



September 27, 2022

A meeting of the Audubon Nature Institute Board was held on Tuesday, September 27, at 8:30 am in the Presidents' Room at Audubon Zoo, Chairman Dr. Willard Dumas presiding.

In attendance: Willard Dumas, Bernard Van der Linden, Anne Long, Peter Moss, Linda Baum, Beth Lambert, Megan Eustis, Hunter Cazes, John Nickens, John Payne, Wil Jacobs, Dennis Lauscha, Poco Sloss, Leslie Gottsegen, Caryn Rodgers-Battiste, Dr. Jim Ewers, Caroline Calhoun, Rick Buchsbaum, John Davies

Excused: Julie Quinn, Vincent Palumbo, Chris Bardell, Leah Brown, Susu Stall, Edgar Chase, Bart Farris, Tommy Westfeldt, Beau Box, Ludovico Feoli, Angus Cooper, Joe Jaeger, Sandy Villere

Dr. Dumas began the meeting by introducing and welcoming two new board members: Rick Buchsbaum and John Davies.

The minutes of the May Annual Meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

Dr. Dumas then moved on to official business. Ms. Laurie Conkerton, Executive Vice President and CAO, presented the following. Both duly motioned, seconded, and carried, these resolutions were unanimously passed.

1. *The audited financial statements dated December 31, 2021 and 2020 were reviewed and accepted by the Executive/Finance/Audit committees on June 22, 2022. The committees recommend the full Board approve the statements as presented. They were emailed to all members of the Board prior to the meeting. A motion is needed to approve the Audubon Nature Institute Board's 2021 Audited Financial Statements (Lauscha/Jacobs).*
2. *BE IT RESOLVED: The Audubon Nature Institute Board certifies that Audubon Nature Institute will provide no less than 25% of the total requested amount of funding for the "Audubon Facility Renovations and Improvements: Audubon Zoo, Planning, and Construction" project. The matching funds will be a combination of bond sale proceeds and private donation. THE BOARD FURTHER RESOLVES to designate Ron Forman, President and CEO, to act on behalf of Audubon Nature Institute in all matters pertaining to this project (Moss/Jacobs).*

Ms. Conkerton then gave a brief Finance Report highlighting key numbers on the dashboard below. She noted that May, June, and July revenue and attendance were below budget. However, August and September were running ahead of what was budgeted. Some of the exciting fall promotions include Boo at the Zoo, Mermaids, and our new Black Bear cubs. She also shared some of the new marketing and ad campaigns that are running focused on awesome and aww-inspiring animals.

AUGUST YTD 2022 FINANCIAL DASHBOARD							
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)							
NET OPERATING RESULTS BY FACILITY	YTD	YTD	BUDGET	YTD	PRIOR YEAR	TOTAL	TOTAL
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PRIOR YEAR	FORECAST	BUDGET
	2022	2022	VARIANCE	2021	VARIANCE	2022	2022
Aquarium	\$4,086	\$4,033	53	\$7,229	(3,143)	2,270	2,215
Zoo & Park	(\$1,160)	(\$855)	(305)	\$1,458	(2,618)	(3,953)	(3,648)
Butterfly Garden & Insectarium	\$0	(\$2)	2	(\$17)	17	-	-
FMASSC	(\$364)	(\$367)	3	(\$299)	(65)	(648)	(651)
Louisiana Nature Center	(\$10)	(\$18)	8	\$31	(41)	(104)	(112)
NET OPERATING RESULTS	\$2,552	\$2,791	(\$239)	\$8,402	(\$5,850)	(\$2,435)	(\$2,196)

Excludes capital revenues and expenses.

Mr. Ron Forman, President and CEO, began his report by reminding everyone of the three-year plan for COVID recovery. The tourism community is optimistic that 2024 is going to be a great year with a lot of exciting new city attractions. He then presented the below list of major capital projects. He also showed some renderings of the Aquarium updates and what the current construction progress looks like.

2022-26 Major Capital Projects (\$250K+)

Audubon Zoo and Park (\$40M)

- Tropical Birdhouse (\$4.0M)
- Jaguar Jungle Phase III (\$7.7M)
- Earth Lab/Animal Ambassador Experience (\$5.0M)
- Odenheimer Stabilization/Reptile House Renovation (\$12.7M)
- Capital One Stage (\$0.58M)
- Riverview Improvements Promenade, Shelters, etc. (\$3.5M)
- Riverview Erosion Control/River Pathway (\$1.2M)
- Audubon Park Stormwater Management (\$9.8M)

Aquarium, Insectarium, Woldenberg Riverfront Park (\$56M)

- Aquarium Shared Lobby/BGI Move w/ EGST Repurpose (\$28.0M)
- Amazon Rainforest (\$1.0M)
- Mississippi/Wetlands Gallery (\$1.2M)
- AoA Structural/Exterior Restoration (\$0.6M)
- Gulf Gallery (\$0.8M)
- Event Space Updates (\$0.6M)
- GNEW Wharf to Park Transformation (\$14.65M)
- Woldenberg Riverfront Park Improvements(\$6.3M)
- Woldenberg Wharf Repair Phase II (\$1.0M)
- Wharf Fire Suppression System (\$1.0M)

Mr. Forman also gave an update on Governor Nicholls/Esplanade Wharves project. He and Ms. Conkerton met with the mayor recently and the project is beginning to move forward again. This is all part of the Riverfront revitalization that Audubon and other City leaders are working towards.

Ms. Toni Mobley, Executive Vice President and Chief Service and Inclusion Officer, was introduced to give an update on Service Initiatives. She started her report with some recent guest surveys for the Zoo and Aquarium. Both facilities scored above the benchmark for excellent ratings in almost all categories. She

then went on to share the Community Connect numbers for the year. Through this program, the Aquarium has welcomed over 22K guests, and the Zoo has welcomed over 34K. Finally, she updated the group on DEAI (Diversity, Equity, Access, and Inclusion) efforts. Audubon is at 27% supplier diversity spending, exceeding its goal of 20% for 2022.

Dr. Kyle Burks, Executive Vice President and COO, gave updates on Audubon facilities. He mentioned there was a minor fire at the nearby leased Cascade stables that Audubon staff responded to the previous evening. No animals were harmed, and they were checked out by our vet team. He then gave a tennis update. The CEA is nearly finalization and will soon be brought before the Executive Committee of the Commission for approval. He then reported some renovations happening at Hyams Fountain, horticultural improvements at the Zoo and Park, and Tropical Bird House is nearing completion and expected to open in the spring. Finally, he shared some of Audubon's adorable new animals. The Zoo welcomed an orphaned Louisiana Black Bear cub named Sassafras. There are two more orphaned bear cubs coming from Alaska as soon as travel arrangements can be made. A rare Dwarf Mexican Hairy Porcupine was received at the Zoo after it was found in a tree near Whole Foods. A baby Owl Monkey that was recently born is receiving around the clock care by our animal team because its mother sadly died shortly after giving birth. And over on the west bank at FMASSC, two new giraffes were born over the summer. He also announced that the partnership with San Diego has ended, but the conservation work will continue.

At the conclusion of the President's Report, and there being no further business, Dr. Dumas adjourned the meeting shortly after 9:30.