



## Audubon Nature Institute

6500 Magazine Street • New Orleans, LA 70118  
AudubonInstitute.org

### Audubon Nature Institute Board

Enclosed are the minutes of the March 19, 2014 meeting of the Audubon Nature Institute Board.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on

Tuesday, May 20  
8:00 a.m.

Presidents' Room/Audubon Zoo

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*Celebrating the Wonders of Nature*

Audubon Aquarium  
of the Americas

Audubon Center for Research  
of Endangered Species

Audubon Park

Audubon Zoo

Entergy  
IMAX® Theatre

Audubon Louisiana  
Nature Center

Audubon Insectarium

Freeport-McMoRan Audubon  
Species Survival Center

Woldenberg  
Riverfront Park



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March 19, 2014

A meeting of the Audubon Nature Institute Board was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 12:00 p.m. in the Gulf Conference Room at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, Chairman Leslie Gottsegen presiding.

The minutes of the February 5, 2014 meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

**Finance Committee** Mr. Rivarde, EVP and Managing Director of Uptown Facilities, reviewed the December 2013 Operating Budget:

December Operating Budget (in thousands)

	<u>2013 Actual</u>	<u>2013 Budget</u>	<u>2012 Actual</u>
Aquarium/IMAX/Park	5,508	4,291	4,159
Zoo/Park	(3,676)	(3,209)	(2,907)
Insectarium	(273)	(347)	(447)
Research Center	(795)	(507)	(509)
Total Operations	\$764	\$228	\$296

Mr. Rivarde reported that through December 31, 2013 overall expenses were kept in line. He further reported that attendance through February of 2014 is right around 300,000 guest and revenue is down 5%.

## Staff Reports

Mr. Forman reported that as everyone is already aware, the Audubon Millage Renewal was not approved by the voters in Orleans Parish on the March 15<sup>th</sup> election ballot. He further reported that everything was favorable for going out to the voters for the renewal such as approval ratings reaching approximately 90% in favor, Mayor Landrieu giving his approval, and City Council members supporting and approving the measure. Mr. Forman reported that Audubon was disappointed in the results but that staff would be holding focus groups and strategy meetings in order to determine what we can do differently to address the needs of the voters. Board members spoke

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of a few things they heard about the election such as not enough information on how the millage would be used, communications coming out too late, and negative social media getting ahead of the campaign. Mr. Forman said that Audubon would be looking into all of these concerns before going back to the voters.

Ms. Conkerton, EVP for Development, introduced Audubon's new Vice President for Education, David Niebuhr to the board. Mr. Niebuhr gave a brief overview of his background and spoke about how excited he was to start with Audubon and looked forward to strengthening the Education Department. Ms. Conkerton further reported on progress with the Alliance for Sustainable Wildlife partnership with the San Diego Zoo. She stated that Audubon would soon be going out to bid for general contractors to construct animal holding pens. Steve Dorand, Senior VP of Design and Exhibitory, gave a presentation on design and construction that will take place at the Species Survival Center for the partnership.

Mr. Forman announced that after twenty years with Audubon Ms. Karyn Kearney, EVP and Managing Director of Downtown facilities was leaving to take a position with another company. Ms. Kearney stated that although she was leaving, Audubon would always be her family.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Katharine B. Werner  
Recording Secretary

In attendance: Adams, Bardell, Charpentier, Feoli, Fine, Gottsegen, D. Hooper, Jaeger, Markham, Marshall, Palumbo, Pannu, Quinn, Romig, Werner

Excused: Colhoun, French, Goldring, A. Hooper, Heebe, Kupperman, Le Clercq, Payne, Perry, Rice, Rowan, Sloss, Smith, Tiller, Westfeldt, Wisdom

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