



Audubon Nature Institute
Celebrating the Wonders of Nature

November 15, 2016

The Meeting of the Audubon Nature Institute Board was called to order on Tuesday, November 15, at 12:00 pm. in the Gulf Conference Room at the Aquarium by Vice Chairman Chris Bardell.

Attending were Chris Bardell, CeCe Colhoun, Jenny Charpentier, Willard Dumas, Leslie Gottsegen, Wil Jacobs, Ted Le Clercq, Anne Long, Ronald Markham, Vincent Palumbo, Poco Sloss, Bernard Vanderlinden, and Thomas Westfeldt. Excused were Hunter Cazes, Henry Coaxum, Bart Farris, Deirdre Hooper, Dennis Lauscha, Joe Jaeger, Steve Kupperman, Jennifer Heebe, Quentin Messer, Julie Quinn, Steve Perry, Charles Rice, Mark Romig, Virginia Rowan, Michael Smith, Cleveland Spears and Kate Werner.

The minutes of the November 15, 2016 meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

Nominating Committee Report

Vice Chairman Bardell asked Mr. Forman, President and CEO to give the Nominating Committee report. Mr. Forman reported that Stephanie Feoli has resigned from the board and that it was the unanimous recommendation of the Nominating Committee to the Audubon Nature Institute Board that Leah Brown be appointed to fill the unexpired term. (Westfeldt/Sloss/unanimous).

Executive Committee Report

Ms. Laurie Conkerton, EVP and CAO reviewed the proposed 2017 Operating Budget. The overall attendance budget of 2 million is based on a 4-year historical average at each facility adjusted for known events, openings and trends. Admission revenue of \$17.5 million is based on the new attendance budget and increased pricing. All facilities will continue to only be open on Mondays from March through August. Cool Zoo and Gator Run re-open in the spring and Cool Zoo revenue assumes a 20% penetration rate. Tax millage revenue budget of \$4.5 million is \$500k lower than the 2016 budget. All funds received in excess of the operating budget will be used to cover large repairs and improvements at the Zoo and Aquarium. Admission rates will be raised at the Zoo by \$3.00 per adult, \$3.00 per child and \$5.00 per senior citizen. The Aquarium rates will increase by \$5.00 per adult, \$3.00 per child and \$6.00 per senior citizen. The Audubon Butterfly Garden

and Insectarium will increase by \$3.00 per adult, \$3.00 per child and \$5.00 per senior citizen. The Entergy Giant Screen Theater will decrease admission costs to \$6.95 per adult, \$5.95 per child and \$5.95 for seniors. The overall budget contains a \$500,000 contingency expense reserve. Ms. Conkerton reported that it is the unanimous recommendation of the Executive/Audit/Finance Committees to approve the 2017 operating budget. (Gottsegen/Charpentier/Unanimous)

Ms. Conkerton then asked for a motion to approve the Executive/Audit/Finance Committee minutes as presented. (Dumas/LeClerq/Unanimous)

Staff Reports

Mr. Forman reported that construction at the Nature Center is ongoing and everyone is looking forward to a spring 2017 opening. He further reported that the first phase of construction for the Alliance for Sustainable Wildlife Partnership with San Diego is nearing completion. He stated that soon endangered species like Okapi and Bongo will be able to roam large open spaces and be part of an endangered species breeding program.

Mr. Rich Toth, VP and Managing Director of Downtown facilities reported that Scales and Ales, the Aquarium's annual fundraiser for conservation, was the most successful to date and Sealabration, the annual member appreciation event, had about 2500 members in attendance.

Mr. David Niebuhr, VP of Education and Acting Managing Director of Uptown Facilities, reported that the tree planting volunteer event at the Nature Center was a success with over 1200 trees planted. He further reported that ten endangered African Painted Dog puppies were born at the Zoo and are currently exploring their exhibit.

Mr. Tom Dyer presented a 15-year-old barn owl named Frosty to the Board. Frosty was brought to the Aquarium after being struck by a car. He can no longer fly and now serves as an educational ambassador for the Aquarium.

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

Poco Sloss
Recording Secretary