



NORD Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 7, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commission Chair Theo Sanders welcomed and thanked everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm. Commissioner Sanders acknowledged the events that happened over the New Year Holiday gave condolences to all involved.

II. ROLL CALL

Gina Gatewood-Lucas led the roll call with the following commissioners present: Commissioners Theo Sanders (Chairman), Commissioner Peterson, Mayor Cantrell, Commissioner King, Commissioner Fernandez, Commissioner White and Commissioner Montano. (Commissioners White and Montano were late arrivals after the roll call.)

A quorum was achieved with 7 commissioners present.

Absent Commissioners were Commissioner Ernest Price, Commissioner Fayard, Commissioner Parker and Commissioner Dufauchard.

NORD Leadership Staff present included: Larry Barabino, Jr., Jahanna Cannon- Brightman, Edgar Alexis, and Ashley Frank.

III. GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Chairman Sanders welcomed everyone again and offered other commissioners the opportunity to comment on the Bourbon Street attacks. Commissioners declined and the meeting proceeded without the immediate approval of action items 4 and 5, moving directly to NORD CEO report.

IV. ADOPTION OF AGENDA (*Action Item)

The motion to adopt the meeting was set forth by Commissioner Peterson and second by Mayor Cantrell. **The vote was passed, and the agenda was adopted.**

V. ADOPTION OF MINUTES (*Action Item)

VI. Chairman Sanders moved for the **adoption of the August 6, 2024, meeting minutes**. There was a motion to move by Commissioner Peterson, which was seconded by Mayor Cantrell. The motion was carried, and Commissioners present were in favor of adopting the meeting minutes. **The meeting minutes were unanimously adopted/approved.**

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS-

There were no committee reports.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to review/report.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to review/report.

X. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

- **Report from the Chief Executive Officer, Larry Barabino Jr.**

CEO, Larry Barabino, Jr., began his report thanking everyone for their support of NORD and echoed the sentiments of Chairman Sanders regarding the Bourbon Street attacks. CEO Barabino immediately addressed the letter published in December of 2024 addressing several facility deficiencies. Acknowledging some of the deficiencies, while highlighted the fact that NORD is aware of these issues as they are a part of the Big Green Easy Parks Masterplan. Before development of this plan NORD held 8 different meetings throughout the city demonstrating the agencies' strengths and weaknesses in addition to a path forward. CEO Barabino thanked the mayor and councilmembers for their commitment to NORD. Stating that because of the mayor's commitment to renewing funding through bonds, we will soon begin to see movement in various locations to enhance some of those properties mentioned in the letter regarding those deficiencies at facilities. He also mentioned that funding is needed to bring the renovated 20-year properties up to date and will continue to need funding for those facilities and others as they continue to come on line. CEO Barabino proceeded to give his report noting that the first Artist in Residency Program was a success and culminated with the NOLA Idol Showcase held at the Filmore through the Wisner Fund, with other residencies to follow in 2025. He also mentioned 3 different locations hosting holiday lights. (Joe W. Brown, Morris FX Jeff and Milne). He gave a shout out to Xavier students who helped collect toys for the annual NORD Toy Giveaway they volunteered alongside NORD staff serving 980 children. CEO Barabino highlighted events in preparation for Superbowl and others to take place during the week-long event. Mr. Barabino proceeded to give the highlight and snapshot of NORD for the year-end closeout of 2024. He also mentioned that NORD athlete of the week is highlighted each Friday on WGNO, which is a great addition to what we have to offer, and it has impacted the young men, as it instills a bit more pride as the move along in the NORD career. He also thanked Commissioner White for including his children in our middle school sports efforts. CEO Barabino moved through his report and concluded with a budget recap. Commissioner Sander asked for any additional comment and Mayor Cantrell stated that she appreciated how NORD has stood up services and resources as the city is faced with disaster. NORD'S entire CEO report may be viewed online at www.nordc.org or by request via email at gogatewood-lucas@nola.gov.

XI. CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT

- **Report from the Director of Capital Project, Vincent Smith**

Director Vince Smith opened his report stating that there are currently 57 projects included in the NORD portfolio. The current projects are minus one project from the previous month, which was Carver Penn Baseball field project based on conversation with NORD CEO and Councilman Green and funds were moved to the Sampson project because of funds. NORD current project funds total \$62 million with 70% completion of projects in the portfolio. Most are funded through FEMA. The Morris FX Jeff Natatorium punch list walk through was done and is expected to be completed by the end of January, provided there are no issues. Most notably are Fire inspections to be completed. The Splash pad at Morris FX Jeff has delays due to subsurface issues and the construction will resume shortly and delivery of material is currently being coordinated. The Treme elevator construction will begin the first week of January. There will be an inconvenience to patrons as the entry will have to be temporarily relocated. Wesley Barrow parking lot project will be rebid because bids came in over budget. Mr. Smith moved through his report rather quickly. There were no additional questions or comments for Mr. Smith and the meeting proceeded. Capital Projects entire report may be viewed at www.nordc.org or by request by emailing gogatewood-lucas@nola.gov. Please submit any questions for Capital Projects to gogatewood-lucas@nola.gov for response.

XII. CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTERS-
No additional matters to consider.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT
No public comment

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Sanders presented a motion to adjourn the meeting, moved by Commissioner Montano and second by Commissioner White and all Commissioners present approved, and the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.