



Audubon Nature Institute
Celebrating the Wonders of Nature

March 21, 2017

A meeting of the Audubon Nature Institute Board was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. at the Audubon Louisiana Nature Center, Chairman Chris Bardell presiding.

The minutes of the January 17, 2017, meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

Finance Report

Ms. Conkerton, EVP, and CAO reviewed the January 2017 Operating Budget:

January Operating Budget (in thousands)

| JANUARY 2017 FINANCIAL DASHBOARD (AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS) | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| NET OPERATING RESULTS BY FACILITY: | | | | | | |
| FACILITY | ACTUAL 2017 | BUDGET 2017 | <i>BUDGET VARIANCE</i> | ACTUAL 2016 | <i>PRIOR YEAR VARIANCE</i> | BUDGET 2017 |
| Aquarium/EGST | 10 | (252) | 262 | (153) | 163 | 6,292 |
| Zoo & Park | (804) | (1,015) | 211 | (1,100) | 296 | (4,955) |
| Butterfly Garden & Insectarium | (53) | (117) | 64 | (109) | 56 | 39 |
| FMASSC | (91) | (86) | (5) | (101) | 10 | (748) |
| Louisiana Nature Center | (1) | (6) | 5 | 0 | (1) | (257) |
| | (\$939) | (\$1,476) | \$537 | (\$1,463) | \$524 | \$371 |
| Excludes capital revenues and expenses. | | | | | | |

Staff Reports

Mr. Forman, President and CEO, thanked Joe Jaeger for the two years he served as Chairman of the Board and welcomed Chris Bardell to chairing his first meeting as the new Chairman. Mr. Forman presented Mr. Jaeger with a plaque. Mr. Jaeger thanked Mr. Forman for his leadership.

Mr. Forman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting at the all new Nature Center and introduced Mr. Dave Niebuhr, the centers Managing Director. Mr. Niebuhr reported that the first round of boardwalk trails are complete, the main building is complete and waiting on exhibitry, and the building that the board is meeting in will be used for classrooms. He then introduced Brenda Walkenhorst, Director of Education, Llewellyn Everage, Director of Volunteers/Intern Resources and Maria Kohls, Training Supervisor for Volunteers. He reported that they have busy getting the property ready for opening day including arranging volunteer groups in for tree plantings.

Ms. Ashley McClaran, VP of Construction, reported on current construction projects. She stated that the new sculptures for Cooper Plaza will be delivered on Monday, April 24 and that the Zoo will need to be closed for safety reasons. She further reported that construction continues for the Alliance for Sustainable Wildlife project. She stated that Phase I is complete and they are working towards Phase II which includes more animal enclosures. She also reported that conceptual designs for renovations at the Aquarium are in progress. A shark touch pool is also being considered for the Aquarium.

Mr. Joel Hamilton, VP and General Curator, reported on the Alliance for Sustainable Wildlife project. He stated that animal shipments of bongo, okapi, and giraffe are scheduled for April and May. He then reported that the animals will have ample room to roam with a goal of repopulating endangered species.

Mr. Rich Toth, VP and Managing Director of Downtown Facilities, reported that Aquarium attendance has been up likely due to spring break. He stated that Zulu festival was well attended this year, possibly the highest attendance to date. He further reported that the Aquarium will be opening early on April 12 for an Autism speaks event allowing families to visit before the larger crowds visit. He then reported that the Aquarium has acquired a rescued sea otter named Ruby.

Mr. Forman welcomed new board member Susu Stall. He then reported that Woldenberg Park will host the Fried Chicken Festival in September of this year. The festival saw 40,000 people in one day in Lafayette Square and needed a bigger area to host. Mr. Forman reported that the founder of the festival Cleveland Spears is a board member and wanted to report that to the board in full disclosure.

Mr. Forman further reported that representatives from the Trust for Public Land, New Orleans Recreation Department, and City Park have been meeting to discuss putting together a millage proposal that splits proceeds between the entities. He stated that the proposed millage will be discussed in the next few months and presented to the Mayor and City Council for their opinion.

Mr. Forman reported that the Inspector General of New Orleans is still conducting an audit of Audubon and that meetings have been held with his staff and Ron, Kelly Duncan – President of the Audubon Commission, Brent Wood – Treasurer of the Audubon Commission and Audubon's attorney Henry Kinney. The audit is going on two years and should be completed in the spring of this year.

Mr. Forman then reported that Audubon Zoo and Audubon Aquarium have been nominated for USA Today's 10Best Zoos and Aquariums in the United States and encouraged board members to vote for our attractions.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Willard Dumas
Recording Secretary

In attendance: Bardell, Cazes, Charpentier, Coaxum, Dumas, D. Hooper, Jacobs, Jaeger, LeClercq, Moss, Palumbo, Romig, Rowan, Sloss, Spears, Stall, Werner, Westfeldt

Excused: Brown, Colhoun, Farris, Gottsegen, Heebe, Kupperman, Lauscha, Long, Messer, Perry, Quinn, Rice, Smith, Vanderlinden.