



Audubon Nature Institute
Celebrating the Wonders of Nature
 January 22, 2019

A meeting of the Audubon Nature Institute Board was held on Tuesday, January 22, at 8:00 a.m. at the Audubon Zoo, Chairman Chris Bardell presiding.

The minutes of November 13, 2018 meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

Nominating Committee Report

Ms. Leslie Gottsegen, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that the committee met on January 16, 2019 at 9:30 am and it is the unanimous recommendation of the Nominating Committee to the Audubon Nature Institute Board that the following slate of officers be elected to serve in 2019: Chairman - Poco Sloss; 1st VC - Willard Dumas; 2nd VC - Mark Romig; Rec. Secretary - Vincent Palumbo; Corres. Secretary - Bart Farris; Treasurer - Leslie Gottsegen; Parliamentarian - Wil Jacobs; Immediate Past Chair - Chris Bardell.

She further reported that there is one vacancy to fill on the board. It is the unanimous recommendation of the Nominating Committee to the Audubon Nature Institute Board that John Nickens be elected to fill the unexpired seat of Michael Smith. The recommendations for the slate of officers and the addition of John Nickens were considered and approved. (Moss/Romig/unanimous)

Mr. Forman, President and CEO thanked Mr. Chris Bardell for his two years of service as the Audubon Nature Institute Board chair.

Finance Report

Ms. Conkerton, EVP, and CAO reviewed the November 2018 Operating Budget:
 November Operating Budget (in thousands)

NOVEMBER 2018 FINANCIAL DASHBOARD <i>(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)</i>						
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	7,874	6,864	1,010	7,282	592	6,556
Zoo & Park	(4,577)	(4,179)	(398)	(3,984)	(593)	(5,349)
Butterfly Garden & Insectarium	600	93	507	409	191	77
FMASSC	(123)	(467)	344	(376)	253	(548)
Louisiana Nature Center	(257)	(331)	74	(103)	(154)	(355)
	\$3,517	\$1,980	\$1,537	\$3,228	\$289	\$381
<small>Excludes capital revenues and expenses.</small>						

Ms. Conkerton reported that overall revenue through November 2018 was running 1% lower than budgeted and 4% greater than actual. She further reported that attendance through November 30, 2018, is 1,958,000 with a year-end target of 2.1 million. She then reported that total expenses are 4% lower than budgeted and 4% greater than 2017 actual.

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. Puper, CPA, CFE. (Moss/Le Clerq/Unanimous)

Ms. Conkerton further reported that a resolution was needed authorizing the Chairman of the Audubon Nature Institute to sign an engagement letter with LaPorte CPA's to perform Audubon's annual audit. (Wiggins/Long/Unanimous)

Ms. Conkerton then reported that Audubon recently went out to bid for a new point of sale ticketing system. She asked for a motion authorizing the Chairman of the Audubon Nature Institute Board or President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to sign a contract with Accesso for the Point of Sale Ticketing System.

Staff Reports

Ms. Dietz reported that Audubon has started the "Community Connect" program to provide more access to Audubon facilities for Orleans Parish residents. This will include Orleans Parish Appreciation Days that offer complimentary admission every Wednesday to Audubon attractions. Appreciation days rotate each week from the Zoo, Aquarium, Butterfly Garden and Insectarium, and Planetarium (Louisiana Nature Center). It will also include an Audubon SNAP Program where Orleans Parish SNAP benefit recipients will receive complimentary admission to Audubon attractions year-round. Also included is an Audubon Museum Partner Pass in which Audubon is partnering with New Orleans Public Library to offer Library Passes available for checkout by library cardholders.

Ms. Dietz further reported that a list of Audubon Committees has been prepared and if anyone would like to be on a different committee to please let us know.

Dr. Kyle Burks, Chief Operating Officer, reported that the Escape room, a new interactive exhibit at the Aquarium should be ready for opening in the next month. He then reported the Association of Zoos and Aquariums have recently completed their accreditation of the Aquarium which happens every 5 years. He further reported that the Aquarium has been nominated for the 2019 Love Your City Resource Management Award for the Aquarium's work in reducing single-use plastics.

Dr. Burks further reported that Zoo Lights proved to be a resounding success with good attendance and great work from the Audubon team. He then reported that construction continues on the Lion exhibit with the hopes of a late spring/early summer opening. He then reported that Audubon has hired a new Managing Director for the Uptown Facilities named Steve Marshall. Steve comes from El Paso Zoo and brings years of experience to Audubon.

Mr. Forman reported that the Park Partners group continues to meet and discuss the importance of the May 4 shared parks millage vote. He stated that a CEA detailing how Audubon, City Park, Parks and Parkways and New Orleans Recreation Development will work together is being prepared and reviewed by the Audubon Commission.

Audubon staff presented a turkey vulture named Vlad. Vlad is a rehabbed vulture and is part of Audubon's Animal Ambassador free-flight program.

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

Bart Farris
Recording Secretary

In attendance: Bardell, Sloss, Romig, Dumas, Farris, Palumbo, Brown, Colhoun, Gottsegen, Kupperman, LeClercq, Long, Moss, Prieur, Vanderlinden, Westfeldt, Wiggins

Excused: Jaeger, Cazes, Charpentier, Coaxum, Cooper, Hooper, Jacobs, Lauscha, Messer, Perry, Quinn, Simon, Spears, Stall