

A MEETING OF THE NEW ORLEANS RECREATION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
WAS HELD AT 5:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY MAY 2, 2017  
IN THE ST. BERNARD RECREATION CENTER 1500 LAFRENIERE STREET

**I. CALL TO ORDER: *Chair Byron C. Williams called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.***

**II. ROLL CALL**

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

**QUORUM WAS ACHIEVED.**

**III. OPENING CEREMONIES**

- Welcoming remarks **Judge Williams** directed focus to Steve Martin on the recent Championship Track meet last Saturday. Overall winning athletes from Harrell were recognized as they joined later in the meeting. Track and Field saw significant increases in participation numbers in 2017 over 2016.
  - Commissioner Gray suggested that ongoing Track and Field records be kept of the times of the athletes so that a historic view of their achievements can grow over the years, and be viewed in light of these athletes emerging as tomorrow's leaders.
    - As one example, he highlighted the recent accomplishment of Alisha Hobbs, a former NORD participant and current LSU runner, who recently tied the NCAA record in the 100 yard dash.
- Pledge of Allegiance was led by Cheryl Mendy from the Foundation, at the request of the Chair.

**IV. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: Commissioner Egana moved for the adoption of the April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 minutes which was seconded by Commissioner Sanders, and the minutes were unanimously approved.**

**V. TEEN COUNCIL REPORT:** La'Cala Rice(a 7<sup>th</sup> grader) & Lauren Renfoe (a sixth grader) reported on Teen Council. They were chosen to give tonight's report to the Commission because they have accumulated over 100 service hours and will receive a Presidential Service Award for their service. They reported on a visit planting trees to stabilize the coastline, as well as the Teen Council meeting at Jimmy Johns which had a discussion of how to stay safe against sexual predators. On April 22<sup>nd</sup> they hosted their Bike event and

gathered donations of food and clothing. Fourth Friday Night event was hosted at Gernon Brown. They noted their appreciation to the Commissioners.

- Commissioner Hebert asked for staff to work with the CAO's office and Commissioner Gray to coordinate activities for the Teen Council with the BikeShare program kickoff in October and November.

## VI. REPORTS COMMITTEE OFFICERS

- **Human Resources & Finance Committee Report – Theo Sanders** offered the report from the Committee which is included in its entirety as an addendum to the minutes.
  - Commissioner Sanders introduced Shonnda Smith who conducted NORD's recognition of the new ***Employee of the Quarter Vianca McDonald***, and she was joined by Athletics Director Steve Martin who spoke on Vianca's extraordinary dedication to the work of the Athletics Department.
- **NORD Foundation Report - Louis Lauricella** gave his report which is included as an addendum.
  - Judge Williams requested a motion to suspend the rules to consider a Resolution recognizing the Foundation on the successful Gala, which was moved by Commissioner Hebert and seconded by Commissioner Egana. There was no additional public comment or discussion and the rules were suspended to consider the resolution read into the record by Commissioner Williams, which was seconded by Commissioner Egana, and the resolution, which is included as an addendum, was unanimously approved.

## VII. OLD BUSINESS

- **Other follow-up**
- Commissioners' Annual Retreat will be held on Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>.
- NRPA Annual Conference will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>  
Location: Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA.
- Reminder to Commissioners that Tier 2.1 financial disclosure forms are due May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Judge Williams acknowledged a letter to Commissioners recently received from the Downtown Parks CAT on the most recent meeting of Cabrini Playground stakeholders, which was distributed to the Commissioners.

- Staff announced that as a new outreach initiative in advance of monthly Commission meetings, the neighborhood associations and Booster Club officers around the hosting Recreation Centers are being contacted and invited to introduce themselves to the Commissioners.
  - At this meeting, Ms. Courtney Hebert and Mr. Tyrone Brooks attended the meeting. They are the Treasurer and the President of the St. Bernard/Willie Hall Booster Club. While Ms. Hebert unfortunately had to leave, appreciation of the

volunteer leadership demonstrated by Mr. Brooks was expressed by the Commissioners.

#### **IX. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

- CEO Vic Richard presented his report which is included as an addendum in its entirety.
  - Before going into the details of his report, the CEO summarized a City meeting held with OPSB and community stakeholders updating all parties on the St. Bernard Project overall and Willie Hall Playground in particular.
  - He reported on his interview on WBOK which included Shonnda Smith. He summarized a number of items which were highlighted to the community during the interview, including an update on the re-construction of a new Joe W. Brown Bridge and repaving project.
  - Commissioner Hebert summarized an upcoming Innovation Lab which he will conduct in connection with the NRPA conference in City Park.
  - Maya Wyche reported on the CAPRA site inspection visit, and she noted that it was reported that only 5 of 151 standards were missed. Official, final results will be revealed on the first day of the conference, September 25th. NORD is one step closer to being the second accredited organization in Louisiana.
    - Maya further noted budget is being prepared earlier this year than in the past.
    - Commissioner Hebert explained that the budget process has already begun, and at the Mayor's request a new budget will be constructed by June 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Shonnda Smith asked Steve Martin to introduce the Harrell athletes and coaches to the Commission, including head coach, Coach Jean, who is very proud of the City Champs and mentioned the support of Derrick Henderson in a variety of roles. Shonnda highlighted other programming included in the written report.
    - The Commissioners will be invited to the annual Volunteer Appreciation event which is May 16<sup>th</sup> and will be held at the Aquarium, sponsored by Chevron.
    - Commissioner Gray underscored the need for additional volunteers and partners. The CEO added that the morning's WBOK interview offered an opportunity for NORD to invite community partners to participate in the partnership application process.
  - The CEO briefly reported on the most recent Cabrini Playground meeting which was attended by 30+community members and lasted a little over one hour. There will be another meeting or possibly two that will be held at a time and place when Commissioner Marshall and CFO Eric Seling from OPSB will be available to participate.

#### **X. CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT**

- Vincent Smith, Director of Capital Projects, submitted his monthly report which is included as an addendum to the minutes, but was unable to personally attend this meeting.
  - Commissioner Hebert noted an escalation on construction costs so as the City goes out to bid costs are coming back considerably over-budget.

There will be some re-bidding, adjustment of scope, and seeking additional funding on some of the remaining projects.

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

**XII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Fay Faron is an Algiers resident who frequently uses Behrman Pool. Some repairs were made in 2011, but in a recent public meeting she learned that it was slated to be closed after the building of the new natatorium. She was concerned about the depth of the natatorium and asked for both pools to be open to serve the Westbank.
  - The CEO responded that the renovation investment was made to keep Behrman Pool open so that the Westbank would not be without a pool while the planning for the new natatorium was underway. Unfunded plans for the old pool include a possible state of the art skateboard facility. He also clarified that the pool would be 5 feet at the deep end, similar to the Joe W. Brown natatorium.
- Commissioner Sanders noted his appreciation of her community engagement, and there was some open discussion with Commissioner Gray about swimming instruction as school curriculum in locations citywide.
- Coach Melvin Howard addressed the Commissioners on the Victory Youth Training Academy with an update on his potential CEA and proposed project at the Odile Davis Playground, in collaboration with NORD.
- Alicia Plummer asked for follow up on her comments last month. The Chair noted that the Commission and the Foundation had signed the CEA with Spartans Boxing. She reiterated her request, correcting the record that she is a volunteer fundraiser for Spartans, not spokesperson. She objected to comments by staff after the last Commission meeting at Joe W. Brown, and to meeting documentation that is not verbatim transcript. Additionally, Ronald Roberts asked for an explanation why he was asked to denounce Ms. Plummer's association with Spartan.
  - Judge Williams noted that he would follow up on the matter.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT:** *Commissioner Sanders moved and Commissioner Hebert seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. After the announcement of the next meeting scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> at Treme Center which will be chaired by Vice Chair Marcus, Judge Williams adjourned the meeting at 6:20 pm.*

## HR-Finance Committee Report for Commission May 2, 2017

### Theo Sanders, Chair

- The Human Resources and Finance Committee met last night May 1<sup>st</sup> in the 8<sup>th</sup> floor conference room of City Hall.
- Chief Operating Office Maya Wyche presented her report which is included in your packets this evening.
- Maya is available at this time to respond to any inquiries you may have. Maya?
- Thank you Maya. The next meeting of the Human Resources & Finance Committee will be held on Wednesday July 19<sup>th</sup> in the 8<sup>th</sup> floor conference room of City Hall at 5pm.
- At tonight's meeting, we will recognize a the new Employee of the Quarter for NORD, and I ask that Shonnda Smith, NORD's Chief Programming Office, come to the microphone to make the presentation.
- Thank you

**Report of the New Orleans Recreation Development Foundation  
May 2, 2017**

Good evening all.

As you are all aware, our April 11 gala was a huge success, with about 400 people in attendance at Tulane's Yulman Stadium. All reports have been incredibly positive, especially for a first-time event. The event was written up by the New Orleans Tribune, Biz New Orleans, and The New Orleans Advocate, which features some great photos of the people in this room. The event was even listed on a media website in Houston.

I'd like to thank Dottie Belleto's team at New Orleans Convention Company, Inc. for their facilitation of almost every aspect of the Committee of Champions Reception back in January and the gala itself. I also want to thank Vic and his team at NORD for their help with the NORD video, for facilitating our special guests – particularly Jerome Smith and the kids who shared the football field with Peyton Manning – and for bringing their wonderful staff members who served as terrific ambassadors for our enterprise. We absolutely must acknowledge and thank the Mayor for his presence, his remarks, his outreach efforts and, of course, his consistent support of our efforts. Finally, I want to recognize our Executive Director Annie LaRock who oversaw every detail to make sure that the event represented us as it should.

I want to let you know that the videos from the event are posted on our website at [www.nordfoundation.org](http://www.nordfoundation.org) under a tab called "Why Support Recreation?" And speaking of support, while we have not created a big campaign for Give NOLA Day which comes on the heels of our recent event, I want to remind you that everyone can make a contribution to the NORD Foundation before midnight tonight and qualify us for lagniappe funds.

Last Wednesday, we were delighted to host the members of the CAPRA Committee with NORD Foundation Board members and Commissioners at a dinner in the French Quarter. Other guests included First Lady Cheryl Landrieu and Leah Brown from Chevron. We presented our Wall of Fame award to Rod West, and then the judge invited comments from people around the room. I was so proud to hear all of the praise for Vic, Maya, Shonnda and Karla. In comments to individuals, they said how impressed they were by the enormous community support enjoyed by NORD.

Our updated number for the funds made available for NORD by the NORD Foundation as of April 30, 2017 April is \$1,554,790.

That is my report.

**RESOLUTION  
TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
NEW ORLEANS RECREATION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017**

**BY: COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS**

**SECONDED BY: COMMISSIONER EGANA**

**WHEREAS**, the New Orleans Recreation Development Foundation (the "Foundation") was formed to support the realization of the purpose and mission of New Orleans Recreation Development Commission (the "Commission"), and

**WHEREAS**, on April 11, 2017 the Foundation presented *Champions Inaugural Gala, A Homecoming to Celebrate the Revitalization of a Historic Recreation System* at Yulman Stadium's Jill H and Avram A. Glazer Family Club, in Tulane University, and

**WHEREAS**, the Foundation instituted a "Wall of Fame", honoring Mayor Mitchel J. Landrieu and Andy Kopplin for their dedication and commitment to this work, and

**WHEREAS**, the Citizens Advisory Panel led by Arnie Fielkow, Bobby Garon, Roy Glapion and Rod West, was recognized for its community advocacy in establishing the Foundation and the Commission, and

**WHEREAS**, the Unsung Hero Award was presented by Sybil Morial to Jerome Smith, an exceptional volunteer who demonstrates selfless commitment to youth, and

**WHEREAS**, as a former NORD participant, for his professional life and personal philanthropy, Peyton Manning was named the NORD Foundation Legacy Tribute, and

**WHEREAS**, the Boh Bros. Centennial Fund, Chevron, and Entergy were distinguished among the major supporters as integral to these successes;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Commission applauds the Foundation's successful Inaugural Gala, and appreciates its continued work on behalf of the Commission.

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

**YEAS: 7**

**NAYS: 0**

**ABSENT: 4**

**AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.**