COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday, October 1, 2019 @5pm**

**City Hall Council Chambers, 1300 Perdido St.**

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Egana called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.
2. ROLL CALL
   * Present**:**  Brian P. Egana (*Chair)*, Ethan Ashley, Randy Greenup, Councilmember Nguyen, Theo C. Sanders III *(Treasurer)*,Frances Fayard, , and Ernest Price Jr. ***QUORUM WAS ACHIEVED***
   * Absent**:**  Mayor Cantrell, Raquel “Rocky” Dufauchard, Gilbert Montaño, Dana Peterson *(Vice-Chair),* and Kim Abramson *(Secretary).*
   * Staff:  Larry Barabino Jr., Tomekia Dunkley-Edmond, Jahanna Cannon-Brightman, Edgar Alexis, and Brittany Hicks.
   * Also Present: Vincent Smith *(Capital Projects) and* Dr. Henderson Lewis *(NOLAPS Superintendent)*
3. GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR:

* Chairman Egana welcomed everyone to the October 1st Commission meeting and thanked Dr. Henderson Lewis for attending the meeting on behalf of New Orleans Public Schools.

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES: ***Chairman Egana moved for the adoption of the September 11, 2019 minutes, which was motioned by Commissioner Fayard and seconded by Commissioner Sanders.*** *The minutes were unanimously approved.*
2. PROGRAMMATIC SHOWCASE:
3. COMMITTEE REPORTS

* **Foundation Report** – Commissioner Ernest Price Jr. provided the NORD Foundation report. Price stated that the Race of Champions was a success and that the event had a really good turnout. Price expressed the event as a great collaborative effort between the foundation and the NORD Commission. Stated that NORD staff stepped up and helped the foundation put on a fantastic event. Stated that he thinks the foundation will take in anywhere between $50,000 and $60,000, as a result of the Race of Champions. Stated that the proceeds will be put to good use and that the foundation appreciates the support of their partners.

Commissioner Egana stated the importance of having a monthly meeting in order to honor the ordinance and thanked everyone for meeting three weeks later from the September 11th meeting. Egana also provided the public with the upcoming committee meetings in 2019, stating that the programming committee will now be called “Programming and Facilities” stating that there are a lot of facilities that need to be focused on and the leveraging of capital with the foundation about honoring the wishes of the CEO in regards to building play spots.

**October**

* Governance Committee Meeting –**October 14th** – 8th Floor Conference Room (City Hall)
* HR/Finance Committee Meeting – **October 15th** – 8th Floor Conference room (City Hall)
* Programming Committee Meeting – **October 16th** –Milne Rec Center

**November**

* NORD Commission Meeting – **November 5th** – City Hall, Council Chambers
* Governance Committee Meeting- **November 13th**- 8th Floor Conference Room (City Hall)

**December**

* NORD Commission Meeting – **December 3rd**- City Hall, Council Chambers
* HR/Finance Committee Meeting – **December 9th** – 8th Floor Conference room (City Hall)
* Governance Committee Meeting – **December 18th** – 8th Floor Conference room (City Hall)
* Programming Committee Meeting – **December 17th** – Milne Rec Center

1. OLD BUSINESS

* **There wasn’t any old business.**

1. NEW BUSINESS

* **There wasn’t any new business.**

1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT: **Chief Executive Officer, Larry Barabino Jr.** provided an overview for the month of September’s 2019 of NORD’s recent and upcoming events, programming, financial expenditures, and highlights. The Commission Dashboard-Deck can be reviewed at [www.nordc.org](http://www.nordc.org). Stated that shifts on the Org Chart was done to allow the C-team to focus more on their specific duties.

* Commissioner Egana stated that NORD has been yearning and waiting patiently for the partnership between the recreation department and the school system. Stated that since the commission’s inception that it has been made up of representatives RDS and OPSB. Stated that Mayor Landrieu and his previous administration tried to start the initiation, and that under the current administration there has been a lot of coordination under the Office of Youth and Families and that the times has finally come with Mr. Barabino and his leadership. Stated that there are so many schools and parks adjacent to each other and don’t have a relationship. Stated that in his conversation with Mayor Cantrell that if the charter schools don’t want to participate that they need to be called out publicly because they are all of our children. Stated that NORD has encouraged kids to play for their school over the NORD League because the schools hold them accountable for their grades and the importance of being in the class room.
* Commissioner Ashley stated that this has been a big push from the administration to the commissioners. Thanked all of the commissioners and the programming committee to continue to push OPSB to get to the current partnership. Thanked the OPSB superintendent Dr. Henderson Lewis Jr. and his work and that he has been working on this as an initiative for the last two years. Simply described the partnership as opportunities for the young people and making sure that there is integration between the two largest entities that serve youth in the City of New Orleans.
* Dr. Henderson Lewis Jr. thanked the CEO of NORD and stated that if it wasn’t for Mr. Barabino being intentional from day one that they would not be where they are today with the partnership and that he is very proud of the partnership. Stated that over 600 students will be participating with football and volleyball. Stated that there is a decentralized school district, but stated that decentralization has nothing to do with kids, athletics, and academics. Stated that NOLAPS knows that engaging in athletics gives the students a sense of pride and community system. Recognized Ulysses Collins the senior safety external affairs officer who works hand and hand with Larry and the school district to make sure that the partnership is a reality.
* Larry Barabino Jr. stated that Dr. Lewis wanted to make sure that the kids are being touched through this partnership. Spoke about bringing Dr. Lewis up to speed about how things were in the past in regards to the middle schools offering the same thing that the high schools offered. Stated that right now is about continuously growing and the process of cleaning up the middle school teams. 38 teams set to play volleyball 6-8 graders, stated that schools will get to host home games and that the league is preparing them for high school. Thanked the Commissioners for the support as NORD continues to expand.
* **Chief Financial Officer, Tomekia Dunkley-Edmond** stated that to year to date NORD has collected $240,618, which is 94% of the 2018 Self Generating Revenue Year to date. Stated that the Waiver amount has remained the same totaling is $29,574 with a balance of $211,044 for rentals. Stated that NORD has begun tracking their Middle School league revenue, and has collected year to date $15,283 and that amount is $11,007 from admission and $4,276 from concessions. Stated that NORD has bad roughly 3,500 participants that have entered a total of 13 games in the month of September. Stated that Year to date NORD has hired 37 employees and 10 promotions, that 1 employee in the month of September received the city’s education incentive pay increase for a total of 36. Stated that NORD has implemented a new onboarding and orientation process through HR.
* Jovan Bell-Walker was introduced to the Commission as the new HR/Director of NORD.
* Commissioner Sanders inquired if the revenue made from the middle school league is solely from football and if cost will be associated with the volleyball league.
* Tomekia Dunkley-Edmond stated that the revenue has come from the football middle school league.
* Commissioner Egana stated that when games are held at the NORD sites that NORD is able to charge for the admissions at the gate as well as concessions. Inquired about the waiving of fees stating that normally when someone does an application with NORD and that normally someone on the council will waive the fees and stated that the ordinance doesn’t get approved until after the fact. Stating that receiving an e-mail from someone in the council office alerting NORD that they are going to waive the fees isn’t a legitimate way to approve the fees. Stated that the previous administration dinged them on CAO Coplin stating that the fees should not have been waived. Inquired about how NORD can get ahead by cleaning up the process quicker and governing it a bit better. Suggesting the submission of applications early to request a waiver in enough time, to alleviate from receiving a waiver until a month later, which makes staff have to go back and make sure that all of the documents add up. Stated that Councilmember Gray used to waive fees for Carver High School and that other schools had to pay, but that there wasn’t a CEA or partnership for a trade off with the schools.

* Commissioner Greenup inquired about the waiver of fees.
* Councilmember Nguyen stated that she is willing to meet with the proper constituents to establish a presentation and allow staff to come before the city council. Stated that they can talk about the process on how they can handle this and stated that according to the updated ordinance that the waiver should only allow them to waiver half of the costs and that it is not 100% like it was in the past. Stated that waivers are only provided for non-profit organizations. Stated that she represented a district that needs a lot of community support, but that there needs to be balance. Stated that she remembers the discussion at the commission retreat around the councilmember, which sits on the NORD Commission to work with NORD to limit the amount of waived fees and that she is open to leading that conversation.
* **Interim Athletic Director, Jermaine Hall** provided an athletics report as it relates to Basketball, Football, and the Middle School partnership, which is included as an addendum in its entirety. Stating that tackle football started August 2nd 178 football games have been played and over 300 games would have in conclusion of the season and that this has not been seen since Hurricane Katrina. Contributing factors of participation like the middle school partnership, challenging of site facilitators to increase teams and athletic participants at their parks. Stated that all Coaches are USA certified and that all coaches received ID badges so that they can be identified. Plans of increasing of girls programming, which has been attributed to the Middle School partnership.
* Commissioner Egana stated Jermaine represents the institutional talent at NORD, stating that Mr. Barabino identified and tapped within. Stated those that visit some of the sites might see Jermaine until the lights go off and that you would think he was a part of the maintenance team or the clean-up team, that he stepped up to the call, and how Jermaine’s pay didn’t change within his new role, and how it is a testament to his commitment to the city, and the children. Stated the importance of asking staff to provide an athletic update to provide the commission with complaints and progress from issues that were expressed in the past like the past games being scheduled during the holidays.
  + - **Chief Programming Officer, Jahanna Cannon-Brightman** went over NORDC’s September’s highlights, past events in detail, as well as the NRPA conference, which is included as an addendum in its entirety. Jahanna stated that Larry Barabino Jr. (Chief Executive Officer), herself, Jezell Smith-Jones (Aquatics Coordinator), Ajia Mitchell (Rec Centers Director), attended the NRPA conference. Stated that the purpose of the conference is to have the professionals come together to talk about the trends in recreation. Classes on issues that affect recreation across the country like volunteerism, opioids, responding to trauma and mental health. Ajia attending Pickle ball, which is a sport that is growing nationally and the director attending a class with other urban directors to learn the trends of the group. Course on East sports and that it is the fastest growing sports nationally and that New Orleans is forth from the bottom in growing East sports stating that there are professional E sports players that make as much a professional NFL players. Courses on customer service and creating a succession plan, that the conference stated that across the country that 200 directors within the next 5 years will be retiring because their rec departments are built differently to promote those to move up within. Push to contact congressmen to protect the meal programming going that serve kids.
    - Commissioner Fayard stated that older people can play pickle ball, and that it is very inclusive.
    - Commissioner Egana thanked the NORD Foundation for their assistance with the costs associated with the registration fee of the conference.
    - **Chief Operating Officer, Edgar Alexis** provided a report on maintenance and facilities, which is included as an addendum in its entirety.
    - Commissioner Egana inquired about the women’s final four and if it’s a partnership. Stated that he challenged Swin Cash to get involved with the women’s initiative to provide input. Commended Edgar and Larry for addressing safety concerns and issues very quickly.
    - Commissioner Greenup stated that he has received calls over the last several months in regards to issues and that Larry and Edgar addressed those issues immediately.

1. CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT: **Director of Capital Projects, Vincent Smith** offered his monthly report, which reflects the current status of NORD’s capital project portfolio which currently has 33 projects at a budgeted value of $61 million. NORD's project portfolio represents 32% of the projects in Capital Projects’ overall portfolio, with 8 of the 24 projects completed, to date. The Capital Projects Report can be reviewed at [www.nordc.org](http://www.nordc.org). Stated the NORD playground was finished during the last reporting period in district C and that they are tracking 4 projects that are under construction and 5 that are on hold. Stated that the state cash was received from the last legislature session for George Washington Carver, Behrman pool renovation project, and many different improvements within the City of New Orleans.

* Commissioner Egana inquired about the St. Bernard Resilience and Willie Hall and wanted to know if Inspire Nola was informed of the construction being completed. Suggested that staff should speak with McNealy who has resources.

1. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS

* **There was no consideration of any other matters**

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

* **There was no public comment**

1. ADJOURNMENT: *The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Egana at 6:08p.*

***MAINTENANCE REPORT***

***NORD COMMISSION***

***10/1/19***

***WHAT’S HOT:***

* ***Football Operations ( Field Prep )***
  + ***Bodenger Playground field was stripped ( Completed )***
  + ***Behrman Playground field was stripped ( Completed )***
* ***Glass Door & Window repair at Sanchez and Hunter’s Field***
  + ***Awaiting completion of IITQ process***
* ***Pontchartrain ( Pelicans ) Basketball Court – Completed***
* ***Working on plumbing issues at McDonough Playground.***

***HML LIGHTING REPORT***

* ***Strategy:***
* ***The NORDC portfolio contains many lights, specifically High Mast Lighting, which are used to produce lighting on the playing fields and playgrounds. NORDC Maintenance division will address lights that are currently not functioning properly by taking a three pronged approach. NORDC Maintenance Division has worked with the Athletics Division to identify and prioritize HML jobs. The approach will be to address Football Game Sites first, Football Practice locations secondly and all other NORDC facilities where lighting is an issue thirdly. We are using the Energy Smart Commercial and Industrial Program, which will convert all existing halogen lighting to LEDs. The second mode of the operations will be to replace existing HML with the same lighting until the facility can be scheduled for LED conversion. The second mode entails the use of a Bucket Truck (Park & Parkways) when available via scheduling as well as ( City Park’s Bucket Truck) , which is currently no longer an option due to its use for City Park’s preparation for Christmas in the Oaks. Thirdly, we will fill in some areas with utilizing the JOC program, mostly in Emergency situations where safety is a concern. Some of these jobs will run concurrently to maximize completion time. This report will update the status of the operations with regards to Projects: Completed / Underway / Scheduled.***

***CURRENT HML PROJECTS STATUS:***

***Joseph W. Brown – Spartan Field (Completed)***

***Joseph W. Brown – Tennis Courts (Completed)***

***Sam Bonart Playground – (Completed)***

***Milne Playground – (Completed)***

***Hardin Playground – (Completed)***

***Digby Playground – (Pending)***

***Carver Playground – Completing ITQ process***

***Treme A/C system update:***

***The Treme Center HVAC system consist of two 60 Ton Chillers***

***Chiller # 2 is working at a very small capacity - Currently***

***Chiller # 1 is working at a very small capacity. – Currently***

***The Maintenance Team installed a temporary cooling system in the gym.***

***NORDC is working with CPA to resolve the issue***

***Berhman A /C system update:***

***The Berhman HVAC system is currently working at 30% of its Capacity.***

***NORDC is working with CPA to resolve the issue***

***LED Project update:***

***Joseph W. Brown Tennis Courts- Completed***

***Joseph W. Brown Spartan Field - Completed***

***NOTE: The Contractor has materials on back order with an anticipated start date of 10/15/19***

***What’s “in the pipeline”!***

* ***Odile Davis Playground – Plans are in progress to renovate Clubhouse, Basketball Court, and HML Lighting!***
* ***Night Out Against Crime preparation – Lafitte Greenway / Milne Playground***
* ***Refurbishing Basketball Courts***
  + ***Norman Playground ( ESPN )***
  + ***Women’s NCAA Final Four (?)***
* ***Hosting various volunteer groups*** 
  + ***Greenway – October 24th ( Keep Louisiana Beautiful )***
  + ***Hunter’s Field***
  + ***Digby Playground – October 8th***
  + ***Burke Park - Completed (Working with the Irish Channel Association to address beautification project )***