

# Audubon Commission Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2016

A meeting of the Audubon Commission was called to order on Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 4:00 pm. in the Pisces Room of the Audubon Aquarium by President Duncan.

Attending were: Linda Baum, Kelly Duncan, Leila Eames, Frances Fayard, Ashley Francis, Deborah Harkins, Bruce Hoefler, Beth Lambert, Christopher Meeks, Catherine Morrell, Field Ogden, Pamela Ryan, Brent Wood

Excused were: Gayle Benson, Boysie Bollinger, Storey Charbonnet, Danny Conwill, Angus Cooper, Olivia Manning, Ravi Sangisetty, Charles Teamer, Tom Watson, Carol Wise

Also attending: Henry Kinney, legal counsel.

Mr. Duncan opened the meeting by welcoming the commission members and members of the public to the meeting. The minutes of the June 28, 2016 meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

## Finance Report

Ms. Conkerton, EVP and CAO reported that in every year that the millage does not roll up or down an authorization is needed by the Commission to maintain the current rate. The Commission considered and approved the following:

**WHEREAS**, in 2016 the millage levied by the Audubon Commission was 0.32 mills for the Audubon Zoo, and 2.99 mills for the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas;

**WHEREAS**, in 2017, there is no millage roll-back or roll forward, and the Audubon Commission intends to maintain the millages at their current rates;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following millages are hereby levied on the 2017 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Audubon Commission:

	<u>MILLAGE</u>
Audubon Zoo	0.32 mills
Audubon Aquarium of the Americas	2.99 mills

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2017, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

(Baum, Gottsegen, Unanimous)

Ms. Conkerton further reported that a motion was needed authorizing the transfer of the millage funds from the Board of Liquidation to the Audubon Commission. The Commission considered and approved the following:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Audubon Commission in a public meeting held on October, 20 2016, that collections of the aquarium tax millage in excess of that needed to service the bonds shall be transferred in 2017 from the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, to the Audubon Commission;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that collections of the zoo tax millage in excess of that needed to service the bonds shall be transferred in 2017 from the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, to the Audubon Commission; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that J. Kelly Duncan and L. Ronald Forman be authorized to act on behalf of the Commission in all matters pertaining to these transfers. (Ogden/Meeks/Unanimous)

Mr. Henry Kinney, legal counsel reported on a proposal to lease to a third party a certain area located adjacent to Woldenberg Park for use as a parking facility. The Commission considered and approved the following:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The Audubon Commission place out for public bid, in accordance with the Public Lease Law, an area adjacent to the Woldenberg Riverfront Park substantially in the form of the Bid Proposal form and lease form presented to the Commission this date as described on the attached Exhibits "A" and "B."

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:** Kelly Duncan, President of the Commission, be and is hereby authorized to execute in the name of and on behalf of the Commission the above referenced lease, Exhibit "B", that is to be awarded to the highest bidder upon recommendation by the procurement staff of the Audubon Nature Institute upon such terms and conditions as in his discretion may be deemed desirable. (Baum/Eames/Unanimous)

He further reported that in April 2015 the Audubon Commission approved a resolution with Viking USA, LLC to for the lease of fifteen parking spaces. He stated that the Viking agreement with the state appears to have stalled and asks the Commission to revoke that resolution. The Commission considered and approved the following:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The Audubon Commission hereby revokes the resolution adopted by the Commission at a meeting held on April 30, 2015 whereby the Commission authorized entering into an agreement with Viking USA, LLC for the leasing of fifteen parking spaces.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:** Kelly Duncan, President of the Commission, be and is hereby authorized to take any steps to cancel and revoke the authority to lease with Viking USA, LLC the fifteen parking spaces as in his discretion he may deem desirable. (Lambert/Ryan/Unanimous)

He further reported that a resolution was need authorizing the Orleans Levee District to perform flood protection work on the Riverview. The Commission considered and approved the following:

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** The Audubon Commission enter into a Perpetual Flood Protection Servitude, Temporary Work Area Servitude, and Temporary Access Servitude with the Orleans Levee District in the form of that presented to the Commission that date as described on the attached Exhibit "C."

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:** Kelly Duncan, President of the Commission, be and is hereby authorized to execute, in the name of and on behalf of the Audubon Commission, any and all agreements and/or other documents as may be required for said Agreement as per the aforesaid Perpetual Flood Protection Servitude, Temporary Work Area Servitude, and Temporary Access Servitude upon such terms and conditions as in his discretion may be deemed desirable.

Ms. McClaran, VP of Construction gave an overview of several Audubon projects that need contract signatures or approval to go out to bid.

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with BelouMagner Construction in the amount of \$672,500 for audio visual equipment, projection and dome equipment package. (Wood/Francis/Unanimous)

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with the lowest qualified bidder for the Gate Entry Package with a cost estimate of \$332,596 for new gates, fences and security cameras at the Lake Forest Blvd. and Joe W. Brown Park entrances. (Fayard/Morrell/Unanimous)

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with the lowest qualified bidder for the Gate Entry Landscaping Package going out to bid soon with a cost estimate of \$187,060.50 for landscaping at the Lake Forest Blvd. and Joe W. Brown Park entrances. (Eames/Baum/Unanimous)

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with the lowest qualified bidder for the Directional Signage package going out to bid soon with a cost estimate of \$75,889 for directional and informational signage for the exterior of the building and throughout the boardwalks. (Wood/Baum/Unanimous)

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with Sonitrol in the amount of \$63,177.50 for cameras, recorders and supporting electrical for security system on the Nature Center building. (Harkins/Ogden/Unanimous)

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with Double Aught Construction for approximately \$94,900 for repairs to non-conforming work remaining from the Splash Pad project. (Harkins/Wood/Unanimous)

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with Dynamic Contractors for approximately \$169,500 for repairs to grout and attach of glazed block on the façade of the Aquarium. (Fayard/Baum/Unanimous)

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to sign a contract with the lowest qualified bidder for a new Shark and Ray touch pool on the second floor of the Aquarium along with supporting infrastructure and interpretative program. (Frances/Baum/Unanimous)

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with the lowest qualified bidder for Shelter 11 and 12 renovations currently out to bid with a cost estimate of \$1,160,461 for shelter 11 renovations including landscaping, playground and pathways and shelter 12 renovations including a new roof, landscaping, playground and pathways which was discussed at a public meeting of the Grounds Committee. (Ogden/Meeks/Unanimous)

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with the lowest qualified bidder for the Cooper Plaza Rock Work package with a cost estimate of \$300,000 for rock work to line the fountain pool and cover plumbing equipment prior to new sculptures arriving. (Ogden/Francis/Unanimous)

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to sign a contract with Vanir Management, Inc. This amendment increases their scope and extends the contract term through March 2017. (Fayard/Ryan/Unanimous)

Mr. Duncan asked if there was anyone who wished to speak. Mr. Bill Ives, a member of the public attending the meeting, thanked the Audubon Commission for planned improvements to the Riverview and expressed a desire to help Audubon raise money needed to make the improvements. No other member of the public addressed or raised questions or concerns to the Commission.

Mr. David Niehbur, VP and Acting Managing Director of Uptown facilities reported that volunteers were needed to plant 1200 trees in partnership with Citgo at the Nature Center. He further reported that education is working with new animals that will serve as educational animal ambassadors for our guests.

Mr. Rich Toth, VP and Managing Director of Downtown facilities reported that Scales and Ales, the Aquarium's annual fundraiser for conservation, was a success and Sealabration, the annual member appreciation event, had about 2500 members in attendance.

Mr. Forman, President and CEO introduced Jayme Necaize, who gave an overview of events at the Insectarium including "Crawloween," a Halloween celebration.

Mr. Forman reported that on Tuesday, November 1 at 6:30 pm at the Aquarium, the Aquarium Committee will hold the first in a series of public meetings to gather input from the public on what they would like to see at the Aquarium over the next 25 years.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Linda G. Baum  
Secretary