



Audubon Nature Institute
Celebrating the Wonders of Nature

March 23, 2015

A meeting of the Audubon Nature Institute Board was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. in the Gulf Conference Room at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, Chairman Joe Jaeger presiding.

The minutes of the January 28, 2015 meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

Mr. Forman, President and CEO, asked Mr. Payne to give an update on the Carrollton Soccer fields. Mr. Payne introduced Kristy from Torre Design and Joe Holtz, project manager. Mr. Payne discussed design drawings stating that upgrades will consist of new bathrooms, a welcome pavilion with a covered walkway, championship soccer fields and centralized parking. Chairman Jaeger asked for a motion to approve the conceptual design for the Carrollton Soccer fields. (Tiller/Jacobs/unanimous)

Finance Committee: Mr. Rivarde, EVP and Managing Director of Uptown Facilities, reviewed the January 2015 Operating Budget:

January Operating Budget (in thousands)

	<u>2015 Actual</u>	<u>2015 Budget</u>	<u>2014 Actual</u>
Aquarium/IMAX/Park	(88)	(177)	(327)
Zoo/Park	(1,005)	(973)	(953)
Insectarium	(107)	(137)	(128)
Research Center	<u>(48)</u>	<u>(59)</u>	<u>(51)</u>
Total Operations	(\$1,248)	(\$1,346)	(\$1,459)

Mr. Rivarde reported that overall revenue was up slightly from last year due to the price increases. He further reported overall attendance is down about 12% but expected to pick up with the opening of the lazy river.

Staff Reports

Mr. Rivarde continued his report by giving an update on Zoo projects. He stated that Kamba Kourse is up and running and seems to be very popular among the guests. He further reported that Audubon staff was looking forward to the opening of the lazy river, Gator Run, next week.

Ms. Conkerton, EVP for Development reported that a motion was needed by the State of Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program administered by the State of Louisiana Office of Community Development Disaster Recovery Unit for the adoption of a Duplication of Benefits Policy to ensure that no, “person, business concern or other entity” will receive duplicative assistance .
(Adams/Marshall/unanimous)

Ms. Conkerton further reported that development staff is introducing a new program called “First Fridays”. She explained that the development department would be reaching out to board members and asking them to recommend five people for a tour of Audubon’s facilities on the first Friday of every month. This will serve as a way to reach new people and bring them into the Audubon family.

Mr. Toth, VP, Managing Director, Downtown facilities, reported that the splashpad in Woldenberg Park is completed and will be turned on after French Quarter Fest. He further reported that birthday parties are now available at the Aquarium and they already have their first booking. He then reported that the Insectarium is running a campaign on giant bugs, including the impressive Atlas Moth.

David Brandt, Aviculturist, presented a royal blue Macaw for the board members to view.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Katharine B. Werner
Recording Secretary

In attendance: Adams, Bardell, Brown, French, Jacobs, Jaeger, Le Clercq, Markham, Marshall, Palumbo, Payne, Rowan, Sloss, Tiller, Werner

Excused: Charpentier, Coaxum, Colhoun, Feoli, Fine, Gottsegen, A. Hooper, D. Hooper, Goldring, Heebe, Kupperman, Perry, Quinn, Rice, Romig, Smith, Westfeldt