

**MINUTES OF  
LAKEFRONT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
RECREATION/SUBDIVISION COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019**

PRESENT: Vice Chair Dawn Hebert  
Commissioner Roy Arrigo  
Commissioner Robert Romero

ABSENT: Commissioner Rodger Wheaton

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The Recreation/Subdivision Committee of the Lakefront Management Authority met on Thursday, April 25, 2019, in the Lakefront Airport Terminal Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Center, 6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Opening Comments:** Two new agenda items: New Basin Canal Park & Employment Development Services Inc, (EDS).

**Adoption of Agenda:** Motion to adopt the agenda by Commissioner Romero, seconded by Commissioner Arrigo, and all were in favor. The agenda was adopted.

**Public Comments:**

- Mr. Octave Rainey requested to reserve his comments until the discussion.
- Ms. Ann Duffy, Lake Oaks Neighborhood Association President, stated that a neighbor recommended that the Agency build a playground area for the children at Lake Oaks Park. Ms. Duffy invited the woman to attend the committee meeting, however, she declined. Ms. Duffy told the woman that she would make the request to the board on her behalf. Mr. Louis Capo, Executive Director, stated that the Lakefront Management Authority doesn't have any type of recreational equipment in passive parks. He commented that the Committee would consider her recommendation. A question was raised about insurance and liability on the playground equipment. Mr. Capo explained that the Agency does have general liability (blanket coverage) for playground equipment along Lakeshore Drive.

## **Director's Report:**

Louis Capó, Executive Director, stated that he briefly wanted to speak about Lakeshore Drive, however, there was a more prominent agenda item that needed to be discussed. He stated that a few of the representatives for the contractors that worked that weekend picking up trash were present at the meeting.

## **Old Business:**

- **Fountain Renovations:**

Mr. Louis Capó, Executive Director, stated that a new pump was supposed to be placed in the Lake Terrace Fountain. He deferred to Felton Suthon, Director of Engineering and Operations, who reported that the Lake Terrace Fountain was repaired and is operational. The contractors are troubleshooting some electrical issues. He is hoping to complete this project sooner than later. For the Four Winds Fountain, the contractor is onboard for Phase I; refurbishment of the foundation. Once Phase I is complete, Phase II will begin; making the fountain operational. When the Lake Terrace Fountain is fully repaired, he will tackle repairing the Mardi Gras Fountain.

- **Shelter Renovations:**

Mr. Capó stated that bathroom renovations are being performed on Shelter 1. He mentioned that the Agency is receiving frequent requests for permits to rent the shelters on the weekends. Mr. Capó stated that the bathrooms work in Shelters 2 and 3 but the bathrooms in Shelter 4 are non-functional. Chair Hebert asked if the gates on Shelter 1 were ever going to be opened. Mr. Capó commented that the gates were opened on Shelter 2, however, he is uncertain of why the gates aren't open on Shelter 1. Based on his understanding, the police close and lock the bathrooms at Shelters 2 and 3 nightly. He assumed that the police open the gates on Shelter 1. Mr. Capó stated that he will investigate this issue and if the police need approval or authorization to open the gates, then the Agency can grant permission.

Felton Suthon stated that repainting the bathroom floors of the shelters make the floors look more presentable. The bathrooms in Shelter 1 are 50% operational, and Mr. Suthon is attempting to obtain bathroom fixtures. He explained that each shelter has a sewer tank and each sewer tank comes with a motor from a control systems company in Jackson, Mississippi. He believes that the sewer tank and motor in Shelter 1 is operational, however, he noticed a red light on the motor, and he is concerned that it may be an electrical issue. The sewer tank and motor are operational in Shelter 2. Shelter 3 has an electrical issue with the motor. The motor is "tripping off" which means that the holding tank is full. He is concerned that the tank may overflow. Felton stated that he is going to

attempt to work with the company in Mississippi, but if he can't then he will have a local company come out and inspect it. Shelter 4 is running a water connection from a hydrant attached to the back of the shelter to a valve, but not connected to the actual shelter yet. Felton is unsure of why the water connection was attached in this way. The water line is not live in Shelter 4. Mr. Suthon stated that he is working on ideas to prevent the motors from being damaged.

## **New Business:**

### **A. Discussion regarding status of Lakefront for past and upcoming holidays.**

Mr. Louis Capo stated that he received information from the Levee District police that 36 police officers worked on Easter Sunday; two command staffs, five NOPD mounted police officers, four OLDPD motorcycle units (three full-time officers and one reserve police officer), 12 OLD police officers (eight OLD reserve officers and four East Jefferson reserve officers). Mr. Louis Capo stated that Chief Najolia will be at the board meeting that evening to speak about the weekend's events.

Mr. Louis Capo explained that the police closed lanes along Lakeshore Drive, traveling from the East to the West, to divert some of the traffic off Lakeshore Drive because it was deemed a "safety issue" by police. The Chair raised the issue that the police were diverting traffic into the neighborhoods/subdivisions which caused the community members to call and complain. The Chair stated that the Agency had over 45 officers working that weekend, the flow of traffic should have been better. Mr. Capo reiterated that Chief Najolia will be present at the board meeting to provide the Board with a more extensive update and more clarification on the weekend's events.

Mr. Capo reminded the Committee that Mother's Day is another big holiday for Lakeshore Drive. He stated that the police would follow a similar traffic control plan for this holiday. So, if there needs to be any alterations to the plans, then it needs to be worked out in the next couple of weeks. A member of the Committee summarized the issue by saying, "the traffic became congested, so the police diverted some of it to lighten up the traffic, and then they allowed the traffic to flow." Mr. Capo agreed and stated that was correct based on his understanding.

### **B. Parking Lanes along Lakeshore Drive:**

Commissioner Arrigo stated that the contractors working on the seawall were instructed by the Board to keep both lanes open on the weekends. Felton Suthon stated that he will convey this message to the necessary parties. Commissioner Arrigo suggested that maybe the contractors just need a reminder that no lanes should be restricted on the weekends.

### **Public Comment:**

Mr. Octave Rainey stated that he doesn't understand why the Agency's police force can't handle traffic control and something is "seriously wrong" with their methods. He mentioned that there are only four times out of the year (Easter, The 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day) that Lakeshore Drive is bombarded with this type of traffic. Mr. Rainey commented that the public's perception is that the agency is discriminating against the residents in the East. He suggested that Chief Najolia should attend the Recreation/Subdivision committee meetings to answer the public's questions about traffic control. Mr. Louis Capo stated that he would pass along Mr. Rainey's recommendations to Chief Najolia. Mr. Capo stated that he welcomed the public's opinions on traffic control, so that the agency can make the necessary improvements and adjustments.

### **C. Discussion of lighting along the pathways of New Basin Canal Park:**

Commissioner Arrigo stated that he was tasked by the Recreation/Subdivision committee to oversee the lighting in the pathways along the New Basin Canal Park because of his relationship with the Friends of Lakeview, who are funding part of the project. He commented on the struggles of the initial stages of the project. However, in January, there was a breakthrough on the project and since then it has been progressing well. He stated that he lived close by the park and he recently went walking through and believes that the lights look nice, however, they aren't lit yet. He believes that most of the lights are up. He spoke with the Engineer on the project, and he was told that the company is on track. He described the lights as a "French Quarter style." He stated that the lights will be lit around the beginning of the summer.

### **D. Discussion of Employment Development Services Inc, (EDS):**

Kevin Gray, Regional Manager for EDS, stated that about a year ago (2018) during Easter holiday the trash pick-up got "out of hand." Mr. Gray stated that they sat down with Mr. Noel (Former Director) and created a separate trash pick-up plan for holidays. He stated that part of the plan was to increase the number of workers over a three-day period' Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. A test run of the plan was initiated last year (2018) on Mother's Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and Labor Day.

Mr. Gray stated that the biggest hinderances this past weekend were the winds on Friday and Saturday, and the birds. He stated that even though the trash cans were weighed down, it still couldn't withstand the 20 miles per hour winds. He explained that on Saturday the workers attempted to compensate by distributing trash bags to groups of people. Mr. Gray stated that they filled up 3 or 4 large dumpsters (approximately 600 trash bags) just on Monday. On Monday at 2:00 P.M., the company had 40 workers cleaning up trash in Shelters 3 and 4, which are the most heavily used areas.

Chair Hebert stated that the company's decision to pick up the trash on Saturday and Sunday instead of waiting until Monday morning made a huge difference. She complimented the company on distributing trash bags to the public. Commissioner Romero stated that the public seems to approve of the Agency's traffic control and trash pick-up because they are attending the Agency's parks. Mr. Louis Capo stated that the Agency is charged the special rate between \$4,000 - \$5,000 for special holiday events.

- **Announcement of next Recreation/Subdivision Committee Meeting:**

- 1) **Tuesday, May 14, 2019 – 4:30 PM**

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned.