

**MINUTES OF
LAKEFRONT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
RECREATION/SUBDIVISION SPECIAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021**

PRESENT: Chair Bob Romero
Vice Chair Esmond Carr
Commissioner Stan Brien

ABSENT: Commissioner Eugene Green
Commissioner Dawn Hebert

STAFF: Louis Capo – Executive Director
Madison Bonaventure – Assistant to the Executive Director/Board Secretary
Daniel Hill – Director of Engineering & Operations

PUBLIC: Betty Tedesco – Lake Vista Property Owners Association
Wilma Heaton– LMA Chair

The Recreation/Subdivision Committee of the Lakefront Management Authority met on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, in the Lakefront Airport Terminal Building, 2nd Floor Conference Center, 6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, Louisiana.

Chair Romero called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. and Commissioner Brien led in the pledge of allegiance. Louis Capo, Executive Director, called the roll. A quorum was present.

Opening Comments:

Chair Romero that it had been a busy month for the recreation aspects of the LMA.

He remarked that Jim Moriarty, of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and Cleveland Spears, of the Spears Group and Festivals for Good, had connected and were considering hosting a St. Patrick's Day festival in the future. He recalled that there was an Irish heritage festival in City Park in the past.

Chair Romero explained that the LMA voluntarily gave additional human resources and sanitation services for the Easter holiday, and suggested that it was a successful pilot for Mother's Day festivities which has historically been the busiest day of the year.

Motion to Adopt Agenda:

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

Motion to Approve Minutes:

A motion was offered by Commissioner Carr, seconded by Commissioner Brien, and unanimously adopted to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2021 meeting.

Commissioner Carr commented that he had the Airport Committee minutes erroneously

attached to his packet but stated that the minutes that were transmitted in advance of the meeting via email were correctly written.

Public Comments:

Betty Tedesco, of the Lake Vista Property Owners' Association, introduced herself to the Committee. She offered three items that the LVPOA believed needed to be addressed:

- She believed the cut-throughs need to be mitigated in Lake Vista, whether that be due to encroachment by homeowners or natural causes.
- The bus shelters needed refurbishment.
- Some subdivision signs needed attention.

Mr. Hill advised that staff had prepared a sign inventory and staff's intention was to quantify the issue and move forward with repairs in the future. Chair Romero thought it was a step in the right direction.

He advised that pricing was obtained for refurbishment of the shelters, and it was included as an item in the Capital Improvement Budget. He also advised that with the very limited LMA maintenance crews that priorities can rapidly change, and with limited resources it has been difficult to assess and remedy cut-throughs.

Chair Romero said that the Lake Vista Garden Club had replaced some internal signs within the subdivision.

Director's Report:

Director Capo reported that staff contracted with NOPD for four mounted police officers, two ambulances, additional shelter cleaning, and additional trash pickup services.

He explained that the LMA's purview regarding the management of Lakeshore Drive was providing a healthy environment for visitors. He estimated the cost was approximately \$8,000-\$10,000 for holiday weekend preparations.

He said that when he visited the lakefront after the Easter holiday, it appeared that members of the public tried their best to dispose of their trash.

Chair Romero asked about disposable trash cans. Mr. Hill advised that pricing was most competitive through their existing contract with ARC, via Employment Development Services, who performs the trash pick up services.

Director Capo believed that more disposable trash cans may be necessary and discussed various options that may be more economical and effective.

Director Capo understood that traffic flow was also an issue and reminded the Committee that the LMA does not design or implement traffic safety plans. He advised that AECOM performed the traffic study for the Flood Protection Authority's (FPA) Lakeshore Drive Roadway Reconfiguration Project.

Commissioner Carr clarified that the study was only for the area of Lakeshore Drive near the restaurants, and they did not perform studies down the entire roadway. Director Capo confirmed that was the case.

Director Capo said there were three incidents reported along Lakeshore Drive on Easter:

- There was a report of shots fired.
- There was a fight between two families.
- There was an individual recklessly riding a dirt bike who was injured and apprehended.

He said it was his understanding that when the incidents took place, OLDPD shut down the roadway for public safety purposes.

The Committee discussed Lakeshore Drive parking lot closures by OLDPD and expressed concern.

Mr. Hill discussed maintenance items. He said that staff would attempt to resolve some minor flooding issues with grading around Shelter No. 1, but the area was still under study by the FPA.

He informed the Committee that staff had obtained pricing for painting for Shelters Nos. 1,2, and 4. He believed the cost for repainting each shelter would cost between \$8,000-\$10,000 each. Mr. Hill informed the Committee of other shelter maintenance items.

He advised that there was a surge in interest and demand for shelter rental bookings. Director Capo said that the shelters were now a flat \$500.00 as staff was implementing more cleaning services and no longer charging a damage deposit. Commissioner Romero asked what a shelter rental cost at City Park. Mr. Hill and Director Capo advised that the shelters cost \$800.00 at City Park.

Director Capo advised that only Shelters Nos. 2 and 3 were available for shelter rental services. Mr. Hill said that the maintenance department is educating employees on best practices and implementing new procedures to successfully prepare shelters for rentals.

Old Business:

1)Discussion on Mother's Day preparations for parks and shelters.

Director Capo said that additional trash cans would be placed in the parking lot, and the additional port-o-lets would remain.

He added that staff would proceed with hiring additional ambulances and mounted police as Mother's Day has been historically the most visited day of the year for the lakefront.

2)Update on festival, produced by the Spears Group, between Shelter No. 3 and No. 4 (October 2021).

Director Capo informed the Committee that the location agreement had been negotiated with Mr. Spears' firm in consultation with the LMA's legal counsel, Mr. Gerard Metzger, and the

LMA's real estate consultant, Mr. Al Pappalardo. He said the agreement was acceptable, and staff was ready to proceed.

Chair Romero asked if Director Capo was going to circulate the agreement before the Board Meeting. Director Capo said he would. Chair Romero added that he had been copied on communications with Mr. Spears, and he had offered feedback in which Mr. Spears had applied and incorporated into the location agreement.

Director Capo said that the location fee was \$15,000. Chair Romero added that the costs of security and production of the event would be the responsibility of Mr. Spears' firm. He remarked that if the festival were to be successful, it could be a blueprint for other festivals in the future. Chair Heaton added that any event that happens on the lakefront needed to be sensitive to proper traffic planning and nearby communities.

Director Capo offered that the parking by the University of New Orleans Arena made the location feasible. Chair Romero noted that there was also a buffer created by the arena and commercial businesses that may be beneficial.

Director Capo believed Mr. Spears was a responsible operator and had confidence in his firm's abilities.

Chair Romero suggested circulating the agreement to the entire Committee. Director Capo offered that staff could incorporate feedback received by members of the Committee.

Director Capo advised the Committee that the Board Meeting may be deferred by one week so the Board could review and accept the lowest responsible and responsive bidder for the Runway 9-27 Decommissioning Project. He explained that this would avoid calling an additional Special Board Meeting. He offered that the Committee may have additional time to review the location agreement if the meeting was deferred. Mr. Hill advised that the usual FAA grant acceptance deadline was June 15 each year, but due to the initiatives in motion by the new presidential administration, the deadline was accelerated to May 3, 2021.

Commissioner Carr clarified that Chair Romero was recommending that the location agreement be advanced to the full Board without formal recommendation from the Committee. He was under the impression that the Committee would be giving a formal recommendation.

Chair Heaton said that staff would be distributing the agreement for their review and input. Commissioner Carr did not feel like that was equivalent to calling a vote on the issue. She advised that the Recreation/Subdivision Committee could call a Special Meeting before the Board Meeting to discuss and vote on a recommendation.

Director Capo said that Commissioners could also meet with him to address any concerns.

Commissioner Carr did not feel that reviewing the location agreement was satisfactory in vetting the issue because the Committee could not say it voted to recommend it.

Chair Heaton offered that if there were issues with the location agreement, it may not pass.

Commissioner Carr felt like the location agreement could have been distributed and voted on at the April Committee meeting. She advised that she was unaware the agreement was ready in advance of the Committee meeting, but staff would distribute it.

New Business:

1) Motion to recommend approval of a contract with C.T. Traina for an amount not-to-exceed \$28,997.00 for water service connection at Shelter No. 4.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Brien, seconded by Commissioner Carr, and was unanimously adopted to recommend approval of a contract with C.T. Traina for an amount not-to-exceed \$28,997.00 for water service connection at Shelter No. 4.

Mr. Hill explained that Shelter No. 4 had not had water service connection for several years. He explained that repairs that are expected to be under \$25,000 are initiated by having prospective contractors meet with the LMA's Facility Maintenance Manager to discuss the scope of the project.

He advised that the project would reinstate water connection and have a new water meter installed at the site.

He explained that because the project was over \$25,000, he required the lowest quoting firm to add a performance bond as required by law as well as approval from the Board.

Commissioner Carr confirmed that the scope of work was discussed during an on-site visit. Mr. Hill confirmed that was the case as the scope of work was clear since the water service line had a termination point, required the establishment of a back flow preventer, and discussed other details regarding the scope of the work.

2) Discussion regarding an IDIQ contract for emergency debris removal services.

Mr. Hill advised that the Committee that an advertisement would be published soon for emergency debris removal services for events such as storms. He said that the contract would be FEMA-compliant so costs could be reimbursed in the future if the events qualified.

He advised that they would also be advertising for debris monitoring services as well. He noted that requirements would be in place in the contracts to protect the integrity of the parks, such as prohibition of certain types of equipment to prevent rutting and tree damage.

He informed the Committee that the Board may need to establish a spending policy for this type of work because the contract would be of indefinite quantity.

Mr. Hill said that the contract would compel the contractor to mobilize within 48 hours. Director Capo added that the agreement would allow staff to be more agile in responding to emergency events.

Announcement of next Regular Recreation/Subdivision Committee Meeting:

1) Tuesday, May 18, 2021– 4:30 P.M.

Adjourn:

A motion was offered by Commissioner Carr, seconded by Commissioner Brien, and unanimously adopted, to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 P.M.