

Audubon Commission Minutes

March 25, 2022

Audubon Zoo Presidents' Room

Attending: Kelly Duncan, Ashley Francis, Field Ogden, Sally Shushan, Bruce Hoefer, Xavier Angel, Frances Fayard, Jermaine Smith, Peter Wenstrup, Emily Vuxton, Storey Charbonnet, Lex Kelso, Danny Conwill, Leila Eames

Excused: Coleman Ridley, Gayle Benson, Catherine Morrell, Victor Jones, Dolfinette Martin, Minh Thanh Nguyen

President Kelly Duncan called the meeting order at 4:00 pm. The minutes of the January meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed (Shushan/Ogden).

Mr. Duncan then acknowledged the two members of the public that were present. Neither wished to make a comment for Commission consideration. Next Mr. Duncan introduced Ms. Laurie Conkerton, EVP and CAO, to present three motions related to disaster recovery services. She explained that these are three-year contracts that are needed before the start of hurricane season. FEMA usually covers about 85-90% and insurance covers the rest. Cost varies by disaster. There was much discussion and several questions from Commissioners following each motion.

- 1. Motion to authorize the President of the Commission or the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract for disaster debris clean up and collection upon recommendation following a cost analysis. Funding source is FEMA and insurance (Shushan/Conwill/Unanimous).*
- 2. Motion to authorize the President of the Commission or the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract for disaster management and monitoring services upon RFP selection committee recommendation. Funding source is FEMA and insurance (Francis/Ogden/Unanimous).*
- 3. Motion to authorize the President of the Commission or the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract for disaster remediation services upon RFP selection committee recommendation. Funding source is FEMA and insurance (Shushan/Ogden/Unanimous).*

Next, Dr. Kyle Burks, EVP and COO, was introduced to present a Zoo CMAR design contract motion. He gave some background on the CMAR process and the details of the three Zoo projects.

Motion to authorize the President of the Commission or the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with Eskew Dumez Ripple, one of the architectural firms selected to be in a service pool through a request for proposals process, for design services related to the Audubon Zoo Construction Manager at Risk project. The Zoo CMAR project scope includes Jaguar Jungle III, Earth Lab, and Odenheimer Complex. The estimated EDR design contract amount is \$4M, to be paid with 2021 bond sale proceeds (Fayard/Smith/Unanimous).

Mr. Ron Forman, President and CEO, was introduced to give his report. He began by giving an overview of the last couple of years and the recovery plan that is currently underway. Fundraising efforts have been very successful, allowing Audubon to focus on high priority projects and come back better than ever. The Aquarium renovations and other downtown and Canal Street projects that will revitalize the riverfront. Mr. Forman then presented a video that accompanied a press release announcing the Aquarium and Insectarium project. He also presented some of the other media coverage including a positive editorial. He then talked about some of the other projects at the Zoo, Park, Nature Center, Species Survival Center, and Riverview. Very similar to what happened after Katrina, Audubon is rebuilding. But the focus of the organization needs to be on conservation and education.

Ms. Conkerton gave a brief finance report. The Commission and Institute March year-to-date dashboards below were shared with the group.

Audubon Commission - Operations
March YTD 2022 Financial Dashboard
 (Amounts in Thousands)

	YTD ACTUAL 2022	YTD BUDGET 2022	Budget Variance	TOTAL FORECAST 2022	TOTAL BUDGET 2022
OPERATING & NON OPERATING REVENUES					
Lease Revenue	166	166	-	634	634
Tax Millage	54	54	-	4,634	4,634
Total Revenues	\$ 220	\$ 220	\$ -	\$ 5,268	\$ 5,268
EXPENSES					
Transfer of Tax Millage to ANI Operations	54	54	-	4,634	4,634
Total Expenses	\$ 54	\$ 54	\$ -	\$ 4,634	\$ 4,634
Net Results	\$ 166	\$ 166	\$ -	\$ 634	\$ 634

Audubon Nature Institute							
MARCH YTD 2022 FINANCIAL DASHBOARD							
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)							
NET OPERATING RESULTS BY FACILITY	YTD ACTUAL 2022	YTD BUDGET 2022	BUDGET VARIANCE	YTD ACTUAL 2021	PRIOR YEAR VARIANCE	TOTAL FORECAST 2022	TOTAL BUDGET 2022
Aquarium	\$75	(\$621)	696	\$975	(900)	2,911	2,215
Zoo & Park	(\$1,108)	(\$928)	(180)	(\$365)	(743)	(3,828)	(3,648)
Butterfly Garden & Insectarium	\$0	\$0	0	(\$10)	10	-	-
FMASSC	(\$79)	(\$184)	105	(\$169)	90	(546)	(631)
Louisiana Nature Center	(\$67)	(\$81)	14	(\$48)	(19)	(98)	(112)
NET OPERATING RESULTS	(\$1,179)	(\$1,814)	\$635	(\$383)	(\$1,562)	(\$1,561)	(\$2,196)

Excludes capital revenues and expenses.

She went over the highlights of each dashboard. The Commission revenue is from leases and tax millage. There are no Commission expenses. The balance is being held for capital projects and tax millage was transferred to the Institute for operations. On the Institute side, we are running ahead of budget. That can be partially attributed to the Aquarium unexpectedly remaining open at the beginning of the year. Net operating revenue is lower than last year. This is mostly due to an increase in salaries. Last year staff was working in front line positions to help with operations. We are not fully staffed but have made great progress in hiring and filling positions. Attendance is on par with budget. This year groups were welcomed back which did slightly lower the attendance revenue per cap. For April, we welcomed 260K guests which is right at budget and \$4.75M in revenue which is slightly down from budget. That is mostly attributed to the large number of groups.

Lastly, Dr. Burks gave an update on Roux, the infant orangutan born on Christmas eve. He let the group know that Roux is with his mother and family and getting stronger every day. He needs his strength to hang on tightly to his mother. The Education department is gearing up to welcome back campers for the summer. One of the exciting new things they are offering this year is a financial assistant scholarship program to increase accessibility. There was enough money in the budget to accept every child that qualified.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned shortly after 5:00 pm.