



COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 5, 2019 @5pm
City Hall Council Chambers, 1300 Perdido St.

- I. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Egana called the meeting to order at 5:03p.
- II. ROLL CALL
 - Present: Brian Egana (*Chair*), Dana Peterson (*Vice-Chair*), Kim Abramson (*Secretary*) Raquel “Rocky” Dufauchard, Mayor Cantrell, Gilbert Montaña, Councilmember Cyndi Nguyen, and Avis Brock. Louis Lauricella (*Arrived After Roll Call*).
 - Absent: Theo Sanders III (*Treasurer*), Randy Greenup, and Ethan Ashley. **QUORUM WAS ACHIEVED**
 - Staff: Larry Barabino Jr., Tomekia Dunkley-Edmond (*First Meeting*), Jahanna Cannon-Brightman (*First Meeting*), Edgar Alexis (*First Meeting*), Brittany Hicks, Ashlei Morrison, Irma Dixon, and Justin Ammon.
 - Also Present: Rebecca Conwell (*NORD Foundation*) and Vincent Smith (*Capital Projects*)
- III. GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR:
 - **Brittany Hicks** (*Commission Liaison*) announced the new community e-mail list and provided information on the purpose and how the public can opt-in.
- IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES: ***Chairman Egana moved for the adoption of the January 7, 2019 minutes, which was seconded by Commissioner Brock. The minutes were unanimously approved.***
- V. PROGRAMMATIC SHOWCASE:
 - **Outdoor Programming: Justin Ammon** (*Outdoors Programming Manager*) gave a crash course presentation on NORD’s Outdoor Programming division, where he discussed what they offer, who they serve, and upcoming opportunities and events.
- VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - **Foundation Report** – Rebecca Conwell gave a report on behalf of the NORD Foundation, provided an overview of 2018 financial expenditures, carried over funds, 2019 goals, and The Boycott Bowl, which can be viewed at www.nordc.org.
 - **Mayor Cantrell** Inquired about the process for developing a strategic plan and the importance of implementing programs, initiatives, and priorities aligned with the



CEO's agenda and vision. She also talked about the lack of a 2019 budget and her concerns with starting off the year with only \$886,000. Mayor Cantrell also expressed that the momentum is there, but implementing foundational components, and metrics like a timeline in place to move NORD in the right direction. She also requested to see a breakdown of what's committed versus what's uncommitted in order to fill the gaps and discover the priorities, in order for them to align.

- **Commissioner Egana** spoke about stepping away from practices vs policies. Empowering the CEO, yet also working with the vision and consultation of the commission. He also mentioned the importance of making it aware of where the money is being spent.
- **Mayor Cantrell** expressed that the Executive Director deals with the day to day operations and that he should set the priorities aligned with the commission and foundation. She also expressed the importance of moving in the right direction and putting in place procedures and policies that we will follow moving forward. Mayor Cantrell also expressed the importance of clear communication and better reporting to the community and how the January meeting, and meetings specific to the matter at hand should make it in to the reports moving forward.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- **CEO, Larry Barabino** Provided an update on the DHH Concession Stands. He expressed that 16 facilities have been approved by DHH and that the newly approved facilities are Lakeview and Evans playground. He also expressed that 10 are out for bid and that progress is being made for repairs on those sites.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- **Chairman Egana moved for the adoption of the amended Commission Bylaws** the motion was seconded by Mayor Cantrell. *The amended Commission Bylaws was unanimously approved.*
- **Chairman Egana moved for the adoption of the 2019 Slate of Commission Officers** the motion was seconded by Commissioner Peterson. *The 2019 Slate of Commission Officers was unanimously approved.*
 - **Brian P. Egana** will serve as ***Chair***
 - **Dana Peterson** will serve as ***Vice-Chair***
 - **Theo C. Sanders III** will serve as ***Treasurer***
 - **Kimberly Abramson** will serve as ***Secretary***
- **Brittany Hicks announced the NORD Commissioner's Retreat Date**, to take place on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at the Municipal Training Academy from 8:00am-3:00pm.



IX. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT: **Chief Executive Officer, Larry Barabino Jr.** provided an overview for the month of January 2019 of NORD's recent events, programming, and financial expenditures. The Commission Dashboard-Deck can be reviewed at www.nordc.org.

- **Introduction of C-Team Member(s):** CEO Barabino, introduced his C-Team Members, Edgar Alexis is the new Chief Operating Officer (COO), Tomekia Dunkley-Edmond is the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO), and Jahanna Cannon-Brightman is the new Chief Programming Officer (CPO).
 - **CEO Barabino** highlighted that NORD is working to create stronger partnerships with the schools on the sports side and implementing an intramural sports program that services the youth from the ages 15-18 that will provide an alternative for those who do not and cannot play with their high school teams. He also wants to partner to incorporate water awareness and water safety with school students to take advantage of the water safety that NORD is looking to offer them. CEO Barabino mentioned that 3 billboards sponsored by chevron are placed across the city to promote FitNola. He also highlighted that he is partnering with Spartan boxing to sponsor two young females to allow them to participate in the ATL Classic. He also met with Sargent Jackson to incorporate the March to Success program, which will provide free SAT, ACT opportunities to expand free test-prep to as many kids as possible. Lastly, he recognized Commissioner Sanders, who received the 2018 advocate award at the LRPA conference in Baton Rouge, LA.
- **MLB Discussion: CEO Barabino**, mentioned that he and Perry Brown (Athletic Director) will participate in instructional training in Alabama, March 14-17 at the RBI institute, in hopes to partner with them for baseball and softball.
 - **Mayor Cantrell** wanted to clarify that the January facts at a glance were for the month of January. She requested that the dashboard be broken out as it relates to Special Needs programming, in order to highlight where we are meeting the needs, who we are serving, and where we might be weak. She also questioned if NORD is partnering with Raphael's Village, and St. Michaels schools.
- **Amending the Booster Club Bylaws: Sam Cook (Booster Club Liaison)**, provided a report on what changes were made and the timeline of amending the Booster Club Bylaws, which can be reviewed at www.nordc.org.

Commissioner Peterson stated that the discussion did come before the governance committee and he also thanked Sam Cook and the CEO for ensuring that everyone was able to come to some kind of comprehensive change. He also expressed the importance of creating a consistent



structure across all booster clubs to ensure compliancy, which can help support all parks and hoped that the commission will look upon the bylaws favorably.

- **Commissioner Peterson moved for the adoption of the amendments to the Booster Club Bylaws** the motion was seconded by Commissioner Abramson. *The amended Booster Club Bylaws was unanimously approved.*

X. CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT: 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 24 projects at a budgeted value of \$58.6 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.

XI. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS

- **Park Millage Discussion Update**, Commissioner Abramson provided an update about the Park Millage meetings that she attended as a representative of the Commission and gave a summary of the Park Millage proposal, which will allow NORDC to increase funding.
- **Commissioner Egana Announced the 2019 Committee Appointments.**
 - **HR/Finance Committee**
Theo C. Sanders III- **Chair**
Gilbert Montañó – **Vice-Chair**
Louis Lauricella
Dana Peterson
Avis Brock
 - **Governance Committee**
Dana Peterson-**Chair**
Cyndi Nguyen-**Vice Chair**
Ethan Ashley
Kim Abramson
 - **Programming Committee**
Ethan Ashley- **Chair**
Raquel Dufauchard-**Vice-Chair**
Randy Greenup
Avis Brock

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- **Coach Melvin Howard** (Victory Youth Training Academy): Spoke about Odile Davis being a Passive Playground. Helping the youth academically, and how he made presentations to the



Commission on several occasions for about two years. He also mentioned that he raised \$110,000 to put another multi-purpose building on that facility. Howard also talked about helping the inner city kids and requested help from NORD to do so. He also, expressed that he does not want a facility with concession stands because he would rather educate the children.

- **John Martin** (Victory Youth Training Academy): Explained that he's tried for several years to get a CEA to put a NORD facility on Odile Davis Playground. Requested financial help through the Foundation and would like support from NORD to make their vision happen.
- **Commissioner Lauricella**: mentioned that there may be a better park to accommodate what he is trying to do and the importance of getting the right fit for Coach Melvin.
- **Commissioner Egana**: spoke about his history with Coach Melvin and how he supports his vision. He also spoke about the importance of having the conversation with him, how that in the past staff looked internally to find an alternative and finding a resolution is the purpose of the upcoming meeting with Coach Melvin and the CEO.
- **Mayor Cantrell**: talked about the commitment to meeting Coach Melvin in the middle and thanked him for his commitment to NORD.
- **Morgan Clevenger**: spoke about the importance of inclusivity. Implementing compliance mechanisms, and community outreach, and residency requirements within the Booster Club Bylaws.
 - **Mayor Cantrell**: Acknowledged the Assistant Director of the New Orleans Public Library, who was present for this meeting.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: *The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Egana at 6:19p.*