

NORD Commission Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 @4pm

WebEx:

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Please send in public comments prior to the meeting by emailing: [anmorrison@nola.gov](mailto:anmorrison@nola.gov) or calling/texting (504) 655-8372

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Commission Chairman, Brian Egana.

1. ROLL CALL

Ashlei Morrison, Interim Commission Liaison called roll and Present were Commissioner Brian Egana (Chair), Commissioner Ethan Ashley, Commissioner Kim Abramson (Secretary), Commissioner Theo Sanders responded to the verbal roll call.

Present on the call after roll call were Commissioners Dana Peterson, Councilmember Nguyen, Raquel “Rocky” Dufauchard, Randy Greenup, Ernest Price, Jr., Gilbert Montano, Mayor Cantrell, and Frances Fayard. ***QUORUM ACHIEVED.***

NORD Staff: Larry Barabino, Jr., Tomekia Dunkley-Edmond, Jahana Cannon-Brightman, Edgar Alexis, and Ashlei Morrison.

1. GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Chairman Egana welcomed everyone to the September 22 Commission meeting with a few acknowledgements. Please see below for acknowledgements from the Chair.

“I would like to begin the meeting with a few acknowledgements. As we all know the COVID-19 pandemic has hit the City of New Orleans hard, and on top of that we have entered into a very active hurricane season, which has already impacted many of our surrounding parishes and neighbors. I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences to those who have been affected by COVID-19 and the recent hurricanes. New Orleans is a resilient community, and I am certain we will continue to move through this in solidarity and with agility.

I would like to thank my fellow Commissioners for their continued support and leadership during these times; as well as Larry Barabino, Jr., NORD CEO, the NORD staff, partners, volunteers and supporters for showing up each day to ensure NORD continued to provide safe recreational, and cultural experiences to residents. Over the past several months, the NORD Commission has worked closely with NORD CEO to ensure that the business, and services of the department continue. We are certain that once we are on the other side of COVID that the department will resume regular programming and services the community enjoys and deserves. I also want to thank the public for adapting to the changes, and safety guidelines necessary to operate during these unprecedented times. Until then, please continue to be safe and follow the recommended safety and reopening guidelines.

Thank you; next I would like to move to adoption of the agenda.” – Chairman, Brian Egana

1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA (\*Action Item)

**Chairman Egana moved for the adoption of the September 22, 2020 meeting agenda, which was moved for adoption by Commissioner Abramson and seconded by Commissioner Sanders. The agenda was unanimously approved.**

1. ADOPTION OF MINUTES (\*Action Item)

# February 4, 2020

**Chairman Egana moved for the adoption of the February 4, 2020 meeting minutes, which was moved for adoption by Commissioner Abramson seconded by Commissioner Fayard.** The minutes were unanimously approved.

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS

# NORD Foundation Report

# Cheryl Mendes and Commissioner Price with the NORD Foundation were asked to give the report on the NORD Foundation. Commissioner Price lead a review of the NORD Foundation P&L statement from January to August 2020. Commissioner Price stated that the Foundation had staff expenses of a little over $50,000, totaling $50,166, and total operating expenses of a little over $300, 000 totaling $314,330. Total Foundation expenses were $364,496 leaving the Foundation, in the month of August with a $98,000 deficit.

# And that concluded the Foundation financial report. There were no questions.

1. OLD BUSINESS

**There was no old business to report.**

1. NEW BUSINESS

**There was no new business to report.**

1. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT

# Report from the Chief Executive Officer, Larry Barabino Jr.

# NORD CEO, Larry Barabino, Jr. provided an update about NORD operations beginning and throughout COVID-19 including. Including a timeline of shutdowns, staff operations, cleaning and safety operations, reopening, and current events and programming.

# NORD opened feeding programs at its facilities, and playgrounds to catch families M-F from 4-7PM serving over 69,000 families. In person programming transferred to online Zoom, Facebook LIVE, and YouTube videos to allow a continuation of programming to residents. Online programs were expanded, as participation numbers grew with virtual offerings. NORD lost two staff members to COVID-19 and CEO, Barabino, Jr. paid honor to those who were lost to the pandemic and asked for continued support.

# There were no questions for CEO Barabino.

# Jahanna Cannon Brightman, NORD Chief Program Officer delivered a report on NORD Programs including Multi-Programs, Athletics, Aquatics, and Recreation Centers. CPO report included going through programs over the past few months, and how NORD continued to serve the community through COVID-19. Archery and open canoeing and fishing was modified to continue with safety guidelines. Increased feeding sites to areas across the City. There were over 1,000 summer camp participants in 2020. COVID testing took place weekly for summer camp staff. Chevron Future Leaders program continued with its graduation virtual and in person practicing social distancing. Teen Council meetings continue via Zoom. ACT prep course continues online with Princeton Review. NORD learning hubs continue at NORD rec Centers to support students who need access to internet and monitoring during online learning thru schools. NORD held a back to school expo at three locations. Athletics continued with modifications and NORD looks to continue its partnership with Orleans Parish school board. Biddy basketball began for the first time again in 10 years. The entire report is available online via video on the NORD Commission page at [www.nordc.org](http://www.nordc.org).

# There were no questions for CPO Brightman.

# NORD CEO, Larry Barabino, Jr. joined the meeting again to expand on the CPO report and offered NORD Maintenance and NORD COO, Edgar Alexis a thank you for their work during COVID-19. He then asked COO, Edgar Alexis to expound on Maintenance.

# Edgar Alexis joined the meeting to provide a report on NORD Maintenance. Edgar offered thanks to the Commission and residents for their support during COVID-19. Maintenance pulled together to keep parks and centers sanitized, as well as pools. Highlights included draining pool at Treme, and preventative maintenance work at Treme pool. Also, added two major chillers at Treme that will assist with the HVAC system. The system is working fine with no problems. Behrman Rec Center is next to receive HVAC work. Manufacture backorders have slowed repairs but moving forward with replacing Behrman a/c. Joe Brown and Sanchez HML lighting is in progress. HML lights will be added to all sites. Conversion to HML process is in progress now. Job order program is streamlining to receive overall operations, facilities. Preventative maintenance plan is in the works. That would conclude the Maintenance report. The entire report is available online via video on the NORD Commission page at [www.nordc.org](http://www.nordc.org).

# NORD CEO, Larry Barabino, Jr. joined the meeting again to review NORD marketing and communications updates and how NORD programming moved to digital marketing, programming, and services. The entire report is available at [www.nordc.org](http://www.nordc.org).

# Barabino, also introduced the “Pay it forward” sporting goods donation campaign at NORD rec centers to collect sports goods that would be delivered to Lake Charles, LA. He also discussed the Football Contact sports task force, NORD grant funding, and where NORD is as it relates to Phase 2. The entire report is available at [www.nordc.org](http://www.nordc.org).

# Tomekia Dunkley Edmond, NORD CFO gave a report on the financial state of NORD. Tomekia also provided a report on NORD HR and administration. The complete financial report is available at [www.nordc.org](http://www.nordc.org).

# There were no questions for CFO Dunkley-Edmond.

# After this report CEO Barabino, Jr. closed his report and opened for any questions. There were none, so Commissioner Egana moved forward with the next report.

1. CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT

# Report from the Director of Capital Projects, Vincent Smith

# Vincent Smith, Director of Capital Projects offered his monthly report dating back to March 2020, which reflects the current status of NORD’s Capital Projects portfolio. The current portfolio has 38 projects, which is an increase in the NORD portfolio. The Behrman Natatorium project would not move forward, so monies were rerouted to other projects including inclosing the Behrman outdoor pool. 15 projects are complete, three under construction. The entire Capital Projects report can be reviewed at [www.nordc.org](http://www.nordc.org).

1. CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTERS
   * **Mc Donogh Playground Algiers Name Change (action item\*)**

Commissioner Sanders welcomed and thanked callers and Commissioners. Before the summer he had conversations with Community Leaders about a park that existed in the 1950’s in Algiers. The community held events until 1965. This summer he spoke to Jim Henderson about requesting a Harold Gene Devoir’s. Harold’s family is vested in the Algiers community and was named after him in the 50’s. Mr. Henderson was on the call and spoke on the request.

A motion and a second was recommended to allow public comment on this agenda item. A letter of support was presented to the Commission from Mr. Henderson and Senator Carter and Councilwoman Palmer to bring back the name Harold Gene Devoir back into the Community of Algiers.

Commissioner Montano made a motion to allow public comment and was seconded by Commissioner Abramson. Public comment was granted, and Mr. Henderson and the Devoir family was on the call. Mr. D. Devoir at 2326 Holiday Dr. spoke about his support for renaming the playground for two minutes. He thanked Commissioners for consideration of this matter.

**This item was motioned and passed to move on to City Council for consideration.**

1. PUBLIC COMMENT (Chat box function during the meeting, email, or phone)

* **A text message was received on 9/22/2020 from 504-655-5018. The comment was:**

**This is 2 questions. 1 will you be allowing more people to attend water aerobics? 2. According to your website you can register until at least 24 hours for a class but at Treme and Gert town the classes are full for the entire week and you can’t register. This has been going on the entire summer it appears that people are allowed to register prior to the times allowed. Therefore, some of us can’t get in. No matter what time we try.**

NORD CEO, Larry Barabino, Jr. stated that pool usage has been limited to follow COVID – 19 guidelines. The aquatics programs have been in high demand and we can’t have as many patrons as usual, we hope to increase and amend the number of patrons allowed in the polls

* **Email received from Althea Strong – I can’t get into the meeting. My comment is when will Sanchez aquatics for senior’s resume? I live in the lower ninth ward.**

NORD CEO, Larry Barabino, Jr. and COO, Edgar Alexis provided an update that mechanical issues including the HVAC system is down at the pool and that job has been completed and a pump motor went out and we are waiting for contractors to complete that job within a couple of weeks.

* **Rhea Lewis** [**rhealewis07@gmail.com**](mailto:rhealewis07@gmail.com) **sent in the following comment via email on 9/21/2020 at 5:27PM.**

**Hi, I wanted to provide this public comment for the upcoming NORD Commission Meeting.**

**There is currently no information regarding the voter registration location information. Can that information be made public on the website? It is not helpful to not list the locations nor include specific details to voters. -Rhea**

The following response was provided by NORD Communications Director, Ashlei Morrison on 9/21/2020 at 5:28PM. Hello Rhea, Thank you for your email. Your request for tomorrow’s meeting has been submitted and will be addressed. Thank you for your comment. Best, NORD Commission.

The following request was made to NORD marketing Director on 9/21/2020 at 5:33PM to address the public comment. Will you please update the Voter Registration marketing to include the registration sites, hours of operation and possibly addresses? Specifically, on the NORD website. This was completed on 9/21/2020 by the Marketing Director.

**There was no additional public comment.**

**Commissioner Egana asked that all public comment be replied to within 24 hours to concluding the meeting. This was completed 9/23/2020.**

1. ADJOURNMENT

**A Motion to adjourn was moved by Commissioner Sanders and seconded by Commissioner Peterson, all Commissioners were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20PM.**