



Audubon Nature Institute
Celebrating the Wonders of Nature

June 12, 2019

The Annual Meeting of the Audubon Nature Institute was called to order on Wednesday, June 12, 2019, at 8:00 am in the Presidents' Room at the Audubon Zoo by 1st Vice Chairman Dr. Willard Dumas.

Attending were Leah Brown, Dr. Dumas, Bart Farris, Wil Jacobs, John Nickens, Susu Stall, Bernie Vanderlinden, Tommy Westfeldt and Qiana Wiggins.

The minutes of March 12, 2019 meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

Nominating Report

Dr. Dumas read the Nominating Committee report. He reported that Jenny Charpentier, Ted LeClercq, and Cece Colhoun have served two consecutive four-year terms and must roll off. It is the unanimous recommendation of the Nominating Committee to the Audubon Nature Institute Board that Ludovico Feoli, Nolan Marshall, and Caroline Calhoun be appointed to serve four-year terms. (Nominating Committee/Farris/unanimous)

He further reported that the terms of Willard Dumas, Hunter Cazes, Julie Quinn, Wil Jacobs, Leah Brown, and Vincent Palumbo are up for renewal. It is the unanimous recommendation of the Nominating Committee to the Audubon Nature Institute Board that Dumas, Cazes, Quinn, Jacobs, Brown, and Palumbo be appointed for 4-year terms. A total of 272 membership proxy votes were cast on behalf of the proposed slate. (Nominating Committee/Jacobs/unanimous)

Finance Report

Ms. Conkerton, EVP, and CAO reported that net revenue is 9% greater than budgeted and 29% lower than 2018 actual and that total revenue is 3% lower than budgeted and 3% lower than 2018 actual. She further reported that attendance through April 30, 2019, is 735,00 with a year-end target of 2.2 million. She then reported that total expenses are 6% lower than budgeted and 5% greater than 2018 actual.

APRIL 2019 FINANCIAL DASHBOARD (AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)						
NET OPERATING RESULTS BY FACILITY:						
FACILITY	YTD ACTUAL 2019	YTD BUDGET 2019	BUDGET VARIANCE	YTD ACTUAL 2018	PRIOR YEAR VARIANCE	TOTAL BUDGET 2019
Aquarium/EGST	4,721	4,558	163	5,445	(724)	6,839
Zoo & Park	(963)	(1,028)	65	(398)	(565)	(5,702)
Butterfly Garden & Insectarium	222	234	(12)	284	(62)	387
FMASSC	(157)	(222)	65	18	(175)	(828)
Louisiana Nature Center	(104)	(123)	19	(101)	(3)	(349)
	\$3,719	\$3,419	\$300	\$5,248	(\$1,529)	\$347
Excludes capital revenues and expenses.						

Ms. Conkerton further reported that the 2018 Audited Financial Statements have been completed after an audit by Laporte Sehrt Romig and Hand with no significant findings. Laporte presented the audit to the Executive/Finance/Audit Committee on May 29 and the financials were emailed to the full board on June 10. She asked for a motion to accept the audited financials as presented. (Westfeldt/Farris/unanimous)

Ms. Conkerton then reported that a motion was needed to approve a resolution from Whitney Bank to add Kyle Burks and Rebecca Dietz as signers to all Audubon Nature Institute and Audubon Commission accounts. (Stall/Vanderlinden/unanimous)

Facilities Report

Dr. Kyle Burks, Chief Operating Officer, reported that the lion exhibit is now open at the Zoo. He reported that introductions between the three female lions and one male lion are continuing with guarded success. He then reported that *Escape Extinction: Sharks*, a new family-friendly interactive experience presented by Escape My Room, is set to open at the Aquarium. He further reported that several births have occurred at the Audubon Species Survival Center including giraffe, sable antelope, and bongo. The animals are part of the Alliance for Sustainable Wildlife partnership with San Diego Zoo Global which has a goal of repopulating species that are in decline.

Public Affairs and Legal Report

Ms. Rebecca Dietz, EVP of Public Affairs and General Counsel reported that Audubon's Community Connect program has welcomed 10,000 visitors since the program's inception in January 2019. Community Connect provides different avenues of complimentary admission to Audubon facilities for Orleans Parish residents.

She further reported that Audubon Nature Institute is the beneficiary of funds from the William Oscar Kruger Estate. She stated that a motion was needed authorizing the Chairman of the Audubon Nature Institute Board or President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to transfer funds received (\$403,000) as a bequest from the estate of William Oscar Kruger to be transferred from Audubon Nature Institute to the Audubon Nature Institute Foundation. These funds will establish a dedicated account (or will be dedicated to an established account), the interest from which may be used to support Audubon Aquarium of the Americas as stated in the donor's last will and testament. (Jacobs/Brown/unanimous)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 am.

Bart Farris
Corresponding Secretary