



January 28, 2015

A meeting of the Audubon Nature Institute Board was held on Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in the Presidents' Room at Audubon Zoo, Chairman Leslie Gottsegen presiding.

The minutes of the November 19, 2014 meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

Finance Committee Mr. Rivarde, EVP and Managing Director of Uptown Facilities, reviewed the November 2014 Operating Budget:

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.

Staff Reports

Mr. Kurtz, Sr. EVP and Chief of Staff reported that Audubon recently looked into increasing attendance at the Zoo by offering a bus service from the Aquarium to the Zoo. Audubon went out to bid and City Sightseeing responded. Mr. Kurtz asked for a motion to authorize the Chairman of the Board to execute a contract with City Sightseeing, the lowest qualified bidder for a Tchoupitoulas Bus tour between Audubon Aquarium of the Americas and Audubon Zoo. (Payne/Perry/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 Quasi-Government Agencies was

presented to and adopted by the governing body, by request of Louisiana Legislative Auditor, Daryl G. Pupera, CPA, CFE. (Brown/LeClerq/Unanimous)

Mr. Forman wanted everyone to know that he owns a piece of property in Mississippi that is near property owned by Mike Valentino who also owns City Sightseeing. He stated that he and Mr. Valentino are currently negotiating the split purchase of a small piece of property in-between them and he wanted to report the information to the board in full disclosure.

Ms. Conkerton, EVP for Development, reported that a resolution was needed authorizing the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to be the authorized representative to commit funding and authorize all documentation for CDBG Disaster Recovery Grants with full authority to execute all documents pertaining to the project. (LeClerq/Werner/Unanimous)

Mr. Rivarde gave a brief update on Zoo projects reporting that 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.

Nominating Committee Report

Committee Chair Marshall, reported that the Nominating Committee unanimously recommends the following slate of officers in 2014: Chairman Joseph Jaeger, 1st Vice Chair Chris Bardell, 2nd Vice Chair Mark Romig, Recording Secretary Kate Werner, Corresponding Secretary Ronald Markham, Treasurer Vincent Palumbo, Parliamentarian Poco Sloss and Immediate Past Chair Leslie Gottsegen. (Committee/Jacobs/Brown).

Mr. Forman thanked Ms. Gottsegen for her years serving as Board Chairman and presented her with a plaque in her honor. He further reported that 2015 will be a big year for Audubon and he is excited at all the new programs and exhibits that will be opening.

Erin Eagan, a Zoo Keeper from the Swamp Area present a tegu lizard.

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

Katharine B. Werner
Recording Secretary

In attendance: Adams, Bardell, Brown, Colhoun, Goldring, A. Hooper, Jacobs, Jaeger, LeClercq, Gottsegen, Markham, Marshall, Payne, Perry, Smith, Werner

Excused: Charpentier, Coaxum, Feoli, Fine, French, Heebe, D. Hooper, Kupperman, Palumbo, Quinn, Rice, Romig, Rowan, Sloss, Tiller, Westfeldt