

**MINUTES OF  
LAKEFRONT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
SPECIAL NOMINATION COMMITTEE  
HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022**

PRESENT: Chair Howard Rodgers (nominee for Secretary of the Board)  
Vice-Chair Stan Brien  
Commissioner Patricia Meadowcroft  
Commissioner Sandra Thomas  
Commissioner Adonis Exposé (Arrived at 12:07 PM)

STAFF: Louis Capó – Executive Director  
Vanessa McKee – Assistant to the Executive Director

ALSO

PRESENT: Gerard G. Metzger – Legal Counsel to the Board  
Chair Anthony Richard - Board Nominee for Chairman  
Commissioner Brian Egana - Board Nominee for Chairman  
Vice-Chair Esmond Carr – Board Nominee for Vice-Chair  
Jose Parado – Lake Oaks Civic Association, Treasurer  
Phalon Cornist – Lake Oaks Civic Assn. President  
Dana Bix - Resident  
Harold Matherne - Resident  
Ray Landeche – Lake Shore President

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The Special Nomination Committee of the Lakefront Management Authority met on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport at 6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.

**I. Call to Order**

**Chair Rodgers** called the meeting to order at 12:02 P.M.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**Commissioner Meadowcroft** led in the pledge of allegiance.

**III. Roll Call**

**Director Capó** called the roll; four commissioners were present, and a quorum was present.

**IV. Opening Comments from Chair Rodgers/Commissioners:**

**Chair Rodgers'** opening comments addressed the purpose of the nomination committee is to come up with a recommendation for the officers of the board for the 2023 calendar year. He

stated that he is the current Secretary of the board and will recuse himself during the discussion of nomination for secretary for 2023.

**Gerry Metzger** advised the committee of the rules for nominations under Robert's Rule of Order.

- Any person could nominate themselves for office.
- If a person nominates another person; you don't need a second. The nomination would be on the floor
- This Nomination Committee's role is to recommend nominees to the board. However, nominations could be made on the floor at the board meeting.

**Chair Rodgers** stated that in this process, the board has already submitted nominations for consideration.

The nominees for Chairman of The Board are:

- Chair Anthony Richard
- Commissioner Brian Egana

The Nominee for Vice-Chair is:

- Vice-Chair Esmond Carr

The nominee for Secretary of the Board is:

- Secretary Howard Rodgers

**Chair Rodgers** asked the Nomination Committee to say a few words after hearing public comments after which we will determine our recommendations.

#### **V. Motion to Adopt Agenda:**

**Chair Rodgers** called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

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

#### **VI. Public Comments:**

**Mr. José Parado**, Lake Oaks resident and Treasurer of the Civic Association stated that the Ponchartrain Beach Foundation previously met with his neighborhood's civic association regarding their lease. He stated that he isn't against the project; however, he does not feel the PBF has addressed any of the community's concerns.

Mr. Parado also stated that last year, the LMA committed to cleaning up the alleyways three to four times per year. This has not been done timely, the bushes are completely overgrown, and it has become a nuisance for the residents to pass through.

**Chair Rodgers** invited Mr. Parado to come back to the full board meeting to address his concerns during the public comment period of the meeting.

**Chair Rodgers** acknowledged that Commissioner Adonis Exposé had arrived at the meeting at 12:07 PM.

**Ray Landeche** Lakeshore president addressed the nomination committee and expressed that his community was not in support of Commissioner Carr's nomination as Vice-Chair or any other position of leadership on the board. He further stated that the Lakeshore community was in support of Anthony Richard as continuing Chair and Commissioner Brian Egana would be a great Vice-Chair.

## **VII. New Business**

- 1) Discussion and recommendations on nominations for the annual election of Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary for the Lakefront Management Authority for a term of one (1) year starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

**Chair Rodgers** reiterated that in this process, the board has already submitted nominations for consideration.

### **The nominees for Chairman of The Board are:**

- Chair Anthony Richard
- Commissioner Brian Egana

### **The Nominee for Vice-Chair is:**

- Vice-Chair Esmond Carr

### **The nominee for Secretary of the Board is:**

- Secretary Howard Rodgers

**Chair Rodgers** asked each of the nomination committee members if they had any initial comments.

**Commissioner Meadowcroft** stated that she did not have any initial comments

**Commissioner Brien** stated that he wanted to go on the record to say that he has been on the board for several years and though it's been a long time coming the board is positioned for a lot of good things. The coming year could be pivotal. Moving forward, the composition of the board would do well to have both a steady hand and new ideas. He also felt that beyond this slate of board officers, he would urge the same going into the next year with committees as well.

**Commissioner Thomas** stated that although she was new to the board, she felt that this was a slate of candidates and wanted to see the process play out.

**Commissioner Exposé** stated that he was also new to the board and this process. He has seen some things on the board that he is currently evaluating for himself.

**Chair Rodgers** stated that he placed Mr. Richard's name and Mr. Carr's name for nomination for reelection for continuity's sake. He's been on the board for the last four years. He has looked back at what has transpired over the last year; especially from some of the former board members and various communications we have received. He felt that the current leadership that can go into the next phase. He believes in finishing what you've started.

He stated that going into next year a huge topic will be completing the lease for Parcel-L. The SW&B bill will be another huge topic of discussion. Chair Rodgers stated that he feels that the present leadership complements each other aside from the controversy. From his observation, he feels that there is a "checks and balance" between the two and he would like to see them reelected as chair and vice-chair.

He closed by stating that his comments were in no way a slight to Mr. Egana whom he has known for several years and is also a suitable candidate for chair. However, the final decision relies upon a vote by the full board.

**Chair Rodgers** asked Mr. Metzger if the nomination committee had to make a recommendation to the full board at this time.

**Mr. Metzger** replied in the affirmative. He advised the committee that there is a motion to recommend nominees for office seats on the floor. You'll need a second then the committee would vote to recommend your selected candidates or office. However, if you don't have a majority vote then it would go to the board without a recommendation.

**Chair Rodgers** recognized that all three candidates were present and considered it a personal privilege to invite each candidate to address the committee.

**Commissioner Brian Egana** stated that he considered it an honor to find out that he was nominated for chairman and thanked the nomination committee for the opportunity to address the panel regarding his nomination.

**Commissioner Egana** expressed to the committee panel that he has served on numerous boards and commissions over the last 20 years. In comparison, he felt that one of the initial differences of this board was the lack of effective communication by the current leadership. Since his appointment to the board in February, he stated that no one has ever reached out to him to get acquainted and learn how his skillset could be an asset to the board and organization. He felt that continuity could be an issue in this board's future progress.

**Commissioner Egana** stated that he reached out to Chair Richard shortly before today's meeting as well as other colleagues on this board to express his views. Since his appointment to this board, he has done his best to ask important questions at meetings to get a clear understanding of the organization's current standing and the work yet to be accomplished. He said that he understands the different leadership styles but feels that a change is necessary for the board and organization to grow in a positive direction.

He has been in leadership positions on every board he has served on.

- He served on the NORD Commission where he was initially appointed by Mayor Mitch Landrieu. He was then appointed as Chair of Recreation under Mayor Cantrell's leadership in 2016 where he recently resigned in June of this year.
- He served on the Charter School Board from 2010 – 2018 where he served as Vice-Chair and Chairperson from 2014 – 2018.

He sees a good collective of commissioners who have been appointed to serve on this board yet felt that their talents are underutilized.

**Commissioner Egana** closed by sharing his experience from a previous board meeting. He shared some of his ideas and best practices that he felt could be useful to this board which seemed well received by the other board members. The chairperson's response was that since he became chair, he's been busy putting out fires. While Commissioner Egana understood the importance of putting out fires, he stated there is still other work to be done.

**Commissioner Egana** invited questions and looks forward to having a real dialogue to get to know our board members. He said he wants to offer his 20-plus years of service in leadership on boards and commissions, an understanding of the difference between governance and management, and an understanding of the role of the chairperson to appoint people to lead committees.

**Chair Rodgers** asked the panel for any questions they may have for Commissioner Egana. Hearing none; asked for the next candidate for Chair.

**Commissioner Richard** stated that when put in a position to serve as chairman, he believed that God put him there for a reason. He accepted his appointment without hesitation and took it seriously. He served on his first board back in 1974 where he held executive director positions at two corporations simultaneously and has served on several other boards over the years. He stated that he has served on one board for over 15 years. He gained experience concerning the roles of board members by attending numerous trainings and workshops over the years. More recently, within the last ten years, he has conducted board trainings on the roles of board members and how to interface with staff through the executive director.

**Commissioner Richard** referenced his conversation with Mr. Egana earlier that day, stating that he told him that he appreciated his call to express his opinion. He understood Mr. Egana's position and accepted it as part of the role of chairman. He further explained to the panel that it seems as though because he's not in agreement with back-door meetings and phone calls to board members alludes that he is incompetent. However, he has no doubt about his competency and further explained to Mr. Egana that his style is and remains that he is always open and available to all members for discussions and suggestions.

**Commissioner Richard** listed the accomplishments during his tenure in the last year. Regardless of the controversy, putting out numerous fires, and unfair attacks on staff, there have been many accomplishments through the diligent work of the board and staff to be proud of.

- Two major bids for two parcels of land that are currently under negotiation
- My personal recommendation to put aside \$40,000 into the budget to do work in the subdivisions
- Airport resulting in projects funded by the FAA has funded \$2.3 million dollars, state-funded \$1 million
- FEMA funded \$1.5 million received for repairs from H. ZETA and H. IDA
- We brought the CEO of SW&B to the table to resolve the issue of the high water bill, which contrary to the unfair attacks on staff, was the result of long-standing leakage. The CEO has agreed to work with us to come to a suitable repayment resolution.
- \$350,000 roof repair at Lake Vista Community Center.

**Commissioner Richard** closed by accepting his nomination for reelection as chairman of the board. He stated that although we have accomplished much there is still a lot more work to be done. His prayer remains that the new commissioners come on board with their expertise to support the mission of the board and the organization and that the board as a whole refrain from inappropriate meetings and calls in an effort to adhere to the public meeting policy.

**Chair Rodgers** called for questions for Commissioner Richard.

**Commissioner Meadowcroft** stated that she has three questions for both candidates that she will use to base her decision on a recommendation.

### 1. What achievement are you most proud of?

**Commissioner Egana** replied that being in a leadership position, he is most proud of utilizing his knowledge from years of service on boards and commissions to recommend and implement policies and protocols to improve troubled areas such as procurement, finances, and audits, within the organization.

**Commissioner Meadowcroft** paraphrased his response to say he is most proud of the impact you've had on every organization you've served on from a governance and leadership standpoint.

**Commissioner Ricard** replied to the same question stating that he is most proud that he was able to secure funding to keep the summer youth program going. Also having a lifelong impact on youth who participated in the program. Also, he stated that he as a board member of the TCA program was able to work to keep employees employed and able to retain their salaries during the length of Hurricane Katrina's shutdown.

**Commissioner Meadowcroft** paraphrased his response to say that he is most proud of your achievements in developing people and working with staff. She asked that Commissioner Richard answer the next question first.

**2. Besides your history of serving on other boards, what do you plan on bringing to this board in 2023? What differences will you bring?**

**Commissioner Richard** stated that he hopes to continue what he's started. He understands and plans to address and implement a culture change. He intends to continue to work to restore the trust and confidence of the board from our community and tenants and let them know that this body is here to serve them.

**Commissioner Egana's** response was that he is very familiar with our bylaws. He plans to request a review of all policies and protocols to refamiliarize and recommend best practices to put in place where needed. He also plans to have an evaluation done on the executive director by the end of the second quarter. He will direct staffing plans to accomplish ongoing projects. He would like to implement annual board retreats which are key to the development of a cohesive board.

**3. What is the benefit of your service on this board?**

**Commissioner Egana** stated that his personal benefit as a board member is knowing that he is an active part of the development process of rebuilding the community that he and his family lives in. It would also be a personal benefit to offer the community his decades of service so that hopefully when he departs, he will leave the agency better than when he came.

**Commissioner Richard** stated that he gets satisfaction from being able to offer his assistance, knowledge, and discernment to point out wherever he can to improve

**Commissioner Meadowcroft** thanked Chair Rodgers for allowing her to ask questions of the Chairman nominees.

**Chair Rodgers** asked for comments from Commissioner Esmond Carr.

**Commissioner Esmond Carr** thanked the nomination committee for the opportunity to speak of behalf of his nomination for reelection for Vice-Chair.

He said that this is very important work that benefits the community and thanked each board member for their service.

He appreciates the contrast and respects the differences between him and Chair Richard, but he hopes that 2023 proves to be successful in resolving the agency's issues. The board impasses a vast skillset and professional background that with increased participation from all of the committees would be a great aid in getting the work done. He looks forward to continuing to serve the community, this board and the organization.

**Chair Rodgers** called for questions and comments from the panel.

**Commissioner Meadowcroft** had questions for the Vice – Chair nominee who is running unopposed.

**1. Going forward, should you be reelected as Vice-Chair, what role would you play in ensuring that the organization moves on from where we are.**

**Commissioner Carr** said that he would like to reevaluate our policy and procedures and bylaws. He said it is very important to have it laid out so that everyone knows their roles and responsibilities and what the guidelines are. He feels this is key to understanding where we are, where we need to be, and how to get there.

**Commissioner Meadowcroft** agreed that it is important as well. She said that there are outside organizations to help guide us in the process. By soliciting the expertise of an outside organization to help you through that process you don't divide the board. You could go forward in a learning atmosphere rather than conflict.

**2. How are we going to resolve the conflict that has existed on the board this past year?**

**Commissioner Carr** stated that he hoped the board would focus on the board's tasks at hand as opposed to any perceived conflict. He has a hard time understanding entirely the divide on the board. However, he would like to focus more on the tasks before the board.

**3. As Vice-Chair, how are you going to ensure that that is the attitude of the board?**

**Commissioner Carr's** reply was to work more with the committee chairs to understand what our roles and responsibilities are as commissioners and really focus on tasks and not personal differences.

**Commissioner Meadowcroft** thanked Commissioner Carr for taking time to answer her questions.

**Chair Rodgers** stated that he has been in human services for over 45 years. He has taught at SUNO on two occasions and still refers to one of the courses that he taught. Human Behavior in a Social Environment which deals with how individuals interact with their environment and how their environment interacts with the tasks they take. Being on this board for the last three years, he has had the opportunity to see the interactions of this board. He sees that there is change, which takes time, and hopes to be able to continue to help and serve in this capacity going forward.

**Chair Rodgers** called for motions:

**1. Motion for a recommendation for the Chairperson of the Lakefront Management Authority.**

Commissioner Brien moved to nominate Anthony Richard as chairperson and was seconded by Commissioner Thomas.



**Chair Rodgers** called for discussion. Hearing none called for a vote. All were in favor.

**Chair Rodgers** stated that Chair Anthony Richard has been recommended as Chairperson.

**2. Motion for a recommendation for the Vice-Chair of the Lakefront Management Authority.**

Commissioner Brien moved to nominate Esmond Carr as Vice-Chair which was seconded by Commissioner Thomas.

**Chair Rodgers** called for discussion. Hearing none called for a vote.

A majority of three out of five members voted to recommend Esmond Carr for Vice-Chair of the board.

**3. Motion for a recommendation for the Secretary of the Board of the Lakefront Management Authority.**

**Chair Rodgers recused himself from the recommendation for Secretary of the Board and opened the floor for nominations.**

Commissioner Thomas moved to nominate Howard Rodgers as Secretary of the board which was seconded by Commissioner Exposé.

**Chair Rodgers** called for discussion. Hearing none called for a vote. All were in favor to recommend Commissioner Howard Rodgers for Secretary of the Board.

**Chair Rodgers** announced that we have a slate of officers to be recommended to the full board of directors on Thursday, December 16, 2022 at 5:30 PM and called for adjournment

***VIII. Adjourn***

A motion to adjourn was offered by Commissioner Meadowcroft and second by Commissioner Brien. The meeting adjourned at 1:04 PM.