



Audubon Nature Institute
Celebrating the Wonders of Nature

September 30, 2015

A meeting of the Audubon Nature Institute was called to order on Wednesday, September 30, 2015, at 8:00 a.m. in the Presidents' Room at the Audubon Zoo by Chairman Jaeger.

Attending were Byron Adams, Chris Bardell, Leslie Gottsegen, Deirdre Hooper, Wil Jacobs, Chairman Joe Jaeger, Steve Kupperman, Ted Le Clercq, Ronald Markham, Nolan Marshall Vincent Palumbo, Virginia Rowan, Poco Sloss, Michael Smith, and Thomas Westfeldt. Excused were Bob Brown, Jenny Charpentier, Cece Colhoun, Henry Coaxum, Stephanie Feoli, Paul Fine, Fenn French, Jeffrey Goldring, Jennifer Heebe, Andre Hooper, John Payne, Steve Perry, Mark Romig, Julie Quinn, Charles Rice, Allison Tiller and Kate Werner.

The minutes of the May 19, 2015 meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

Chairman Jaeger asked Ms. Laurie Conkerton, EVP and Chief Administrative Officer, to give the financial report. Mr. Kurtz, Sr. EVP and Chief of Staff, announced that Audubon has performed a reorganization of Senior Leaders stating that Laurie Conkerton was promoted to EVP and Chief Administrative Officer and is now in charge of Finance, Construction, Gift shops and Special Events/Catering. He further stated that David Niebuhr, VP is now the Acting Managing Director of Zoo and Park and Toni Mobley was promoted to Sr. VP and Chief Service Officer presiding over Human Resources, Zoo Guest Services, Zoo Facilities and Cool Zoo.

Finance Report

Ms. Conkerton then presented the financial report.

August 2015 YTD Operating Budget (in thousands)

	<u>2015 Actual</u>	<u>2015 Budget</u>	<u>2014 Actual</u>
Aquarium/IMAX/Park	7,073	6,327	5,633
Zoo/Park	(1,436)	(1,039)	(1,739)
Insectarium	474	439	578

Research Center	(562)	(640)	(472)
Total Operations	\$5,549	\$5,087	\$1,549

Staff Reports

Ms. Conkerton further reported that a motion was needed to approve supplemental funding for the CDBG Disaster Recovery Grant.

Mr. Bardell moved that

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF AUDUBON NATURE INSTITUTE TO COMMIT SUPPLMENTAL FUNDING FOR THE CDBG DISASTER RECOVERY GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE WOLDENBERG RIVERFRONT PARK – PLAZA PERIMETER REPAIRS AND GENERAL RESTORATION PROJECT AND TO CERTIFY THAT SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE

WHEREAS, Audubon Nature Institute has an approved application (as amended) for a Disaster Recovery Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Louisiana Office of Community Development/Disaster Recovery Unit; and

WHEREAS, the grant application (as amended) has obligated \$609,277.61 in CDBG Katrina/Rita Disaster Recovery funding for the Woldenberg Riverfront Park – Plaza Perimeter Repairs and General Restoration Project;

WHEREAS, the total estimated project cost is \$640,385.88; and

WHEREAS, the Audubon Nature Institute is committing local funding in the amount of \$31,108.27 for the project to supplement the obligated CDBG funding; and

WHEREAS, the Audubon Nature Institute certifies that the \$31,108.27 in supplemental funding is available.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY AUDUBON NATURE INSTITUTE

SECTION 1. That Audubon Nature Institute President and Chief Executive Office is authorized to commit supplemental funding in the amount of \$31,108.27 to complete the project as designed and approved by Audubon Nature Institute and the Office of Community Development/Disaster Recovery Unit.

SECTION 2. That the President and Chief Executive Office being the chief executive officer of Audubon Nature Institute, is hereby authorized to be the

authorized representative for the project and as such is authorized to commit funding and authorize all associated documentation for a CDBG Disaster Recovery Grant on behalf of Audubon Nature Institute with full authority to execute all documents pertaining to the project.

SECTION 3. That L. Ronald Forman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Audubon Nature Institute is hereby authorized to certify that supplemental funding is available and committed to Woldenberg Riverfront Park – Plaza Perimeter Repairs and General Restoration Project.

Mr. Sloss seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Rich Toth, VP and Managing Director of Downtown Facilities reported that IMAX is officially closed and the new Entergy Giant Screen Theater will be opening in the next few weeks. He further reported that the world famous Weeki Watchi mermaids will be at the Aquarium during two weekends in October as a way to drive attendance during the Aquarium's slower month.

Mr. David Niebuhr, VP and Acting Managing Director Zoo and Park reported that the orangutans are now in their new home at the front of the Zoo and will be open for the public this weekend. He further reported that the elephants are being introduced to their new exhibit and are testing out their surroundings. He then reported that new exercise equipment is currently being placed in Audubon Park.

President's Report

Mr. Forman, President and CEO, reported on negotiations with the State of Louisiana over Audubon's GO Zone indebtedness. At the urging of the tourism industry, Audubon is planning infrastructure improvements as well as operational and marketability upgrades to Woldenberg Park to facilitate multi-year, more successful festivals. In lieu of repaying GO Zone indebtedness to the State, an agreement has been reached for equivalent funds to be invested in Woldenberg Park through producing a long term steady stream of tax revenue to the State from tourists and locals alike. This revenue stream together with the above noted capital investment over a 10 year period would in essence pay off the GO Zone debt. Mr. Forman asked for a motion from the Board to continue negotiations and ultimately sign the CEA. (Marshall, Jacobs, unanimous).

Mr. Joel Hamilton, VP and General Curator introduced Curator of Birds Carolyn Atherton to the board members. Ms. Atherton presented a four month old hyacinth macaw that she has hand raised after it was rejected by its mother. Hyacinth macaw's are the largest parrot in length, averaging 3 feet long and are listed as an endangered species due to habitat loss and trapping.

Katherine B. Werner
Recording Secretary