



Audubon Nature Institute
Celebrating the Wonders of Nature

May 19, 2016

The Annual Meeting of the Audubon Nature Institute was called to order on Tuesday, May 17, 2016, at 8:00 am. in the Elephant Pavilion at the Audubon Zoo by Chairman Jaeger.

Attending were Byron Adams, Jenny Charpentier, Henry Coaxum, Fenn French , Leslie Gottsegen, Wil Jacobs, Chairman Joe Jaeger, Ted Le Clercq, Ronald Markham, Deirdre Hooper, Nolan Marshall, Mark Romig, Poco Sloss, Michael Smith, Allison Tiller, Kate Werner and Thomas Westfeldt. Excused were Chris Bardell, Bob Brown, Steve Kupperman, Cece Colhoun, Stephanie Feoli, Jennifer Heebe, Andre Hooper, Vincent Palumbo, John Payne, Steve Perry, Julie Quinn, Charles Rice, and Virginia Rowan.

The minutes of the March 22, 2016 meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

Nominating Report

Chairman Jaeger asked Nolan Marshall, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, to give the nominating report. He reported that Fenn French, Andre Hooper and Byron Adams have served two consecutive 4 year terms and must roll off of the board. He further reported the following slate is presented to the membership for election to a four-year term on the Board: Anne Long, Chris Bardell, Cleveland Spears, Bernard Vanderlinden, Deirdre Hooper, Joe Jaeger and Charles Rice. A total of 404 proxy votes were cast on behalf of the proposed slate (Gottsegen/Jacobs/unanimous).

Finance Report

Ms. Conkerton, EVP and Chief Administrative Officer gave the finance report. Ms. Conkerton reported that attendance is up due to spring break happening in March this year, as opposed to April last year. New exhibits and great weekend weather have also contributed to increased attendance. Preliminary numbers through April 24th show that attendance of 605K is 4% ahead of last year, admissions revenue of \$5.7 M is 10.5% ahead of last year and per cap of \$9.39 is 5.8% greater than last year. Private events have increased revenue due to Tyler Perry's The Passion (unbudgeted). She then reported that Laporte is wrapping up the Institute's 2015 audit.

March YTD Operating Budget (in thousands)

March YTD 2016 - FINANCIAL DASHBOARD (AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)						
NET OPERATING RESULTS BY FACILITY:						
FACILITY	ACTUAL 2016	BUDGET 2016	BUDGET VARIANCE	ACTUAL 2015	PRIOR YEAR VARIANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET 2016
Aquarium/EGST	947	616	331	3,641	(2,694)	6,310
Zoo & Park	(1,379)	(1,946)	567	(1,023)	(356)	(4,879)
Butterfly Garden & Insectarium	(73)	(196)	123	(167)	94	23
FMASSC	(297)	(185)	(112)	(148)	(149)	(900)
Louisiana Nature Center	0	0	0	0	0	(100)
	(\$802)	(\$1,711)	\$909	\$2,303	(\$3,105)	\$454

Staff Reports

Ms. Ashley McClaran, VP of Construction discussed recently completed projects including the Exposition Boulevard entry gate renovation, shelter 10 improvements, installation of emergency phones with solar backup, St. Charles lighting restoration, sidewalk replacement at Walnut St. and St. Charles Ave., St. Charles balustrade shoring and repair, bench repainting, park banners, light pole straightening, repainting and repair, exercise equipment replacement, shelter 13 stabilization and tree planting.

Ms. McClaran then discussed upcoming and conceptual projects including jogging path resurfacing, regrading and restriping, bench and bike rack replacement, Riverview CEA scope definition, St. Charles Avenue playground replacement and landscaping, Walnut St. shelter roof replacement, restroom upgrade and landscaping, Audubon Park master plan completion, Magazine Street shelter 13 renovation and Hurst bridge renovation.

Mr. Joel Hamilton, VP and General Curator talked about the newly opened elephant exhibit which gives Panya and Jean more room to roam, a state of the art barn, and a new education pavilion/exhibit that gives great information to the public on elephant conservation. He further reported that work on the Nature Center continues and is looking forward to a spring 2017 opening. He then reported that construction has started on the Alliance for Sustainable Wildlife partnership located at the Freeport McMoRan Audubon Species Survival Center.

Mr. Forman, President and CEO talked about 96 Elephants, a coalition that is helping to spread the word that 96 elephants die every day for their ivory. He stated

that Audubon is proud to be a partner in this coalition to educate the public on ending the senseless slaughter of elephants.

Mr. Rich Toth, VP and Managing Director of Downtown Facilities reported Woldenberg Park has hosted “The Passion”, a live television event, French Quarter Fest, which reached a record number of guests this year – approximately 760,000, and will host Oyster Fest in June. He further reported that construction will begin on a bus turnaround behind the floodwall so that school groups will have safer access to the Aquarium. He then reported that a rehabbed dolphin was released in the Gulf of Mexico by the stranding team, a first for Louisiana.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 am.

Poco Sloss
Recording Secretary