



Executive Search Committee Meeting

Tuesday, July 31st 2018
City Hall, 2nd Floor Conference Room

MEETING MINUTES + ADDENDUM

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - a. Meeting called to order at 8:35am
- II. ROLL CALL
 - a. Emily Wolff- Mayor's Designee
 - b. Dana Peterson- NORD Commission
 - c. Rebecca Conwell- NORD Foundation
 - d. Brian Egana- NORD Commission
 - e. Theo Sanders- NORD Commission (absent)
- III. COMMUNITY MEMBER APPOINTMENT
 - a. The committee received 21 interest forms from community members interested in serving on the NORD CEO Search Committee
 - b. Of those 21 interest forms, eight finalists were selected based upon their qualifications as well as whether or not they submitted a statement of interest
 - c. The complete list of all candidates and eight finalists were sent to the existing members of the committee to review and consider their nominations.
 - d. During the meeting, Liane Austin and Sabrina Mays Montana were nominated and approved to serve in the community member seats on the executive search committee.
 - i. Liane Austin's Statement of Interest read aloud: "As a resident of the Gentilly Area of New Orleans I am interested in being part of the committee searching for a new NORD Director. I am very familiar with NORD as my daughter is part of Chevron Future Leaders and a member of Teen Council, my two older children have also been employed by NORD as a lifeguard and an Outdoors Recreation Leader. In the last year I have been sad to see the teen programs dwindle in attendance and the youth are not as impassioned about learning how to become better citizens and ways to improve our city. I also am concerned about the lack of programing for younger children, especially those with disabilities. I would like to see NORD open up more programs for children ages 3-5 and

their families. As a special education teacher I would hope that these programs would be inclusive of all regardless of their physical abilities. I also am very sad to see that there is very little known to citizens about the programs offered by NORD.”

- ii. Sabrina Mays Montana’s statement read aloud: “In 2010, unbeknownst to me, former NORD director Keith Wright, in the halls of City hall, informed me that I was hired as its new deputy director. Surprised and honored, as I walked away I immediately reflected on the role NORD played in my life as child playing softball, selling snowballs and learning how to swim at Stallings Playground in Gentilly. As a teenager working at Lyons and Pradat Pools and as an adult, part of a team writing, developing and implementing a first of its kind program to service mentally and physically challenged children, NORD Developmentally Disability Summer Camp. To be given the opportunity post Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to serve the citizens of New Orleans, particularly children was a dream come true. During my journey at NORD, I found a poorly funded department, embedded in bureaucracy; a recreation department functioning on a daily basis to provide quality recreational activities in limited facilities and challenged conditions. However, at NORD, I met people who worked with very little to bring NORD back after the storm. I met people who had committed their lives and worked tirelessly to ensure NORD activities were supplied and equipped for participating children and adults. Moreover, I worked with people whose incomes were very meager and yet they personally purchased supplies, materials and equipment needed to get the job done. I met people who were NORD kids too; who had been employed with NORD as young adults entering the workforce for the first time. I, not as deputy director or acting director, but as an employee of the City of New Orleans truly appreciated, respected and admired my fellow employees. They exhibited strength, camaraderie, resolve and determination in making sure all NORD activities, including the maintenance of parks and playgrounds were in place and functioning. We operated and functioned as a unit ---team. These few men and women who had persevered through the hardest and roughest of times pushed forward in their dedication and commitment to the citizens of New Orleans. This is personal! It is imperative that the incoming director builds, empowers, educates, nurtures leadership, and equips young adults entering the workforce for the first time with skills and confidence that will prepare them for life. Most importantly, that he/she will embrace the community, be open to all conversations, inclusive and open to infinite possibilities that change can bring. As a child-centered educator, community and cultural advocate and activist, I would be honored to serve on the committee in the hiring of the CEO of NORD. I look forward to working

with the NORDC once again on issues that will build, strengthen and develop our great city—our home, New Orleans!”

IV. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS

- a. Volunteer Coaches United submitted a letter to the commission reiterating their communications protocol.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a. Various community members in attendance provide feedback on community nomination process and specific candidates recommended.

VI. ADJOURNMENT at 9:25am

Addendum: Immediately upon adjournment of the executive search committee meeting, it came to the attention of two committee members’ that there may be a conflict of interest with one of the candidates recommended to sit on the committee. Liane Austin was immediately contacted in order to understand if she was related to a current NORD employee. Ms. Austin confirmed there was a conflict of interest and submitted an email to the board recusing herself from holding the position. The executive search committee will discuss the nomination of an alternative community member to serve on the commission.

It should also be noted that all community members who submitted interest forms to serve on the executive search committee can be reviewed by visiting:

<https://www.nola.gov/boards/interest/report/>