



NORD Commission Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Walker called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

NORD Interim Chief Executive Officer, Natasha Robinson, led the roll call. Present Commissioners included Chair Kyle Walker, CAO Joe Giarrusso, Councilman Freddie King III, Katie Baudouin, Michael Farley, Kevin Kimbrough, Daphney Young and Ernest Price.

A quorum was achieved.

NORD Leadership Staff present included: Edgar Alexis, Natasha Robinson, Ashley Frank and Emily Oliver.

III. Appointment of Officers

There are no officer appointments today.

IV. GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

Chair Walker welcomed Katie Baudouin as a new NORD Commissioner. Chair Walker presented an update on the search for a new CEO, stating that the NORD Foundation is evaluating proposals from firms to conduct the national search, and that they hope to have a new CEO announced by the October NORD Commission meeting.

V. ADOPTION OF AGENDA (*Action Item)

A motion to adopt the meeting agenda was moved by Commissioner Baudouin and seconded by Commissioner Price. Hearing no objections, **the meeting agenda was unanimously adopted.**

VI. ADOPTION OF MINUTES (*Action Item)

Commissioner King called for a motion to adopt the meeting minutes from June 2, 2026. Commissioner Price seconded the motion, and hearing no objections, **the minutes were unanimously approved.**

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **There are no committee reports.**

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- **There was no old business to review/report.**

IX. NEW BUSINESS

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

X. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

- **Report from the Interim Chief Executive Officer, Natasha Robinson**

Natasha began by providing an update on the implementation of recommendations from the Office of Inspector General (OIG) regarding volunteer coaches. Actions completed include the development of a volunteer coach tracking system, formalized application and background check procedures, clearly defined staff responsibilities, and ongoing policy revisions to align with Louisiana child protection requirements. Natasha also reported that enhanced nationwide background screening options continue to be evaluated. Commissioners received copies of the updated volunteer application, background check procedures, and compliance monitor responsibilities. The Athletics Division reported consistent participation in baseball, softball, T-ball, and Little League, serving more than 800 youth annually. Commissioners were informed of the upcoming championship games, the successful registration of 415 participants for the co-ed Flag Football season, and the opening of registration for the 2026–2027 youth athletics season.

The Aquatics Division announced its recognition as a 2025 American Red Cross Gold Level Learn-to-Swim Provider and reported that more than 21,000 visitors have utilized NORD pools since the summer season began. Staff also announced the successful hiring of 107 lifeguards, expanded Saturday pool hours at select locations through August 1, and the opening of the Cut Off Splash Pad. An update was given on summer programming, noting that camps and the Summer Sports Challenge are concluding in July after serving more than 900 youth and 500 teens daily. Teen stipend payments are underway, and the fifth annual Teen Council College Tour will take place July 13–17 with support from the Wisner Foundation. Commissioners were also reminded that applications for after-school program partners remain open through July 17. The Maintenance Division reported completion of eight infrastructure improvement projects totaling approximately \$66,000 over the past month and provided updates on ongoing repairs at several recreation centers and aquatic facilities, including Joe W. Brown, George V. Rainey, Lyons, AL Davis, and Federal City pools. Finance and Administration presented a mid-year budget update, reporting expenditures remaining below budget due to ongoing fiscal constraints and the citywide hiring freeze. Through June 22, NORD generated approximately \$156,000 in self-generated revenue, with facility rentals and tennis operations remaining the primary revenue sources.

XI. CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT

- **Report from the Director of Capital Projects, Jerry Harris**

Projects under construction include the Cutoff splash pad, which was officially completed last week, so that one will be coming off of our list. It is not part of the project, but the Algiers Development District is working with Landis on the fringes to facilitate some of the things with the utilities. They're still doing a lot of the electrical work with the intent should have that complete by September early October. The Carver zone project we're working trying to get this closed out with the contractor, there are just a couple of things that we still feel need to be dressed that we didn't want to turn the building over to NORD now, but hopefully by the end of this month that will be completely turned back in. The Village De L'Est splash pad we are anticipating July 8. There was a valve malfunction and then they added an extra overflow drain so that if the system is not operating the water doesn't stand on the pad itself. The anticipation that this will be completed within the next two weeks. Sampson playground work moving forward with the next parts of their construction and everything that they can do at this point that does not interfere with the pool. The Harvard playground had an issue with the first bidder, so we had worked with the purchasing department to move on with the second-place bidder so that contract should be routing no later than Monday we got all the information from the second-place contractor and that will be moving forward. That's a big part of that is a turf. Pecan Grove project is currently on hold from a design standpoint; we're just looking for additional funding right now to handle that which is about \$15,000 to finish. The Richard Lee project notice to proceed with the construction documents is anticipated and adjusted the date here from tomorrow until next week due to discussions about what work was there, what was added to the project, if it was additional service, etc. This is a funding project grant from CIF fund that has been pulled off the table. We're adjusting the date on the next project milestone for the Sam Bonnard project as this took a little longer to get the info back for the site testing from geotechnical engineering so we're pushing this back with construction documents completed around August 7 instead of July 30 but other than that everything else is moving forward with that project.

XII. CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTERS

There was no consideration of any matters to report.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

New Orleans residents Connie Burkes presented a letter to the Commissioners and asked for the pool at Federal City to be open on Sundays. New Orleans resident Renard Thomas asked several questions of the commissioners, such as preventative maintenance on projects, grass cutting contractors not cutting properly, and requested every commissioner to take a bus tour of all rec centers and parks.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Walker adjourned the commission meeting to transition into the Personnel / Human Resources committee meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.