



Audubon Nature Institute  
*Celebrating the Wonders of Nature*

May 8, 2018

The Annual Meeting of the Audubon Nature Institute was called to order on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, at 8:00 am. in the Presidents' Room at the Audubon Zoo by Chairman Bardell.

Attending were Chris Bardell, Willard Dumas, Bart Farris, Vincent Palumbo, Joe Jaeger, Leah Brown, Hunter Cazes, Cecile Colhoun, Leslie Gottsegen, Deirdre Hooper, Anne Long, Quentin Messer, Peter Moss, Virginia Rowan, Susu Stall, Bernie Vanderlinden and Tommy Westfeldt and Wil Jacobs.

The minutes of March 20, 2018 meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

**Nominating Report**

Chairman Bardell asked Leslie Gottsegen, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, to give the nominating report. She reported that the terms of Kate Werner and Virginia Rowan will expire in May of this year as they have served two consecutive four-year terms, so they must roll off. It is the unanimous recommendation of the Nominating Committee to the Audubon Nature Institute Board that Nathalie Simon and Ransdell Prieur be appointed to serve four-year terms. She further reported that the terms of Dennis Lauscha, Henry Coaxum, Poco Sloss, Peter Moss and Mark Romig are up for renewal. It is the unanimous recommendation of the Nominating Committee to the Audubon Nature Institute Board that Lauscha, Coaxum, Sloss, Moss, and Romig be appointed for 4-year terms. A total of 333 membership proxy votes were cast on behalf of the proposed slate. (Nominating Committee/Jacobs/unanimous).

**Finance Report**

Ms. Conkerton, EVP, and CAO reported that revenue is currently ahead of budget due to the timing of the millage proceeds deposit. This amount makes up for first quarter losses. She stated that expenses are under budget due to tight controls on salaries and overall operational expenses. She further reported that membership is 13% above budget potentially due to tweaking processing procedures and producing more direct mailers.

MARCH 2018 FINANCIAL DASHBOARD (AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)						
NET OPERATING RESULTS BY FACILITY:						
FACILITY	YTD ACTUAL 2018	YTD BUDGET 2018	BUDGET VARIANCE	YTD ACTUAL 2017	PRIOR YEAR VARIANCE	TOTAL BUDGET 2018
Aquarium/EGST	954	335	619	4,327	(3,373)	6,560
Zoo & Park	(1,590)	(1,899)	309	(931)	(659)	(5,353)
Butterfly Garden & Insectarium	116	(44)	160	399	(283)	77
FMASSC	(13)	(160)	147	(156)	143	(548)
Louisiana Nature Center	(74)	(72)	(2)	(6)	(68)	(355)
	(\$607)	(\$1,840)	\$1,233	\$3,633	(\$4,240)	\$381

Excludes capital revenues and expenses.

## 2017 In Review

Mr. Forman, President and CEO, gave an overview of Audubon accomplishments achieved in 2017 including the official launch of the Alliance for Sustainable Wildlife partnership with San Diego Zoo Global in September, the reopening of the Audubon Louisiana Nature Center which had been closed since shuttered since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed its buildings and surrounding forest in 2005, and after a nationwide search welcomed Dr. Kyle Burks as the Vice President and Managing Director of Audubon Zoo and Park

## Staff Reports

Dr. Kyle Burks, VP and Managing Director of Audubon Zoo and Park, reported that two new females and one new male gorilla are now on exhibit in primates. He stated that in an effort to grow populations of gorillas a few of Audubon's gorillas found homes at other zoos as well. He further reported that Kids Zoo to Do and Zoo to Do events are coming up and encouraged all commission members to purchase tickets to the events.

Ms. Conkerton reported 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 raised for marine mammal and sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation in response to the Deepwater Horizon incident to be transferred from Audubon Nature Institute to the Audubon Nature Institute Foundation. These funds will establish a dedicated account, the interest from which may be used in support of Audubon's marine mammal and sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation and related conservation efforts according to the Foundation's disbursement policies. (Long/Messer/unanimous)

Mr. Forman, President, and CEO discussed the public meetings that have been held for the Audubon Park Master Plan and introduced Mark Ripple, Principal from Eskew, Dumez, Ripple to update the Commission members on the meetings held and what comments have been received on the park. He also stated that the next public meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 16 at 6:00 pm in the Audubon Tea Room.

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

Poco Sloss  
Recording Secretary