

Audubon Commission Minutes

January 28, 2016

A meeting of the Audubon Commission was called to order on Thursday, January 28, 2016 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, Danny Conwill, Kelly Duncan, Deborah Harkins, Bruce Hoefler, Beth Lambert, Olivia Manning, Helena Moreno, Pamela Ryan, Tom Watson, Carol Wise, Brent Wood

Excused were: Gayle Benson, Boysie Bollinger, Angus Cooper, Bart Farris, Frances Fayard, Rashida Ferdinand, Ashley Francis, Catherine Morrell, Peter Moss, Field Ogden, Charles Teamer

Also attending: Michael DeShazo, legal counsel.

The minutes of the December 2, 2015 meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

Finance Report

Ms. Conkerton, EVP and CAO reviewed the November 2015 Operating Budget:

November Operating Budget (in thousands)

	<u>2015 Actual</u>	<u>2015 Budget</u>	<u>2014 Actual</u>
Attendance	2008	2080	1943
Admissions Revenue	16507	16650	15281
PerCap	8.22	8.00	7.86
Tax Millage Revenue	4665	4500	4276
Membership Revenue	5735	5395	5128
Private Events Revenue	5222	4698	5466
F & B Revenue	4749	4172	4397
Gift Shop Revenue	4980	4870	4706
Cool Zoo/Gator Run Revenue	915	1080	353

Nominating Committee Report

Beth Lambert, Nominating Committee Chair, reported that the Nominating Committee met and unanimously recommends the following slate of officers in 2016:

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

Mr. Hoefer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Staff Reports

Mr. Kurtz, Sr. EVP and Chief of Staff asked for a motion to add an item to the agenda. (Hoefer/Wood/Unanimous). He reported a motion was needed authorizing the President of the Commission or the President of Audubon Nature Institute to sign a contract with Durr Heavy Construction, LLC for Audubon Park trail renovations in the amount of \$722,830. He reported that a motion was brought before the Commission last year to go out to bid for the jogging trail renovations and that Durr Heavy Construction, LLC came in with the lowest qualified bid. (Ryan/Conwill/Unanimous)

Ms. Conkerton reported that a resolution was needed stating that the Audubon Commission 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. (Baum/Charbonnet/Unanimous)

Ms. Conkerton further reported that a motion was needed authorizing the President of the Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract amendment with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries whereas the scope of the contract requires additional confidentiality language. (Harkins/Moreno/Unanimous)

Ms. Conkerton further reported that a motion was needed Authorizing the President of the Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with Jocelyn Russell, LLC in the amount of \$758,000 for artistic bronze sculpture services in Audubon Zoo's Cooper Plaza. (Watson/Wise/Unanimous)

Mr. Niehbur, VP and Acting Managing Director of Uptown Facilities reported that the Zoo will soon have mandrills on display in the old orangutan exhibit. He further stated that several species throughout the Zoo are mating and there is hope of some new babies in the near future. He further reported that crews have been working Audubon Park on drainage issues and cleaning light poles.

Mr. Toth, VP and Managing Director of Downtown Facilities reported that the Aquarium is partnering with other Aquariums to form the Aquarium Conservation Partnership (ACP) to actively pursue policies on conservation issues including the increasing amount of plastic waste that is polluting ocean life. He further reported that the new Director of Husbandry will be starting in the beginning of February and she comes from the Virginia Aquarium.

Brenda Walkenhorst, Director of Education and Steve Dorand, Sr. VP of Design and Exhibitory, gave a presentation on Audubon's partnership with the New Orleans Pelicans. The partnership includes educating

the community on conservation issues with a new exhibit at the Zoo called the Pelicans' Nest and the fundraiser "Toast for the Coast" at the Aquarium.

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

Linda G. Baum
Secretary