



Audubon Nature Institute
Celebrating the Wonders of Nature

January 31, 2015

A meeting of the Audubon Commission was called to order on Thursday, January 29, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. in the Gulf Conference Room at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas by President Duncan.

Attending were: Linda Baum, Storey Charbonnet, Angus Cooper, Kelly Duncan, Frances Fayard, Deborah Harkins, Bruce Hofer, Beth Lambert, Helena Moreno, Field Ogden, Charles Teamer, Tom Watson, Carol Wise, Brent Wood

Excused were: Gayle Benson, Danny Conwill, Bart Farris, Boysie Bollinger, Rashida Ferdinand, Ashley Francis, Olivia Manning, Catherine Morrell, Peter Moss, Pamela Ryan

Also attending: Henry Kinney, legal counsel and Robert McClendon, Times-Picayune.

The minutes of the October 24, 2014 meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

Finance Report Mr. Rivarde, EVP & Managing Director of Uptown Facilities, reviewed the November 2014 Operating Statement:

November Operating Budget (in thousands)

	<u>2014 Actual</u>	<u>2014 Budget</u>	<u>2013 Actual</u>
Aquarium/IMAX/Park	5,802	5,131	5,367
Zoo/Park	(3,324)	(2,458)	(2,632)
Insectarium	(138)	(21)	(116)
Research Center	(616)	(700)	(754)
Total Operations	\$2,000	\$1,952	\$1,865

Mr. Rivarde stated that the budget numbers for the month of November appear to be coming into line with last years and that he expected to close out the year on budget. He further report that the Zoo and Park were below budget because of maintenance costs and Cool Zoo II not opening. Salaries have remained under budget.

Nominating Committee Report

Mr. Forman, President and CEO reported that the Nominating Committee met and unanimously recommends the following slate of officers in 2015:

President:	Duncan
1 st Vice President:	Conwill
2 nd Vice President:	Bollinger
Secretary:	Baum
Treasurer:	Farris
Immediate Past President:	Vacant

Mr. Hoefler seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Staff Reports

Mr. Kurtz, Sr. EVP and Chief of Staff reported a motion was needed authorizing the President of the Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to accept the lowest qualified bid and negotiate a final contract not to exceed \$400,000 for general contracting services in relation to the cooling tower at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas. Mr. Kurtz reported that the cooling system was currently only running at 50% capacity and this will need to be corrected before summer.
(Ogden/Charbonnet/Unanimous)

Mr. Kurtz further reported that a motion was needed authorizing the President of the Commission or the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with Linfield, Hunter & Junius, Inc. for professional engineering services related to Audubon Park drainage improvements in the amount of \$116,500.
(Baum/Lambert/Unanimous)

Mr. Kurtz further reported that a motion was needed authoring the President of the Commission or the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to accept the lowest qualified bidder to provide services required for disaster debris management services and monitoring services in accordance with *FEMA 327 Public assistance Debris Monitoring Guide*. (Harkins/Wise/Unanimous)

Mr. Kurtz further reported that a resolution was needed stating that the Audubon Nature Institute attests that the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for Audit Engagements of Government Agencies was presented to and adopted by the governing body, by request of Louisiana Legislative Auditor, Daryl G. Pupera, CPA, CFE. (Fayard/Teamer/Unanimous)

Ms. Conkerton, EVP for Development, reported that a motion was needed authorizing the President of the Commission or the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract amendment with the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries extending the end contract date to December 31, 2016 and increasing the total amount of the agreement \$272,000. (Harkins/Moreno/Unanimous) Ms. Conkerton then gave the Commission a brief overview of the Gulf For United Lasting Fisheries project.

Mr. Rivarde gave a brief update on Zoo projects reporting that a new contact yard has opened, the ropes course will open in March, Cool Zoo II Lazy River is set for April and the sea lion pool should be open by September.

Mr. Toth, VP and Managing Director of Downtown Facilities reported that the Aquarium will start hosting birthday parties in March. He further reported that construction is nearing completion on the splash pad in Woldenberg Park.

Darwin Long presented Merina, a rare black-footed penguin that he raised from a hatchling for the Commission to view.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Linda G. Baum
Secretary