



Audubon Nature Institute  
*Celebrating the Wonders of Nature*

January 17, 2017

A meeting of the Audubon Nature Institute Board was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at 8:00 a.m. in the Presidents' Room at Audubon Zoo, Chairman Joe Jaeger presiding.

The minutes of the November 15, 2016, meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

**Nominating Committee Report**

Chairman Jaeger asked Mr. Forman to present the Nominating Committee report. Mr. Forman stated that the Nominating Committee met and unanimously recommends the following slate of officers for 2017: Christopher Bardell as Chairman, Poco Sloss as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair, Mark Romig as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair, Willard Dumas as Recording Secretary, Bart Farris as Corresponding Secretary, Vincent Palumbo as Treasurer, Will Jacobs as Parliamentarian and Joe Jaeger as Immediate Past Chair. He further reported that there are two vacancies on the board and it was the unanimous recommendation of the Nominating Committee that Susan Stall and Peter Moss be elected to fill the seats (Committee/Jacobs/Werner).

**Finance Report**

Ms. Conkerton, EVP, and CAO reviewed the November 2016 Operating Budget:

November Operating Budget (in thousands)

NOVEMBER YTD 2016 - FINANCIAL DASHBOARD (AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)						
NET OPERATING RESULTS BY FACILITY:						
FACILITY	ACTUAL 2016	BUDGET 2016	BUDGET VARIANCE	ACTUAL 2015	PRIOR YEAR VARIANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET 2016
Aquarium/EGST	7,544	7,189	355	6,635	909	6,310
Zoo & Park	(4,425)	(3,527)	(898)	(3,145)	(1,280)	(4,879)
Butterfly Garden & Insectarium	408	149	259	138	270	23
FMASSC	(850)	(936)	86	(779)	(71)	(900)
Louisiana Nature Center	0	(67)	67	0	0	(100)
	\$2,677	\$2,808	(\$131)	\$2,849	(\$172)	\$454

## **Staff Reports**

Mr. Forman reported that the Office of Inspector General has been performing an audit of the Audubon Nature Institute and Audubon Commission going on two years and it looks as if it's coming to a close. He reported that the Inspector's office will give a final report in a meeting with Audubon Executives and will probably ask a few Board and Commission members to attend.

Ms. Conkerton reported that a resolution was needed stating that the Audubon Nature Institute attests that the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for Audit Engagements of Quasi-Government Agencies was presented to and adopted by the governing body, by request of Louisiana Legislative Auditor, Daryl G. Pupera, CPA, CFE. (Palumbo/Spears/Unanimous)

Ms. Conkerton further reported that a resolution was needed authorizing the engagement of LaPorte CPA's to perform Audubon's annual audit. (Dumas/Jacobs/Unanimous)

Ms. Conkerton further reported that a resolution was needed authorizing the Chairman and Secretary of the Audubon Nature Institute Board to have authority to execute and update as needed the bank authority documents for Audubon Nature Institute, Inc. (Farris/Lauscha/Unanimous)

Mr. Niebuhr, VP and Managing Director of the Nature Center reported that substantial completion has been reached at the Nature Center, furniture has been ordered and everyone is looking forward to opening in April.

Ms. McClaran, VP of Construction, reported that construction continues on the new phase of Jaguar Jungle. She also reported that the new sculptures are nearly complete for Cooper Plaza and work will begin soon on the rockwork base.

Mr. Forman talked about the importance of messaging regarding Zoos and Aquariums in the future and how crucial it is that Audubon's mission of saving species is carried throughout the community.

Ms. Lindsay Ezell, Assistant Curator of Animal Ambassadors, presented a female opossum for the board members present. She reported that opossums are the only marsupial found in the United States.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Willard Dumas  
Recording Secretary

In attendance: Bardell, Cazes, Dumas, Farris, Gottsegen, Jacobs, Jaeger, Lauscha, Long, Palumbo, Spears, Werner, Westfeldt

Excused: Brown, Charpentier, Coaxum, Colhoun, D. Hooper, Heebe, Kupperman, LeClercq, Messer, Perry, Quinn, Rice, Romig, Rowan, Sloss, Smith, Vanderlinden.