



Audubon Nature Institute
Celebrating the Wonders of Nature

September 18, 2018

A meeting of the Audubon Nature Institute Board was held on Tuesday, September 18, 2018, at 8:00 a.m. at the Audubon Zoo, Vice Chairman Poco Sloss presiding.

The minutes of July 24, 2018, meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

Vice Chairman Sloss introduced newly elected board member Ransdell Prieur and welcomed her to her first meeting.

Finance Report

Ms. Conkerton, EVP, and CAO reviewed July 2018's Operating Budget:

She reported that net revenue is 32% greater than budgeted and 3.7% greater than 2017 actual. She further reported attendance through July 31, 2018, is 1,420,000, 2% lower than budgeted and the year-end target is 2.1 million. She further reported that total expenses are \$29.2 million, 7% lower than budgeted and 2% greater than 2017 actual.

JULY 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	7,827	6,898	929	7,440	387	6,556
Zoo & Park	(1,211)	(1,479)	268	(929)	(282)	(5,349)
Butterfly Garden & Insectarium	575	296	279	696	(121)	77
FMASSC	(53)	(261)	208	(454)	401	(548)
Louisiana Nature Center	(165)	(183)	18	(29)	(136)	(355)
	\$6,973	\$5,271	\$1,702	\$6,724	\$249	\$381

Excludes capital revenues and expenses.

Staff Reports

Mr. Rich Toth, VP and Managing Director of Downtown Facilities, reported that an Escape Room experience located in the theater lobby of the Aquarium will be opening in November. The Escape Room will feature an interactive experience for all ages while teaching about shark conservation. He further reported that the Weeki Wachee Mermaids will be back at the Aquarium in November with some added features including a mermaid salon, breakfast and mermaid and pirate party. He then reported that the Shark Touch Pool is under construction with an expected opening in the summer of 2019.

Mr. Kyle Burks, VP and Managing Director of the Zoo and Park reported on uptown facilities. He stated that Watoto Farm is now open next to Watoto Walk at the Zoo. The 10,000 square foot paddock will serve as an outdoor classroom, teaching visitors about farm animals. He then reported that construction continues on the new lion exhibit and is still on track for a summer 2019 opening. Mr. Burks further reported that highly requested swings have now been added to the new playground at the front of Audubon Park.

Ms. Rebecca Dietz, VP of Public Affairs and General Counsel, reported that she is leading the effort for outreach in regards to Riverfront redevelopment. She stated that a robust community engagement plan is being formed with the first public meeting scheduled for early October.

Mr. Forman reported that discussions continue to take place on a shared parks millage with NORDC, City Park, Parks and Parkways and Audubon. The purpose of the shared mileage would be to provide each entity with a suitable amount for operation and maintenance of parks. He stated that he will keep the board updated as discussions continue.

Willard Dumas
Recording Secretary

In attendance: Bardell, Brown, Cazes, Charpentier, Colhoun, Dumas, Farris, Hooper, Kupperman, LeClercq, Long, Moss, Prieur, Sloss, Stall, Vanderlinden, Westfeldt, Wiggins

Excused: Coaxum, Cooper, Gottsegen, Jacobs, Jaeger, Lauscha, Messer, Palumbo, Perry, Quinn, Romig, Simon, Spears,