

A MEETING OF THE NEW ORLEANS RECREATION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
WAS HELD AT 5:00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2016
IN THE TREME COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER
900 No. VILLERE STREET, NEW ORLEANS

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** *Chair Byron C. Williams called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.*

II. **ROLL CALL**

- Present: Byron C. Williams - Chair, Rini Marcus – *Vice-Chair*, Brian Egana - Secretary, Theo Sanders – Treasurer, Dana Peterson James A. Gray, II, Jeffrey Hebert, Louis Lauricella, Kelly Brown, Sonny Lee
- Absent: Nolan Marshall Jr., and Mayor Mitchell Landrieu
- Staff: J. Alex Chasick, Deborah Langhoff

QUORUM WAS ACHIEVED.

III. **OPENING CEREMONIES**

- Welcoming remarks were offered by Chair Williams, who introduced the new CAO as a NORD Commissioner, Jeffrey P. Hebert, while recognizing the invaluable work of his predecessor, Andy Kopplin. Commissioner Hebert voiced his enthusiasm for moving the City forward and for working with the NORD Commissioners.
- Pledge of Allegiance was led by Annie LaRock of the NORD Foundation, at the request of the Chair.

IV. **ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES:** Commissioner Brown moved for the adoption of the August 2nd minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

V. **TEEN COUNCIL REPORT:** Freedom Richardson reported to the Commission on the activities of the Teen Council and Chevron Future Leaders. He noted that there will be a Teen Golf event at Joe Bartholomew Golf Course from 10:30 and until noon on September 10th, and on September 24th there will be the Teen Council Back-to-School Pool Party.

VI. **REPORTS COMMITTEE OFFICERS**

- Public Relations & Community Relations Report was delivered by Chair Sonny Lee and is included as an addendum to these minutes.
- Programming & Facilities Report was delivered by Chair Rini Marcus and is included as an addendum to these minutes.
- NORD Foundation Report: Louis Lauricella announced the list of funders has been updated, reflects the addition of Liberty Bank, and is available to members of the

public as well as the Commissioners. The report is included as an addendum to these minutes.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- **Governance & Strategic Report** was delivered by Chair Dana Peterson and the last meeting on July 15th was summarized, including the attendance by himself, and Commissioners Gray, Rogers, and Williams, thus achieving a quorum.
 - The intent of the meeting was to review comments from all identified stakeholders, and to more fully engage the members of the community, which has been accomplished. The matter will now come to the Commission for consideration at this meeting.
 - Commissioner Peterson also outlined the context in which the Cabrini Playground issue emerged from a request of the Community Advisory Team for a reconsideration of a number of NORDC decisions. The Commission requested staff to review the use of Cabrini.
- The Chair asked staff to distribute copies of the most recent staff proposal to accommodate an off-leash dog area.
- Also distributed was a proposed motion which is included as an addendum to the minutes.
- He described the process to be followed relating to public comment, according to policy in the by-laws which allow for a spokesperson to be chosen to represent a particular point of view, when the number of commenters is larger than usual.
- The CEO thanked Commissioner Peterson and the Commission, noting that this issue has been an ongoing challenge since Katrina regarding legal and sanctioned use of a number of downtown parks.
 - He noted that in this proposal no part of the dog area is adjacent to any part of a private residence, and that all entrances and exits are to the perimeter of the park and not to the inner greenspace.
 - He further noted that conversations with the school officials reflected a love of the playground. He added that respect for the ongoing use by children is recognized.
 - NORDC has an obligation to guarantee safe use of all parks by humans.
- Chair further clarified the process for public comments based on the number of public speaker cards submitted, offering each side of the argument a 10-minute timeframe.
- **The Chair made a motion, as shown in the addendum, which was seconded by Commissioner Egana.**
- Commissioner Egana asked about assigning a resolution number to the motion and the City Attorney advised that due to the limited number of legislative items carried in each meeting, the date suffices for identification purposes.
- At 5:38 pm a recess was taken until 5:45 pm for the public to organize participants for comments on either side of the discussion.

- PUBLIC COMMENT

- Against

- Jon Kemp is a neighbor who lives next to the Playground and she related a story of young people playing at Cabrini. She further noted that current laws are not enforced and she asked why dog owners would obey new laws if they don't follow existing laws. She further asked that Armstrong Park's fenced corner triangle be considered for off-leash dogs instead.

- For

- Anne Marie Hesson is the president of the CAT-C for Downtown Parks which claims 40-50 members. "We are elated with this proposal." She noted an improvement would include care that children and dogs not be adjacent to each other. She noted that Jackie Shreves had been supportive. She requests the dog area be "temporary" in the amount of space allocated and the fencing. She also requested the re-installation of poop bags.

- Against

- Heidi Redmon Raines is a dog owner and mother who lives across the street. She asked what formal studies were conducted. She complained of a lack of engagement from neighbors. She noted the best practices outlined in the Trust for Public Land to avoid interference with play areas, residences, other recreational uses, and sensitive habitats. On March 2, 2015 her dog was bitten by an off-leash dog and she would not have been able to stop the attack if it had been aimed at one of her children.

- For

- Cynthia Swope is a member of the CAT-C Downtown Parks who noted that the Park was much emptier than it once was. She thanked the Commission and said that the proposal was "really great." She doesn't think that parking is a problem. She noted that it had been an illegal dog park for 30 years.

- Against

- Anthony Johnson, 1427 Dauphine Street, reminded the group that there is a responsibility for all citizens of New Orleans, and not just the group right around Cabrini – he brought up a discussion about the Armstrong Park proposal, suggesting that the dog situation can't be resolved at Cabrini and needs a larger location like the SouthWest corner of Armstrong Park.

- Leo Watermeier spoke out of order, noting that the design was two days old, that the proposal is being railroaded through, with insufficient public engagement in the neighborhood.

- John Reed, 1218 Burgundy, was recognized by the Chair. He said he bought a blighted house next to Cabrini to bring it back to life when no one else would. He and his wife have tried to be good neighbors to the park and to the school that uses the park. He expressed appreciation

that the dog area does not abut his residence, and noted that the dog owners are pleased but the schoolchildren would be left with much less area for their recreational activities.

- Steven Schmidt observed that he was pleased with the design.
- Amy Stelly asked that no consideration be given to Armstrong Park because of the historically painful history for African Americans. She said there would be serious push-back from the community.
- Elyse Couvillion, 906 Esplanade, said there are not a lot of children in the area. People use the park to gather and the off leash area will make it stronger.
- COMMISSIONERS' DISCUSSION
 - Commissioner Peterson thanked the CEO for the recommendations, recognizing how long a solution to this question had been sought. He asked the Commissioners to consider that the question came to them because illegal off-leash use was causing a problem at Cabrini.
 - He asked that the Commission be consistent in its role, determining when the Commission should decide programming design and logistics, and he used boxing as an example of a different decision that had been made by the Commissioners.
 - He noted that he has struggled with the decision to take an active role in determining the details of any programming decision. He wanted to share his thinking with the other Commissioners prior to the vote.
 - Commissioner Lauricella noted that because this project would not be publicly funded, the Foundation's Executive Director will play a role in communicating with the off-leash area advocates to assist in identifying funders.
 - Commissioner Gray noted that Cabrini did not meet guidelines for successful off-leash areas and he mentioned concerns about the proximity of children to the unleashed dogs, due to the restrictions of the space at Cabrini.
 - Commissioner Peterson asked that the Commission establish consistent guidelines in taking these matters up.
 - Commissioner Gray added that if the vote to establish an off-leash area is successful, and if the private funding is secured to build it, then the area is still a public asset controlled by NORDC and the City of New Orleans, and will not be a privately owned or privately controlled space.
- **The Chair called for the vote, which resulted in 7 votes in favor of the resolution and 3 Commissioners in opposition to the resolution, which passed.**
- **The Chair moved the matter to the Programming & Facilities Committee, which is chaired by NORDC vice-Chair Rini Marcus.**
- He further noted that he would conduct a listening session meeting with stakeholders at 5 pm on Tuesday October 11th for discussion of next steps.

IX. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

- Victor N. Richard, III, NORDC CEO offered his monthly report to the Commissioners and to the public, which resides permanently on the website, and is attached as an addendum. He introduced Chief Programming Officer Shonnda Smith who highlighted components of the report, and introduced Chief Operating Officer Maya Wyche, who did the same.

X. CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT

- Vincent Smith, Director of Capital Projects, offered his customary monthly report on the NORDC portfolio, which resides permanently on the website and is attached as an addendum. Of particular note were comments from CAO, CRO Commissioner Hebert who outlined the basic information about the St. Bernard Storm Water Resilience Project. It incorporates the awaited Willie Hall Improvements. He further noted that negotiations on the CEA with OPSB are well underway.
- Commissioner Gray asked about the bridge repair at Joe W. Brown Park, and was advised that it will be a replacement project, directed by the Department of Public Works.

XI. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS:

- The Chair appointed Commissioner Egana to fill the vacancy on the Governance and Strategic Planning Committee.
- Commissioner Egana suggested an adjustment in the date of the next Committee meeting due to a conflict with the Saints football schedule on September 26th. (The next meeting of the Governance & Strategic Planning Committee is now scheduled for October 17th.)

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Ernest Pettigrew would like to have a new Booster Club at Cut Off. He asked for a focus on girls' programming and introduced two young women in the audience who supported his request
- Marcia Mackie Wright spoke about the lack of handicapped access at Treme Center. The Chair referred the matter to the Programming & Facilities Committee. It was noted that there was an initial study conducted, but that the costs are not currently funded.
 - She asked about the installation of new showers at Stallings/Gentilly pool. Mr. Smith outlined the community engagement process that had occurred to fully develop the scope of work, and that their priorities, expressed in public meetings, were for exterior improvements and not interior renovations.

- She additionally commented that she was glad to see promotions from within the organization.
- Amy Stelly complimented the Aquatics staff and the staff at Treme Center, noting however that Treme has a lack of ADA access.
 - She further noted that the pool heater at Treme doesn't function well.
 - She suggested a 5-foot landscape buffer around the off-leash dog area in Cabrini, using woody plants in particular.
 - She expressed disapproval of roving Commission meetings, suggesting that there is less access, and she requested moving the meetings back to City Hall with NOATV screenings.
- Elana Jesse spoke about inconsistent water temperature in the pool.
 - She asked about Willie Hall progress and noted that it is a winning program that NORDC should focus on, along with other popular playgrounds.
 - She added that there are red ants at Treme outside and also near the pool deck.
- Byron A. Williams is an advocate for Willie Hall and he asked questions about the kids moving from park to park. He asked for the policies, noting that kids should be playing near their homes.
- Angelina Elder asked when the work on Hardin Playground will begin. Mr. Smith noted that the project is currently in design and construction should begin in March with a likely five to six month construction timeframe for the new concessions, restroom and storage building.
 - Ronald Roberts from Spartan Boxing asked for consistency in programming decisions. He asked for information on being charged to use facilities and/or concessions. The CEO will make a recommendation on this matter.
- Reynard Thomas spoke on a number of issues including
 - The locations for the new high mast lights
 - Inquiry of printed policy on background check tolerances (this information is on each application and on the website)
 - Maintenance of fields
 - Shared facilities use with OPSB during basketball season
 - Water pressure at Spartan Field

- DHH inspection of concessions area and their requirement to fulfil a food preparation class at Delgado.
- Rodents were detected at Harrell and Milne

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm, after announcing that the next meeting of the NORD Commission will be held at the Lyons Recreation Center on October 4, 2016.*

PR and Community Relations Committee Report for Commission September 7, 2016

Committee Meeting DATE Monday August 9, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sonny Lee (CHAIR), Louis Lauricella, Byron C Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kelly Brown

ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Michele Thomson gave a Marketing Report that noted increases in the number of press releases produced and in the responsiveness of television stations to the press events.
- She outlined a number of projects in development including the installations of LED Monitors that will begin broadcast streaming and video feeds.
- The new 72-page NORDC brochure for Fall is in distribution.
- The PSA is in currently in rotation and positive feedback is being received.
- A brief discussion of a Marketing Budget request for 2017 was developed by the CEO, who added that there was a submission of \$50,000 request for this purpose.

The next regular meeting of this Committee is scheduled for Wednesday November 16, 2016.

Programming & Facilities Committee Report for Commission September 7, 2016

Committee Meeting DATE Monday August 22, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT: Louis Lauricella (Vice-CHAIR)

Nolan Marshall Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rini Marcus (CHAIR)

ACTIONS TAKEN:

- The Committee approved minutes from the February 25th and May 17th meetings, and had a report from CPO Shonnda Smith on Programmatic Partnerships. She announced that 25 new partners are now on board. She further requested that a member from the Committee sit on the assessment panel to participate in the vetting process for next season. This requires a commitment of time in late September and early October.
- A report on the 2016 Summer Camp Quality Assessments was given by Marti Dumas and Hamilton Simons-Jones, who highlighted that all camps were touched this year, with a goal to give the programming partners and NORDC feedback on what's going well and what can be improved to support a culture of continuous improvement.
- Programming reports from individual managers and directors were presented orally, and Vince Smith offered his monthly summary of Capital Projects, which will be updated in his report this evening.

The next regular meeting of this Committee is scheduled for Wednesday December 7, 2016, though special meetings can be called at any time they are needed to conduct business.

NORD Foundation Report to the NORD Commission

September 7, 2016

Greetings everyone.

We have updated our list of current funders for the the NORD Foundation and the list is available to all on the information table. Added to our list last month was Liberty Bank which has renewed its support for the Piano Program at the Joe W. Brown Recreation Center.

The Gert Town Community Fund, a fund of the Greater New Orleans Foundation, made a \$5,500 grant to support Norwood Thompson Playground booster club purchases of equipment and uniforms. Again, I remind all booster clubs that the NORD Foundation is available to work with you to secure grants for your own playgrounds.

We have been informed by the Cox Communications/New Orleans City Council Community Fund that the Foundation will receive \$4,500. We know that \$1000 is from Councilmember Brossett and believe that another \$1,000 is from Concilmember Guidry. Thank you both for your help. As for the remaining \$2500, I want to thank my good friend, Councilman James Gray, for his tireless and unwavering support of NORDC by way of the NORD Foundation. There are few people in this City who have demonstrated the kind of commitment to public recreation that Councilman Gray has made through the years.

And finally, our funding from Chevron is under review. We hope and expect to make an announcement by our next NORD Commission meeting as to Chevron's continuing strong support for NORD. Thank you.

New Orleans Recreation Development Foundation

Major Grants, Sponsorships and Contributions

2011	2013, continued	2015
\$500,000+ Entergy Corporation	\$50,000 - \$99,999 Boh Brothers Centennial Fund Thomas Moran Mutual of America	\$500,000+ Chevron
\$100,000-\$499,999 Grant Capital Management	\$25,000 - \$49,999 Joe D. and Dorothy Dorsett Brown Fdn Greater New Orleans Fdn, 2013 IMPACT Leslie Jacobs* RosaMary Foundation	\$100,000-\$499,999 Boh Brothers Centennial Fund First NBC Bank* Friends of NORD Patrick F. Taylor Foundation
\$50,000 - \$99,999 Capital One Bank	\$15,000 - \$24,999 Capital One Bank Cox Communications/New Orleans City Council Community Fund GNOF/Gert Town Community Fund Harrahs/New Orleans City Council Community Fund Pro Bono Publico Foundation	\$50,000 - \$99,999 Donors to the NORD Foundation Thomas Moran/Mutual of America
\$25,000 - \$49,999 Chevron North America Leslie Jacobs* Veolia Water North America		\$25,000 - \$49,999 Freeport McMoRan Foundation Goldring Family Foundation* Greater New Orleans Fdn, 2015 IMPACT National Parks & Recreation Assoc/ Coca-Cola Foundation
2012	2014	2016, to date
\$500,000+ Chevron National Football League	\$500,000+ Chevron	\$15,000 - \$24,999 IBERIABANK Louis Lauricella Liberty Bank Major League Baseball Charities Pro Bono Publico Foundation
\$100,000-\$499,999 Blue Cross Blue Shield Fdn of LA/ LPHI*	\$100,000-\$499,999 Blue Cross Blue Shield Fdn of LA/ LPHI* Boh Brothers Centennial Fund First NBC Bank* New Orleans Pelicans New Orleans Saints Patrick F. Taylor Foundation	\$100,000+ Boh Brothers Centennial Fund W.K. Kellogg Foundation*
\$50,000 - \$99,999 Capital One Bank Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen National Parks & Recreation Assoc/ Walmart	\$50,000 - \$99,999 Deveney Communications Entergy Corporation Thomas Moran/Mutual of America	\$50,000 - \$99,999 Donors to the NORD Foundation Entergy Corporation Hertz Investment Group Thomas Moran/Mutual of America RosaMary Foundation
\$25,000 - \$49,999 Leslie Jacobs*	\$25,000 - \$49,999 Baseball Tomorrow Fund (MLB) Joe D. and Dorothy Dorsett Brown Fdn Goldring Family Foundation* IBERIABANK Leslie Jacobs* NIKE Jordan Brand RosaMary Foundation	\$25,000 - \$49,999 Freeport McMoRan Foundation Laureus Sport for Good Foundation National Parks & Recreation Assoc/ Walmart Foundation Southern Theatres, Inc.
\$15,000 - \$24,999 National Parks & Recreation Assoc/ Coca-Cola Pro Bono Publico Foundation	\$15,000 - \$24,999 Dicks Sporting Goods Foundation Louis Lauricella Pro Bono Publico Foundation	\$15,000 - \$24,999 Liberty Bank Pro Bono Publico Foundation
2013		
\$500,000+ UBU Sports, Inc.		
\$100,000-\$499,999 Blue Cross Blue Shield Fdn of LA/ LPHI* Chevron Entergy Corporation First NBC Bank*		
*Multi-year commitment		

Burgundy St

Governor Nichols St

Dauphine St

102 ft

224 ft

96 acres (41,669 sq ft) (0.9%)

43 acres (18,705 sq ft) (0.4%)

Barracks St

CABRINI PARK

PARK AREA: .96 ACRES (41,669 SQ FT) PROPOSED DOG RUN AREA: 0.43 ACRES (18,716 SQ FT)

RESOLUTION

NEW ORLEANS RECREATION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

September 7, 2016

BY: COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS

SECONDED BY: COMMISSIONER EGANA

WHEREAS, the NORDC Governance & Strategic Planning Committee met on February 22, 2016 and heard a request from the Downtown Parks CAT-C Eastbank for reconsideration of NORDC's responses to their 14 recommendations; and

WHEREAS, open discussion ensued on the use of Cabrini Playground by children, adults, and dogs, which was deferred for more engagement with individual stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, the NORDC Chair personally met with community stakeholders, both on and off-site, and in the regular meeting of the CAT, to better understand concerns; and

WHEREAS, long-term sustainability in a 300-year old neighborhood demands the highest standards in materials, and construction, to include but not limited to the exclusive base of decomposed granite, as used in the Wisner Dog Park, specifically prohibiting a dirt base; and

WHEREAS, public funding for construction of an off-leash dog area in Cabrini Playground is not in the City's budget, and its realization is contingent on full funding by private donations prior to the redesign of this public asset; **NOW THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NEW ORLEANS RECREATION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, THAT in accordance with ordinances of and guidance from the City of New Orleans, the City Planning Commission, the City Council, and the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Engagement, accommodations for off-leash dog areas within Cabrini Playground be pursued and executed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the proposal for the off-leash dog area for Cabrini Playground, as presented to the Commission at this meeting, be recommended contingent on full funding by private donations prior to implementation of such proposal;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT until the community celebrates completion of construction, the community is reminded to act in accordance with City of New Orleans Code of Ordinances sections 18-13 and 18-14 regarding animal waste clean-up and the use of leashes and restriction from free movement of dogs, with active enforcement ongoing.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF AND RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: 7
NAYS: 3
ABSENT: 2

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.