



Audubon Nature Institute
Celebrating the Wonders of Nature

March 20, 2018

A meeting of the Audubon Nature Institute Board was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2018, at noon at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, Chairman Chris Bardell presiding.

The minutes of the January 23, 2018, meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

Nominating Committee Report

Ms. Leslie Gottsegen, Chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that committee met on March 7, 2018, and discussed the following: 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.

The motions were considered and approved by the board. (Romig/Dumas/unanimous)

Finance Report

Ms. Conkerton, EVP, and CAO reviewed the January 2018 Operating Budget:

January Operating Budget (in thousands)

JANUARY 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	(136)	(235)	99	10	(146)	6,560
Zoo & Park	(1,257)	(1,062)	(195)	(801)	(456)	(5,353)
Butterfly Garden & Insectarium	(56)	(74)	18	(53)	(3)	77
FMASSC	70	28	42	(91)	161	(548)
Louisiana Nature Center	(22)	(19)	(3)	(1)	(21)	(355)
	(\$1,401)	(\$1,362)	(\$39)	(\$936)	(\$465)	\$381

Excludes capital revenues and expenses.

She reported that net revenue was 2.86 % below budget and is primarily due to low attendance affecting admissions revenue, concessions and gift shops. She reported that attendance was greatly affected by two closures due to freezing weather. She then reported that it looks like Audubon will end 2017 slightly ahead of budget and that external auditors arrived on Monday, March 19 and will be at Audubon for 3 weeks.

Staff Reports

Mr. Forman, President, and CEO asked Mark Romig to report on tourism in New Orleans. Mr. Romig reported that numbers were beginning to rise after a decline in the last year. He stated the New York Times article declaring New Orleans the #1 place to visit in the world has had a significant impact.

Dr. Kyle Burks, VP and Managing Director of Audubon Zoo and Park reported that Zoo to Do and Kids Zoo to Do would be coming up in May and encouraging everyone present to purchase their tickets to the Zoo's premier fundraiser. He further reported that the second phase of Jaguar Jungle is set to open this weekend with a nocturnal house and alpacas.

Mr. Rich Toth, VP and Managing Director of Downtown Facilities, reported that Washed Ashore, a touring art exhibition that builds and exhibits art pieces made from plastic pollution in oceans and waterways, will be coming to the Aquarium soon. He further reported that the Aquarium is partnering with Escape Room to open a mission-based Escape Room game in the theater lobby.

Mr. Forman introduced Jayme Necaize, Director of Animals and Visitor Programs and Zack Lemann, Curator of Animal Collection who gave an overview of events at the Insectarium and presented some insects for the Board members present.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Willard Dumas
Recording Secretary

In attendance: Bardell, Cazes, Charpentier, Dumas, Gottsegen, D. Hooper, Jacobs, LeClercq, Long, Messer, Moss, Palumbo, Romig, Rowan, Stall, Werner, Westfeldt, Wiggins

Excused: Brown, Coaxum, Colhoun, Cooper, Farris, Jaeger, Kupperman, Lauscha, Perry, Quinn, Sloss, Spears, Smith, Vanderlinden