

**MINUTES OF
LAKEFRONT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
RECREATION/SUBDIVISION COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021**

PRESENT: Chair Bob Romero
Vice Chair Esmond Carr
Commissioner Stanley Brien
Commissioner Dawn Hebert (*left at approximately 5:40 PM)
Commissioner Eugene Green

STAFF: Louis Capó – Executive Director
Madison Bonaventure – Assistant to the Executive Director
Daniel Hill – Director of Engineering & Operations

PUBLIC: Capt. Michael Brenckle – OLDPD
Mark Clark – Gulf Coast Media
David Francis – LMA Vice Chair
Wilma Heaton – LMA Chair
Jim Moriarty – Ancient Order of the Hibernians of Louisiana, Inc.
Supt. Kerry Najolia - OLDPD

The Recreation/Subdivision Committee of the Lakefront Management Authority met on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, via Zoom and livestreamed for public view at [Lakefront Management Authority - YouTube](#) after due legal notice of the meeting was sent to each Board member and the news media and posted. Certification pursuant to LA Rev. Stat. 42:17.1 (ACT NO. 302, 2020 REGULAR LEGISLATIVE SESSION) was distributed.

Chair Romero called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM, and Commissioner Brien led in the pledge of allegiance. Executive Director Capó called the roll, and a quorum was present.

Opening Comments:

Chair Romero remarked that the Committee had not met in a couple months. Chair Romero reminded the Committee that the various cut-throughs, alleyways, and servitudes in the lakefront neighborhoods were all legally defined differently and thus the LMA’s obligations vary.

He announced that the LMA had been notified that Lakeshore Drive would be closed for the Mardi Gras holiday weekend. He mentioned that representatives from OLDPD were on the call to discuss the closure of Lakeshore Drive for the Mardi Gras holiday weekend to mitigate large gatherings as was the case for other major thoroughfares in the city.

Capt. Michael Brenckle said that after conferring with NOPD’s 3rd District Commander and other city officials, it was the city’s wish to close the lakefront as it had closed other major thoroughfares and congregation points to prevent gatherings. He said that there had been discussions on social media about large gatherings so OLDPD was planning accordingly so Mardi Gras weekend was not a “super spreader” event at the lakefront.

Supt. Najolia said OLDPD's decision to close the lakefront was consistent with the Governor's and Mayor's wishes for public safety, and they looked forward to reopening Lakeshore Drive safely so citizens could enjoy it in 2021.

Chair Romero thanked Supt. Najolia and Capt. Brenckle.

Director Capo added that a production company would be using a part of Shelter 1 on Lakeshore Drive, and they were working with Lt. Bruno Mason to gain access during the closure.

Chair Romero explained that the film industry had strict COVID-19 restrictions in place.

Motion to Adopt Agenda:

A motion was offered by Commissioner Brien, seconded by Commissioner Carr, was unanimously adopted, to adopt the agenda.

Motion to Approve Minutes:

A motion was offered by Commissioner Brien, seconded by Commissioner Carr, and was unanimously adopted, to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2020 meeting.

Public Comments:

Jim Moriarty, of the Ancient Order of the Hibernians of Louisiana, Inc., gave an update on the Hibernian Memorial Park:

- All artworks were removed from the site prior to the agreed upon deadline.
- The organization was still pursuing funding through a Capital Outlay request with the State of Louisiana.
- They organized a campaign for Give NOLA Day, and early giving would begin in the middle of April 2021.

Chair Romero suggested that the Ancient Order of the Hibernians, Inc. report to the Committee less frequently.

New Business:

1) Discussion regarding landscape debris dumping in subdivision parks.

Tom Long, a Lake Vista resident, submitted his comments in writing: "The pile of debris on Nasturtium Lane in Foliage Park has been there since Zeta. The adjacent neighbors took it upon themselves to rake and pick up the debris in the surrounding area and pile it all up to save time and effort for the eventual debris pickup crews. Nothing has been added to this pile of debris since then. Commissioner Stan Brien lives right there and can attest to this. The suggestion or accusation that lawn trimmings and waste have been added to this pile recently is simply false. This falls under the rule of 'no good deed goes unpunished'."

Director Capo said he had spoken to Mr. Long and would remedy the issue.

Chair Romero showed photos of another refuse site on Nasturtium lane where landscape waste had been deposited after a cleanup had been performed.

Mr. Hill said that landscaping refuse happened in several locations in the public parks. He cited one example where fragments of what appeared to be terra cotta pipe had been discarded in a pile of landscape waste.

Commissioner Hebert offered that the City of New Orleans could assist.

Mr. Hill said landscaping waste will be picked up by the sanitation pickups performed by the City of New Orleans or its contractors if placed on the curb properly.

2) Discussion regarding the electric vaults located in the parks within Lake Vista.

Photos of an Entergy gas structure were shown. The photos showed trees growing around the building that were impacting the structure. Chair Romero explained that it was not Entergy's responsibility to perform small scale landscaping, but it was his opinion that it was their responsibility to ensure the building was serviceable since it was in a public area.

Vice Chair Carr indicated that it was the Entergy's position that the land the structure was on was under the LMA's purview and inquired what the LMA's position was regarding its responsibility to maintain the landscaping surrounding the gas structure. Chair Romero offered that the trees likely occurred naturally, and the operability was Entergy's responsibility.

Vice Chair Carr said it was Entergy's opinion that the trees were the responsibility of the landowner (Orleans Levee District). He said that Entergy would remedy any emergency issues. He said he was not confident that Entergy would accept responsibility for the removal of the trees.

Vice Chair Carr reported a broken tree near an Entergy structure at Rail Street and Lakeshore Drive. Mr. Hill said staff would investigate.

Vice Chair Carr expressed that community members have reported violations of building restrictions or zoning ordinances, and he explained that the LMA was not an enforcement arm for those issues.

Director Capo said that the LMA could write letters to the Department of Safety and Permits to support community members, and the LMA's obligation was to issue a Letter of No Objection when exterior construction was to be performed. Chair Romero added that the City of New Orleans ultimately issues a permit and ensures that a structure is built to the plans provided.

Mr. Hill suggested that the LMA could file suit against homeowners to remedy issues if finances allowed and if the City of New Orleans was not able to remedy the issues with their enforcement arm.

3) Discussion regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Recreation/Subdivision Budgets.

Chair Romero said that staff had sent a draft budget to the Committee.

Director Capo said after speaking to the Finance Committee Chair, Commissioner Bruno, they decided that the Finance Committee will host a special meeting to perform the budget hearings beginning at 2:30 PM on March 11, 2021. He said that it will allow Commissioners to ask questions about the budget before it is presented at the Board Meeting.

Vice Chair Carr asked if renovations had been budgeted for the Lake Vista Community Center. Director Capo said that it had been.

Mr. Hill said that the new roof for the LVCC would cost around \$250,000 and was budgeted.

Commissioner Hebert asked about the increase in temporary salaries by 200%. Director Capo said that additional help through Weststaff was hired throughout the current year, and so more temporary labor was budgeted.

She inquired about the increase in personnel services. Director Capo indicated that the number was a salary allocation and did not represent individual salaries. He said that he would investigate to ensure the salary allocation was totaling properly as the personnel services seemed higher. He indicated that it was staff's first attempt at assembling the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Budget.

Announcement of next Regular Recreation/Subdivision Committee Meeting:

1) Tuesday, March 16, 2021– 4:30 P.M.

Adjourn:

A motion was offered by Commissioner Carr, seconded by Commissioner Green, and unanimously adopted, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 P.M.