

A MEETING OF THE NEW ORLEANS RECREATION DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
WAS HELD AT 5:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015
IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

I. CALL TO ORDER: *Chairman Glapion called the meeting to order at 5:09 pm.*

II. ROLL CALL

- Present: Roy Glapion – *Chair*, Rini Marcus – *Vice-Chair*, Michael Darnell, John Sibal, Kelly Brown, Ava Rogers, Kira Orange-Jones, Andrew Kopplin and Nolan Marshall Jr.
- Absent: James Gray, Adria Kimbrough, Patrick Dobard, and Mayor Mitchell Landrieu.
- Staff: Deborah Langhoff and Anita Curran

III. OPENING CEREMONIES

- Welcoming remarks: Offered by Chairman Glapion who began the meeting by sharing that Commissioner Gray's mother's memorial service had been the preceding day and he shared the sympathies of the entire Commission and offered a moment of silence.
- Invocation: Offered by Commissioner Mike Darnell
- Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Chairman Glapion
- Chair's Report: The Chair noted achievements of NORDC and improvements over the last several years and pointed out marked increases in programming, recreation centers, indoor pools, outdoor pools, parks and special programs. The Boston Consulting Group's report is being used as a guide for support from the City of New Orleans, the NORD Foundation and other funding sources.

IV. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES: – The adoption of the minutes from the February 3rd meeting was moved by Michael Darnell, seconded by John Sibal, and unanimously adopted.

V. TEEN COUNCIL REPORT:

- Jahanna Brightman introduced the Teen Report with a statement that summarized the first College Trip for the Teen Council and Chevron Future Leaders recently made to Atlanta, Georgia to visit a number of the areas colleges. The report continued with comments from a number of teens who attended the trip and wanted to thank the staff, NORDC commissioners, the Foundation and Chevron for making this historic trip possible.
- Freedom Richardson, a homeschooled 9th grader, who noted to the Commissioners that he attends Freedom Academy - where Freedom is the goal, began the discussion with a description of UGA.
- Christy Kassa an 11th grader from NOCCA and International High School of New Orleans talked about UGA and SCAD and how she loved the funky environment.

- Taylor Collins is an 8th grader at Newman and she was most impacted by the Martin Luther King memorial. Her favorite college was SCAD.
- Lamiya Shaheer is an 8th grader at Audubon Charter and she was most impacted by Salvation Army because of the emphasis to “follow your heart” and she like Spelman the best.
- Felice Brightman, a 12 year old who attends Audubon Charter, said his favorite college was UGA. He noted that he wants to play college basketball and enjoyed attending a college basketball game.
- Russell Tanner, an 11th grader at Landry Walker High School is in his third year in Teen Council. He liked UGA and Georgia Tech. He enjoyed the recreation offered and was grateful to go on the trip.
- Taylor Williams, an 11th grader at St Katherine Drexell Preparatory, known as Xavier Prep, said the trip showed her more options for her life. She loved Lenox Mall and enjoyed the Morehouse vs Clark basketball game.
- Sara Jesusea is a freshman at Mount Carmel Academy, and she appreciated the chance to visit UGA. She liked the tour guides who offered advice to the teens.
- Kyra Azore is a senior at Lusher Charter School and her favorite college was Emory, who offered the Teens a scavenger hunt. It was a quick way to learn quirky information about the school. Their dinner with some admissions officers impacted her because she applied to Fisk University and spoke with their officer. The next morning she had her acceptance letter and scholarship offer.
- Mr. Tanner is Russell’s parent, expressing thanks to Chevron, and he challenged other companies to step up to the plate for the youth of the community because they are our future.

VI. REPORTS OF SUB-COMMITTEE OFFICERS:

- Programming/ Public Relations: Commissioner Marcus reported that the Programming and Public Relations joint sub-committee last met yesterday March 2nd in the 8th floor conference room of the Office of Homeland Security in City Hall. She was joined by representatives of the NORDC’s programming departments and was introduced to Shonnda Smith who is NORDC’s new Chief Programming Officer. Also introduced was the new Youth Program Manager, D’Juana Johnson, who is a NORD 15-year veteran employee. D’Juana worked previously at Cutoff and Treme Recreation Centers, and now has moved to program administration. There were reports on FitNOLA Parks, Aquatics, Recreation Centers, Outdoor Programs, and Cultural Programming from those managers. Vic Richard offered a report on Athletics and mentioned that a new Director of Athletics has accepted the position and will begin soon. Jahanna Brightman offered the Teen Programs report in the absence of Leonard Zanders, and she shared experiences from NORDC’s first College Trip for Teen Council members. NORDC also had a good month with positive press coverage both in print and on television.

- Human Resources/Personnel: Commissioner Orange-Jones reported that the joint sub-committee met on February 9th in the 8th floor conference room of City Hall. She was joined by Commissioners Kimbrough and Darnell, and the meeting minutes from January 12th and December 16th were approved. At the sub-committee's request, information was gathered by the Chief Operating Office and shared with the commissioners, including an updated organizational chart, as well as an updated report on vacancies, which are shared with all commissioners. The COO answered questions from the commissioners that clarified the role the public plays in hiring by detailing the Civil Service processes that define the pool of applicants for most NORDC staff positions. As examples, she outlined for the commissioners how NORDC interview panels (which include commissioners and recreation stakeholders as well as staff) extend the hiring process once Civil Service determines the applicant pool for higher level positions. The next sub-committee meeting is scheduled to be held Monday, March 16th at 5:30 pm in the 8th floor conference room of City Hall.
- Governance: Commissioner Darnell delivered a report on the Governance sub-committee which last met on Monday February 23rd at 2:45 pm in the Office of Homeland Security 8th floor conference room of City Hall. He was joined in the meeting by Commissioners Glapion, Marshall, and Rogers, and a quorum was achieved. Discussions on the Community Advisory Teams focused on defining the roles of the CATs, encouragement to get CAT members more involved with the commission, and using CATs to envision future planning and Capital improvements. Most booster clubs attended last month's Leadership Workshop and are compliant with minimum NORDC requirements, but staff continues to work with a few clubs to assist them in developing a road to compliance. A CAT member attended the sub-committee meeting, and this is being encouraged wherever possible to assist commissioners in hearing concerns directly.
- Facilities: Commissioner Brown reported on the Facilities sub-committee, which last met on Monday February 23, 2015 at 1:30 pm in the Office of Homeland Security Conference room on the 8th floor of City Hall. She was joined by Commissioners Marshall, Marcus, Sibal, Darnell and Glapion and the minutes of the January 28th meeting were approved. NORDC CEO Vic Richard reported on matters which will be shared with the full Commission today, but included information about programming and summer camp announcements at both Sanchez and Stallings/St. Claude, as well as for those pools. An announcement was made about employment opportunities at Sanchez and Oliver Bush Playground. New park hours at Cabrini Playground were instituted which mimic other similar parks in the area, like Washington Park. A full discussion of the installation of security cameras was exchanged with the commissioners. The Facilities sub-committee also receives the monthly update from Capital Projects, which will be delivered by Vince Smith. In providing the update on Treme, Mr. Smith apologized that the opening had not yet occurred. He assured the commissioners and the public that the equipment at the Center is new and operating properly, and there will be a specialist under contract to address any issues as facilities reopen. The new Skatepark has opened to the public. The sub-committee is scheduled to meet again on Monday, March 30th at 1:30 pm.

- NORD Foundation Commissioner Sibal commended the business community for their support to NORDC through the Foundation. Opportunities are there for anyone in the business to make meaningful contributions.
 - Shonnda Smith was recognized by Commissioner Sibal as a great addition to the team.
 - The Chair reported that NORDF is soliciting funds for furniture and fixtures for the new facilities coming online.
 - Please remember that there is an opportunity to join the NORDC Team for the Crescent City Classic on April 4th by signing in online. Funds raised will benefit youth athletics at NORDC.
- Finance/Audit sub-committee report was offered later in the meeting by Commissioner Kopplin. The Finance/Audit sub-committee last met on Friday February 27, 2015 in the 8th floor conference room in City Hall. The meeting was led by Chairman Glapion in his absence because his attendance was required in a meeting at the same time in the City Council Chamber. It was reported by Chief Operating Office Mary-jo Webster that the 2014 books were closed, and NORDC had spent 99.9% of its funding, leaving an unspent balance of only \$6,000. She then presented a financial expenditure report as of February 20th 2015. Copies of the report are included in the Commissioners packets and are available at the information table for members of the public. Ms. Webster reported that NORDC begins the year with \$10,868,624 in general funds and \$1,183,992 in CDBG funds. As of February 20th the NORD Foundation had \$1,145,996 available and had expended \$127,004. The NORDC Revolving Fund has collected \$26,567 in rental income so far this year, resulting in an available balance of \$128,414. There have been no 2015 expenditures from this Fund thus far. Ms. Webster's report provides a one-page summary of 2015 expenditures by funding sources per major line item.
 - Commissioner Kopplin requested that NORDC move to adopt the report as the 2015 budget, based on what NORDC requested and what the City Council and the Mayor approved, and after presentations from Mary-jo Webster made at the January and February Finance/Audit sub-committee meetings. As recommended at the Finance/Audit sub-committee, the CAO moved that NORDC adopt this Budget Summary as the 2015 NORDC Budget. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. Commissioner Sibal added that the report was reviewed by the Foundation in its role to supplement the City funds that are identified. The vote was taken and the 2015 NORDC Budget was unanimously approved.

VII. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

- Victor N. Richard, III, NORDC CEO, submitted the report, both orally and in written PowerPoint presentation format for the permanent record.
- VR reported that the opening of the Parisite Skatepark opening brought together a great community with Red Bull, Skylar, Jackson, the City Council and everyone working for years to open the Skatepark.
- Treme Pool reopened with a Welcome Back luncheon for regular patrons.

- Basketball championships will be held for boys and for girls at Lyons Center. Track rosters are being put together. Chevron, the Saints and the Pelicans continue their support of the Character Counts program.
- VR reiterated that all information on programming is on the NORDC website, and added that Conrad in Hollygrove, Stallings in Gentilly and Behrman in Algiers will be the next three playgrounds with Fit NOLA programming. He shared information on the Press Conference with the Mayor on NORDC Summer Programming, the Easter Egg Hunt, and the Expo being held at four recreation centers on Saturday. NORDC is partnering with 39 youth camp partners and 10 teen program partners this summer, including JOB 1 opportunities.
- Tentative summer pool schedule reflects last year's public comments to extend the aquatics season. Christine Aguirre has lined up a schedule beginning Memorial Day weekend and extending through September.
- NORDC's work is to better the social, physical and emotional health of every citizen of all ages in the City. Reflecting on the Boston Consulting Group Study update, VR noted that with the hire of the new Athletics Director, this will be the first time that the full NORDC leadership team will be on board. Staff development is ongoing both locally and nationally. At the next NORDC meeting, Maya Wyche and Mary-jo Webster will prepare a full status report on the implementation of the new NORDC recreation software.
 - He added that both Sanchez and Stallings/St. Claude Rec Centers will be operational for summer programming this year.
 - There were no questions or concerns regarding the report.

VIII. CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT

- Vincent Smith, Capital Projects Director submitted the report orally and in written format was well. His highlighted points were:
- 117 projects in NORDC portfolio for a total of \$145.8 million
- 65 completed projects with Parisite, Treme Gym/Pool, Peace Playground added.
- Four in construction with completions anticipated this summer – Sanchez (March) , Stalling/St. Claude (April) , Rosenwald (June), Milne Gym (September)
- St. Bernard Rec Center is in the Bid and Award phase.
- Behrman Soccer Stadium still has the eagles nest and new fledglings are now being hatched, in their now-permanent habitat. While the habitat is technically outside of the site, Capital Projects is reviewing alternatives.
- Norman Playground and Stallings/Gentilly communities will meet with Capital Projects soon.

- 41 Projects are in pre-design phase. Bonds were sold and the projects will move forward. Bodenger and Village d'Est have executed architects contracts as well.
- Treme Pool target date was missed. There was a friction test scheduled and another testing consultant had to be scheduled. Tests came out favorably but the testing caused some delay in opening.
- An engineering consultant has done a study for prospective locations for an installation of an elevator at Treme. Capital Projects will weigh the options and report to the NORDC.
 - JS: What is the scope of the Perry Rhoem work?
 - VR: Re-grading of outfield and infield and formal dugouts will be created. The Sealand trailers on site will be removed. There is a needed concession stand expansion, but the field, storage, and lights will take priority.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. OLD BUSINESS

- CAT reports: CAT development update was provided by the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Engagement and summarized by the Commissioners. The update was provided in printed format for the public and permanent record.
 - Commissioner Marcus reported on District A's CATs.
 - Commissioner Orange-Jones reported on District B's CATs.
 - Commissioner Glapion reported on District C's two CATs and noted the election of new officers in the Eastbank CAT who are President Rhonda Edgarson, Vice President Jon Kemp, and Secretary Sue Press.
 - Commissioner Glapion reported on District D's three CATs in the absence of Commissioner Kimbrough.
 - Commissioner Darnell reported on the three CATs in District E.
- Follow up to Public Comment: Regarding the comments on the safety at the St. Bernard Center's concession area, NORDC staff and the Booster Club confirmed that if the appropriate number of appliances is used, no electrical problems are observed.

XI. CONSIDERATION OF ANY OTHER MATTERS:

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT: Chair set comments for a 2-minute time limit due to the number of public comment cards submitted. He asked the public to attend the sub-committee meetings where more directed information can be exchanged.

- Lyons Center Playground coaches came to the meeting.

- Calvin Stevenson reported off-leash dog activities during active sports practices. There are six cases of skin rashes.
- James Bolds brought a photo of a sign on the playground that prohibits off-leash dog activities. He asked for the law to be enforced.
- Game Osborne spoke as a first year coach and his goal to rebuild the City productively. Community tension needs to be rectified and off-leash activity needs to stop. Lyons Center field should be refurbished.
- Ronnie Tyler stated that we have USA football helmets, have performed background checks. He asked for a “No Pets Allowed” sign at Lyons. The park is unsanitary.
 - The Chair will work with the coaches.
 - The CEO thanked the coaches for their work, and put on the record that NORDC will look from a legal standpoint toward building a strategy with the administration and the City Council to review the possibility of instituting by ordinance pet prohibitions on active playgrounds (athletic programming), while continuing to positively serve pet owners in passive areas and other greenspaces.
- Reynard Thomas said that the foyer at Joe W. Brown had only been damp mopped in the last two years and not cleaned. He claimed that community relations are moving backwards. Requested meeting dates for Booster Club and CATs be put on the NORDC website. Asked when the word “Community” going back on the Treme Center. He requested information about the Nike grant, lights at the field at Joe W. Brown, how to do a presentation in front of the NORDC, the date of the next Foundation meeting. He asked if new dollars are coming into NORDC. He asked how people who don’t use the internet find out about NORDC meetings – suggesting TV and radio.
- Angelina Elder, advocate for Hardin Park, spoke about the children of the community. Hardin Park needs a rec center, a pool, and bathrooms.
- Bernard Merrick spoke about Richard Lee Playground and asked specific questions about the Priority Projects. He is starting a program for baseball at Oliver Bush, Buppie 101 Baseball Training Camp.
- Vanessa Gueringer asked about funding for Richard Lee Playground and asked if there were FEMA funds for Goins Playground, and any funds for Roffignac Playground., Delery Playspot. She asked for a park supervisor at Oliver Bush. She asked about programming and jobs at Sanchez/St. Claude.
- Kim Ford asked about Programming at Sanchez Center. She expressed that there is not enough community access in the hiring of staff.

- Donald Chopin spoke on governance, asking first what protocol is used. He asked to have public comment after each presentation. He asked about the fairness and due process in hiring procedures, expressing concern on Civil Service Commission's rules. He asked if the Treme Pool has a warranty on its repairs, and inquired on establishing a conversation on fiscal matters. Commissioner Kopplin offered that information is exchanged more informally at sub-committee meetings, and RG agreed, encouraging the public to attend sub-committee meetings.
- Coach Melvin Howard advocated for the Victory Youth Training Academy in the 9th ward. He's seen 52 years of NORD and wants to retrain young children in the fundamentals of discipline and love. He is working in three charter schools. VR reported that a CEA is currently being negotiated.
- Diane French spoke on racism and her upcoming trip to Selma Alabama to commemorate the Selma to Montgomery civil rights marches that preceded the Voting Rights Act. She asked for an update on the Capital Projects work at Stallings/Gentilly. She spoke of a Personnel matter about a former employee at Stallings/Gentilly Playground. She noted her concerns on the accuracy of NORDC minutes. She requested meetings with top leadership. The Chair reiterated his desire to meet with her.
- Ed McGinnis from Lyons/Burke informed commissioners of a circulating petition among parents on enforcement of leash laws in Lyons field. He asked about other options for dog owners in the area, hoping the community will join together for the betterment of everyone.
- Reynard Thomas returned to the podium to question the terms of the seats on the Commission. AK asked for a legal response.
 - Anita Curran noted that the initial term is five years for all Commissioners. The Chair isn't set by ordinance, and they vote annually on the officers.
- He noted that the executive NORDC staff left the Chamber prior to public comment.
 - Commissioner Rogers clarified for the record that the CEO for NORDC and the Director for Capital Projects were both present and added that she and the CAO were present as Commissions to represent the Administration.
 - Commissioner Marshall offered a suggestion to implement a new system for public comment responses. RG noted that responses are usually provided either during the meeting, or in the appropriate sub-committee meeting or in the next month's agenda notes.
- He expressed concern about crime in the areas around parks and playgrounds.

- The CEO asked the Chair for the opportunity to speak to put items that were presented on the record. He stated:
 - On lights at Joe W. Brown track – No funding is in place at this time and no funding has been presented by the Sugar Bowl Committee. If Mr. Thomas has further information on this, he is requested to put it in black and white by letter or email, so that the CEO can follow up on it.
 - On Oliver Bush Playground –
 - The CEO thanked Mr. Merrick for all of his hard work on baseball at Oliver Bush.
 - The CEO notes there is no Capital funding at this time for Goins, Roffignack, and Delery.
 - Regarding the Sanchez Center, Ms. Ford's husband is a candidate for employment at the Sanchez Center.
 - An email was sent out to community members three weeks to a month ago asking for candidates for employment from the area.
 - The allegation that the Manager at the new center is a Caucasian is false.
 - The former manager of this Center, Mr. Jerome Cochran, has expressed an interest in coming back to the community and he is presently a recruiter for Major League Baseball's Pittsburgh Pirates.
 - The CEO thanked all of the coaches who attended the meeting for working with NORDC to move forward.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT: *Commissioner Darnell moved for adjournment and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Orange-Jones, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.*