



March 22, 2022

A meeting of the Audubon Nature Institute Board was held on Tuesday, March 22, at 8:30 am by video conference, Chairman Dr. Willard Dumas presiding.

In attendance: Willard Dumas, Chris Bardell, Bernard Van der Linden, Anne Long, Peter Moss, Linda Baum, Beth Lambert, Megan Eustis, Hunter Cazes, Edgar Chase, Bart Farris, Tommy Westfeldt, John Payne, Henry Coaxum, Joe Jaeger, Wil Jacobs, Angus Cooper, Mark Romig, Ludovico Feoli, Dennis Lauscha, Poco Sloss, Beau Box, Leslie Gottsegen, Sandy Villere, Caryn Rodgers-Battiste, Dr. Jim Ewers

Excused: Julie Quinn, Vincent Palumbo, John Nickens, Caroline Calhoun, Leah Brown, Susu Stall,

Mr. Ron Forman, President and CEO, began the meeting by introducing three new board members: Dr. Jim Ewers, Caryn Rodgers-Battiste, and Sandy Villere.

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

Dr. Dumas also welcomed the new members. Mr. Villere said a few words before the meeting was turned over to Mr. Forman for his president's report.

Mr. Forman asked Dr. Kyle Burks, EVP and COO, to give an update on Tennis. Dr. Burks gave a thorough presentation outlining some background and updates on the efforts to improve the Audubon Tennis facility. The presentation was a portion of what was shared during the previous evening's public meeting. The Audubon Commission will be voting on the Tennis concepts presented at their March 23 meeting. Mr. Forman followed up with a few more words on Tennis and answered Mr. Romig's question about the timeline. This is estimated to be an 18-month project once design begins.

After some brief discussion, Laurie Conkerton, EVP and CAO, was introduced to give a financial report. Ms. Conkerton reported that Finance has been busy implementing management agreement changes. The 2021 audit is underway. The initial draft of 2021 statements show strong performance with a positive net. Lines of credit have been paid down. Attendance for 2021 was 396K at the Zoo and 341K for Aquarium. That's about 49% of the 5-year pre-COVID average. Admissions revenue for the Zoo and Aquarium was at 100% of the 5-year average. After sharing some of the January dashboard highlights, Ms. Conkerton asked for a motion to authorize the Secretary and Chairman to sign resolutions removing Rebecca Dietz's banking signature authority. Motion passed unanimously (Romig/Jacobs).

JANUARY 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	(\$437)	(\$893)	456	(\$129)	(308)	2,672	2,215
Zoo & Park	(\$1,054)	(\$982)	(72)	(\$547)	(507)	(3,720)	(3,648)
Butterfly Garden & Insectarium	\$0	\$0	0	(\$5)	5	0	-
FMASSC	\$12	\$7	5	\$8	4	(646)	(651)
Louisiana Nature Center	(\$19)	(\$23)	4	(\$23)	4	(108)	(112)
NET OPERATING RESULTS	(\$1,498)	(\$1,891)	\$393	(\$696)	(\$802)	(\$1,802)	(\$2,196)

Excludes capital revenues and expenses.

Mr. Forman then announced that Managing Director of Uptown Facilities, Steve Marshall, is leaving Audubon to be the Director of the Caldwell Zoo in Texas. He then introduced Daine Appleberry who will be promoted to that position on April 1. After Mr. Appleberry said a few words, Dr. Burks was asked to give a quick report on facilities.

Dr. Burks gave an update on Roux, the orangutan infant born on Christmas eve. He is getting stronger every day and will hopefully be back with the orangutan family soon. Audubon is also hiring if anyone knows someone looking to join our team. Finally, the Aquarium construction is moving along and making a lot of progress. Mr. Forman mentioned that Audubon is taking out a full-page ad in Sunday's paper thanking Children's hospital staff for caring for Roux. After Mr. Romig gave a positive tourism update, Mr. Forman concluded his report.

Ms. Rodgers-Battiste was then introduced and spoke briefly to the group before Mr. Dumas adjourned the meeting at 9:30 am.