



Audubon Nature Institute  
*Celebrating the Wonders of Nature*

January 26, 2016

A meeting of the Audubon Nature Institute Board was held on Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. in the Presidents' Room at Audubon Zoo, Chairman Joe Jaeger presiding.

The minutes of the November 19, 2015 meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

**Nominating Committee Report**

Chairman Jaeger asked Mr. Forman to go over the Nominating Committee report in Committee Chair Nolan Marshall's absence. Mr. Forman stated that the Committee unanimously recommends the following slate of officers for 2016: Poco Sloss, Corresponding Secretary Allison Tiller, Treasurer Vincent Palumbo, Parliamentarian Wil Jacobs and Immediate Past Chair Leslie Gottsegen. (Committee/Colhoun/Werner).

**Finance Report**

Ms. Conkerton, EVP and CAO reviewed the November 2015 Operating Budget:

November Operating Budget (in thousands)

	<u>2015 Actual</u>	<u>2015 Budget</u>	<u>2014 Actual</u>
Attendance	2008	2080	1943
Admissions Revenue	16507	16650	15281
PerCap	8.22	8.00	7.86
Tax Millage Revenue	4665	4500	4276
Membership Revenue	5735	5395	5128
Private Events Revenue	5222	4698	5466
F & B Revenue	4749	4172	4397
Gift Shop Revenue	4980	4870	4706
Cool Zoo/Gator Run Revenue	915	1080	353

## **Staff Reports**

Mr. Forman asked Mr. Payne to give a brief update on the Carrollton Boosters Soccer Complex that will be built on the Riverview. Mr. Payne stated that they have now raised \$4,000,000 in private donations and that they are securing the permits and waiting for the river to lower in order to start driving pilings.

Mr. Forman asked Mr. Perry to give an update on the tourism industry. Mr. Perry stated that tourism is performing well and guests are filling the city. He stated that the hospitality industry was working with the city and state for better security in the French Quarter.

Mr. Kurtz, Sr. EVP and Chief of Staff reported that in keep with best case practices, Audubon would be registering to solicit donations from all states. Audubon will hire Capstone Charity Resources in the amount of \$7,942.00 to handle all registrations and filing requirements. (Payne/Perry/Unanimous)

Ms. Conkerton reported that a resolution was needed stating that the Audubon Nature Institute attests that the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for Audit Engagements of Quasi-Government Agencies was presented to and adopted by the governing body, by request of Louisiana Legislative Auditor, Daryl G. Pupera, CPA, CFE. (Palumbo/Rice/Unanimous)

Ms. Conkerton further reported that a resolution was needed authorizing the engagement of LaPorte CPA's to perform Audubon's annual audit. (Rice/Perry/Unanimous)

Mr. Niehbur, VP and Acting Managing Director of Uptown Facilities reported that the Zoo will soon have mandrills on display in the old orangutan exhibit. He further stated that several species throughout the Zoo are mating and there is hope of some new babies in the near future. He further reported that crews have been working in Audubon Park on drainage issues and cleaning light poles.

Mr. Toth, VP and Managing Director of Downtown Facilities reported that the Aquarium is partnering with other Aquariums to form the Aquarium Conservation Partnership (ACP) to actively pursue policies on conservation issues including the increasing amount of plastic waste that is polluting ocean life. He further reported that the new Director of Husbandry will be starting in the beginning of February and she comes from the Virginia Aquarium.

Brenda Walkenhorst, Director of Education and Steve Dorand, Sr. VP of Design and Exhibitory, gave a presentation on Audubon's partnership with the New Orleans Pelicans. The partnership includes educating the community on conservation issues with a new exhibit at the Zoo called the Pelicans' Nest and the fundraiser "Toast for the Coast" at the Aquarium.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Poco Sloss  
Recording Secretary

In attendance: Bardell, Charpentier, Coaxum, Colhoun, French, D. Hooper, Jacobs, Jaeger, Gottsegen, Markham, Palumbo, Payne, Perry, Quinn, Rice, Romig, Rowan, Sloss, Tiller, Werner, Westfeldt

Excused: Adams, Brown, Feoli, Fine, Heebe, Goldring, A. Hooper, Kupperman, LeClercq, Marshall, Smith.