VS responded yes.
  - She asked about the SELA program at Whitney Young. VR responded that this is still a NORDC pool and is a programmatic pilot program from now until Labor Day. VR added that he built the pool 20 years ago and has no intention of giving it away.
  - She noted that moving the public meeting is a good idea but has a concern that it is not being televised. Chair responded that we will look into it. She added that there was a month to work on it and it is

needed for the public record. She asked about a recent public records request that is unfilled, and VR stated staff will follow up with the Law Department.

- She asked for a Master Plan for NORDC. VR noted that there will be a facilitator in August to work within the organization. He noted that NORDC is not haphazardly moving forward, and that BREC is mentoring NORDC in its accreditation process. Staff will send the strategic plan by the Boston Consulting Group to her. The Chair requested that it be put on the website. The CEO asked permission for Maya Wyche to give an update to the Commissioners at the next Commission meeting, which was encouraged by the Chair.
- Vanessa Gueringer asked about the Capital Projects presentation on Richard Lee Playground, stating that it was not a completed project. VS responded that it was the *master plan* for the rebuilding of the Richard Lee Playground that was completed, not the playground itself. VR noted additionally that for the past two years he included the rebuilding of the Richard Lee Playground in the Capital Projects budget *request*, for an investment of \$4.6 million. He directed staff to provide her copies of those requests.
- Liljose Marie Tompkins left the meeting but had a question about other Booster Clubs operating concessions at Joe W. Brown Park. (Note: There is policy in place allowing this under certain circumstances.)

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT: *With a motion from Commissioner Darnell, seconded by Commissioner Kopplin, Chair Glapion adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.***