



Audubon Nature Institute  
*Celebrating the Wonders of Nature*

November 13, 2018

The Meeting of the Audubon Nature Institute Board was called to order on Tuesday, November 13, at 12:00 pm in the Audubon Aquarium Gulf Conference Room by Chairman Chris Bardell.

Attending were Chris Bardell, Leslie Gottsegen, Joe Jaeger, Hunter Cazes, Henry Coaxum, Dennis Lauscha, Wil Jacobs, Ted Le Clercq, Anne Long, Peter Moss, Vincent Palumbo, Poco Sloss, Mark Romig, Thomas Westfeldt, and Quiana Wiggins. Excused were Leah Brown, CeCe Colhoun, Bart Farris, Jenny Charpentier, Angus Cooper, Willard Dumas, Deirdre Hooper, Steve Kupperman, Steve Perry, Quentin Messer, Julie Quinn, Ransdell Prieur, Nathalie Simon Cleveland Spears, Susu Stall, and Bernard Vanderlinden.

The minutes of September 18, 2018, meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

### **Finance Report**

Chairman Bardell asked Ms. Laurie Conkerton, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer to give the financial report. Ms. Conkerton reviewed the proposed 2019 Operating Budget and reported on several business assumptions for the budget including \$2.8m in medical insurance premiums (up 17% from 2018 Budget), \$1.6m Property/General Liability Insurance expense (4% above the 2018 Budget), \$500k expense contingency (split between the Zoo/Park and Downtown) and that many new and exciting exhibits will be opening in 2019.

She further reported that net income for membership and gift shops are budgeted to be higher than 2018 forecast, net income for special events and concessions is slightly lower than 2018 and that attendance & admissions revenue is budgeted at \$18.4m (3% increase over the 2018 budget). All facilities will continue to only be open on Mondays from March 1 through September 3. There will be no increase in pricing for 2018. Ms. Conkerton further reported that attendance is budgeted for 2.2 million guests, a 7% increase over the 2018 year end forecast. After discussion, Ms. Conkerton asked for a motion to approve the 2019 Operating budget. The motion was considered and approved. (Gottsegen/Moss/Unanimous)

Ms. Conkerton further stated that a motion was needed for Tropical Birdhouse Renovation Funding.

BE IT RESOLVED that on September 20, 2018, the 8<sup>th</sup> Amended Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between Audubon Nature Institute and the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration, Office of Facility Planning and Control was executed to move \$3,000,000 in state capital outlay from Audubon Nature Institute's non-cash line of credit to its cash line of credit;

And be it resolved that the purpose of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement is to fund Audubon 2020 Exhibits;

And be it resolved the \$2,982,000 is available to fund capital projects and \$18,000 is allocated to Facility Planning and Control's administrative costs;

Audubon Nature Institute board further resolves:

- \$2,982,000 will fund construction and related eligible costs for the Odenheimer I Tropical Birdhouse Roof and Improvements project;
- Audubon Nature Institute agrees to fund the difference in the Designer's Estimated Construction Cost of \$3,680,084 and the \$2,982,000 in state funding in order to bid the project;
- Audubon Nature Institute agrees to fund the difference between the low bid and \$2,982,000 in state funding in order to award the contract; and
- Audubon Nature Institute agrees to cover all Add-Change Orders that arise during construction.

The motion was considered and approved. (Palumbo/Jacobs/Unanimous)

### **Staff Reports**

Mr. Forman reported that there has been a change to the organizational structure at Audubon. He stated that Bill Kurtz has one year left on his contract and has decided to step down from the Chief of Staff role to Executive Vice President of New Revenue Opportunities and his focus will be on generating new revenue streams for Audubon. He then reported that Dr. Kyle Burks has been promoted to Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer and Rebecca Dietz has been promoted to Executive Vice President of Public Affairs and General Counsel. He further reported that Laurie Conkerton will continue in her role as EVP and Chief Administrative Officer overseeing all financial matters.

Ms. Dietz reported that the New Orleans City Council has voted to put the Park Partners Millage on the December 6 City Council Agenda to be approved for ballot placement.

She stated that NORD, Parks and Parkways, City Park and Audubon continue to work together on this important initiative.

Dr. Burks reported that Audubon Zoo lights will be open select nights from November 23 through December 30 and encouraged board members to attend. He further stated that two new African elephants name Jothi and Surapa have arrived from the Buffalo Zoo and are making introductions with Panya and Jean.

Mr. Darwin Long introduced Marina the penguin and talked about conservation initiatives regarding penguins.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:15 pm.

Poco Sloss  
Recording Secretary