

NEW ORLEANS RECREATION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
PROGRAMMING & FACILITIES COMMITTEE
MONDAY DECEMBER 5, 2016, 5:00 P.M.
OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY, 8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

I. **CALL TO ORDER:** *Commissioner Lauricella called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.*

II. **ROLL CALL**

- Present: Nolan Marshall, Louis Lauricella, Judge Byron C. Williams
- Absent: Rini Marcus – Chair

QUORUM AFFIRMED

- Also Present Shonnda Smith, Shawn Wyatt, Steve Martin, Leonard Zanders, J. Hammons, Shannon Burton, Vic Richard, Maya Wyche, Karla Rivera, and Deborah Langhoff.

III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *Motion to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2016 Programming & Facilities Committee meeting was made by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Commissioner Marshall and unanimously approved.*

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Programmatic Partnerships** – Shonnda Smith shared her report on the Programmatic Partnerships, which is attached as an addendum.
 - Commissioner Lauricella asked for the contact information of the representatives of Boy Scouts of America who are having conversations with NORDC.
 - She noted that NORDC is reviewing the 2017 summer camp partnership applications. She anticipates 3800 youth campers.
- **DHH requirements regarding concessions** – Maya Wyche reported on recent recommendations from DHH for an 8-hour training and staff is developing a forward-looking plan to implement.
- **Community Presentation Off-Leash Dog Area at Cabrini** – Eileen Loh represented the CAT-C in their presentation. Items of special note developed during the discussion are:
 - Proposal of aluminum fencing (used at City Bark) came from the community, instead of wrought iron, because it's cheaper and doesn't require painting.
 - Commissioner Marshall suggested additional landscaping to separate the dogs and children. Ms.Loh requested that the children's area be fenced in as well as the dog area with a space between.
 - Commissioner Lauricella clarified that there should be no gate between the dog area and the playing field, as mistakenly shown in the presentation.
 - There will be no splash area for dogs.
 - Two bench designs were discussed, and the concrete bench should not be included.
 - One drinking fountain should be centrally located for humans and dogs.
 - De-composed granite was proposed for 30% of the entire dog area.
 - Vincent Smith asked about the location of the water service and a community member, Nelson Belou responded. Vince suggested that it would be cheaper to locate the fountain nearer to the water service.

- A parent noted concern about additional encroachment to the children's playground and was re-assured that the dog area would absorb the fence and landscaping.
- It was reported that the Proposed Rules were adopted from Wisner. The CEO additionally noted the following:
 - It is a priority to preserve the double-wide gates for access.
 - The rules have been professionally developed for a dog run and for a dog park. In the event of unresponsive dog users, the CEO will enforce the law.
- Nelson Belou spoke about the lead radiation project that discourages excavation. He proposed a 3 inch layer of de-composed granite – i.e., he plans to pull a little soil out and put the granite in to avoid any drainage to the field from the dog area. He suggested limited concrete pads at entrances and drinking fountain. Drainage will consist of weep holes through the brick wall.
- Exterior iron gates with interior aluminum fencing are proposed by the community. He proposed a French drain by the drinking fountain and discussed permits and insurance.
- No architectural fees are included in the report, but further follow up is needed to determine fees and permits.
- He noted that a licensed landscape architect should be sufficient to sign-off on plans.
- Vince Smith noted that he wants to confirm the dimensions of the area.
- There are more details needed regarding funding sources. Anne Marie Hesson said that the CAT is awaiting plan approval prior to detailing more fundraising ideas. Commissioner Lauricella strongly urges self-reliance in their fundraising.
- Daniel Raines, a neighbor, asked for enforcement, describing some particular events that recently occurred with large off-leash dogs. He urged that square footage in the children's play area not be sacrificed.
- Commissioner Lauricella underscored that Cabrini is not currently an off-leash parks and the incidents described work to the detriment of the project.
 - Mark Gonzalez stated several times that the CAT wants a fence around the children's area.
 - Vic Richard stated that as an obligator of the City of New Orleans that if illegal activity is not curtailed, he will recommend to cease moving forward on the project.
 - He stated further that laws are in place to arrest and/or confiscate the dog.
 - Commissioner Williams will speak with Commander Gordon, the Commander of the 8th District.
- John Reed noted the proposal of 30% de-composed granite, but the resolution required the entire usable area be de-composed granite, except landscaping. He further noted that the aluminum is not appropriate to the French Quarter and asked that VCC recommendations be recognized in deliberations. He also stated that regular notices have not gone out to Jon Kemp, who is a member of CAT-C and asked that the record so reflect.
 - Mr. Wilkinson mentioned a NORDC report using a chain link fence.
 - Vic Richard noted that in the most recent renovation of Cabrini, the City followed all guidelines in materials and construction that are appropriate to the French Quarter, cutting no financial or construction corners.

- While pleased with the community's efforts, the Commissioners are not satisfied with the conceptual presentation as a final product. A new meeting will be held February 6th to recalibrate the community's presentation.
 - Mark Gonzalez asked for the fence to be moveable. The Commissioners responded that with trees and shrubbery adjacent, the fence is unlikely to move in order to shrink the dog area at a future time.
 - Commissioner Williams stated that Ms. Kemp must receive communications and be fully engaged and aware of what is transpiring.
 - The CEO summarized the lead remediation and encapsulation that was done in cooperation with the school and the parents. The total project was approximately \$250,000 and it currently meets all lead standards.
- **Facilities Report** – Vincent Smith, Director of Capital Projects, offered a copy of the report to the Committee members.
 - He noted that 116 projects are tracked at a price of \$156,848,840, and that 80 are completed.
 - Two priority projects are in construction, with Milne Gym planned for completion in early September.
 - Six projects are in bid and award, and 21 are in design currently.
 - On page 8, the Eastshore Playground bid receive date is 09-Dec-1016 and not 2017 as shown.
 - Vince Smith reported that the Willie Hall agreement had been sent to OPSB. He further noted that this is a HUD grant and that a new federal administration is coming in. Milne, A. L. Davis, Taylor, Easton, Annunciation and Willie Hall may be affected. The St. Bernard Project is a \$10 million project, and is a larger project than just the Willie Hall site.
 - It was noted that initially there was \$300,000 to be put toward the design but no construction money. Commissioner Marshall asked if Willie Hall got FEMA money and Vince confirmed that money is still in place.
 - The City submitted a state capital outlay request for \$350,000 for an elevator at Treme.
 - A discussion with Commissioner Lauricella about the possible use of pneumatic elevator, which works on the principle of high and low pressure and can provide handicapped access. This would go inside of an existing building, which is a viable option with interior space available.
 - Cooperative use of gyms was reviewed with the CPO, who noted that no progress had been made with the schools. The CPO is asking for communications connections with appropriate schools.
 - Commissioner Marshall noted that board members cannot directly contact schools.
 - Steve Martin will share with Commissioners Marshall and Peterson who communication outreach has transpired.
 - Commissioner Williams will contact Commissioner Peterson directly.
 - A discussion of sales and consumption of alcohol was discussed and review of current law was proposed. Commissioner Lauricella asked for this topic to be deferred so that the committee chair can participate.
 - Other potential operational changes were deferred to the next committee meeting.
 - Maya Wyche reported on rentals and concessions sales. Commissioner Williams moved and Commissioner Marshall seconded, and the committee voted

unanimously to pass a resolution on to the full Commission that sets policy regarding rental of NORDC facilities and concessions areas.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- Commissioner Marshall moved and Commissioner Williams seconded a motion to accept the programming reports as written, which was passed.
- At the CEO's suggestion, brief comments from program Directors and Managers supplemented their reports, which are attached as an addendum.
- Djuana Johnson noted that there will be a holiday camp at the Treme Center, similar to a summer camp, for two weeks during the holidays, last week in December and first week in January for a fee. Summer camp flyers are distributed at Rec Centers and to summer camper families.
- As a follow up for Commissioner Lauricella, Leonard Zanders noted that the Armed Services will be involved in upcoming Teen Council events. It was clarified that Youth programming is for those who are 4-12 years old and teens are aged 13-18.
- J Hammons noted that MITP averaged 177 attendees per movie, over the challenge from the CEO of 150 attendees.
- Shonnda Smith noted that FitNOLA Manager Molly Pucillo is leaving NORDC to return to California, and she also noted the beginning of the tenure of the new Special Programs Director Fallon Young, who has joined staff.
- Commissioner Marshall asked that financial totals be included at the bottom of each report.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE COMMITTEE:

- Commissioner Marshall asked that facility hours during the months of September through May be reviewed in light of the availability and access for students on Saturdays.
- He also asked that a Task Force with representatives from NORDC and local schools be created and convened on the future of recreation in New Orleans.
 - The CEO asked for a working meeting with the Commissioner to fully develop the discussion that would be undertaken by a Task Force.
- Staff reported that a review of hours will be undertaken.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Reynard Thomas asked what enhancements were completed for Joe W. Brown and Vincent Smith noted that his list is a cumulative list of NORDC projects.
 - A question about Milne bleachers was answered by the CEO, and 210 seats on each side of the gym will be provided.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Lauricella adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.*