



Audubon Nature Institute
Celebrating the Wonders of Nature

September 20, 2016

The Meeting of the Audubon Nature Institute Board was called to order on Tuesday, September 20, at 8:00 am. in the Presidents' Room at the Audubon Zoo by Chairman Jaeger.

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

The minutes of the May 17, 2016 meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

Nominating Report

Chairman Jaeger asked Mark Romig of the Nominating Committee to give the nominating report. He reported that board members Jeffrey Goldring, Paul Fine, Allison Tiller, Bob Brown, John Payne and Nolan Marshall have resigned for various reasons and that it is the unanimous recommendation of the Nominating Committee to the Audubon Nature Institute Board that Dennis Lauscha, Quentin Messer, Willard Dumas, Bart Farris and Hunter Cazes be appointed to fill the unexpired terms. (Gottsegen/Rowan/unanimous).

Finance Report

Ms. Conkerton, EVP and Chief Administrative Officer gave the finance report. Ms. Conkerton reported that attendance revenues are down at the Zoo due to the rain and high temperatures this summer. She also reported that after speaking with local tourism executives, a downward trend in attendance and revenue across New Orleans hospitality industry has been observed. She further reported that Audubon is currently working on the budget for 2017 and is implementing a 2% reduction. Audubon has decided to budget conservatively due to weather forecasts and a need to examine all operations for effectiveness and efficiency.

July YTD Operating Budget (in thousands)

JULY YTD 2016 - FINANCIAL DASHBOARD (AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)						
NET OPERATING RESULTS BY FACILITY:						
FACILITY	ACTUAL 2016	BUDGET 2016	BUDGET VARIANCE	ACTUAL 2015	PRIOR YEAR VARIANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET 2016
Aquarium/EGST	7,348	7,471	(123)	6,653	695	6,310
Zoo & Park	(1,841)	(942)	(899)	(570)	(1,271)	(4,879)
Butterfly Garden & Insectarium	668	534	134	600	68	23
FMASSC	(369)	(500)	131	(492)	123	(900)
Louisiana Nature Center	0	0	0	0	0	(100)
	\$5,806	\$6,563	(\$757)	\$6,191	(\$385)	\$454

Ms. Conkerton reported that Audubon Nature Institute has updated its Financial Resource Management Policy. The policy establishes guidelines to ensure that proper procedures and controls exist to promote the responsible management of assets. She asked for a motion to accept the policy as presented. (Le Clerq, Charpentier, unanimous).

Ms. Conkerton further reported that the joint Audubon Commission and Audubon Nature Institute Board's Finance/Audit and Executive Committees met on Thursday, June 2 to receive a report on draft audits performed by LaPorte CPAs for the Audubon Commission, Audubon Nature Institute Board and Audubon Nature Institute Board Foundation. She reported that LaPorte found no significant deficiency or material weakness in the audit and there was complete cooperation from management and staff. Ms. Conkerton asked for approval of the audited financial statements as presented. (Romig, Sloss, unanimous) She then asked for approval of the Executive Committee minutes as presented. (Markham, Sloss, unanimous).

Ms. McClaran, VP of Construction stated that the jogging path resurfacing has been completed in Audubon Park. She further reported that construction has started on the Jaguar Jungle phase II project that includes a new playground area and night house with an estimated completion of 2017. She then reported that new sculptures for the Cooper Plaza Fountain will be arriving soon and renovations to the fountain pool will be made as well. At the Aquarium a new shark touch pool will be underway soon.

Mr. Forman, President and CEO discussed the importance of saving species and stated that the Association of Zoos and Aquariums has organized a program called

S.A.F.E. (Saving Animals from Extinction) and has asked Audubon, along with other leading Zoo's in the country, to be a member of its Founders Circle and pledge \$150,000 spread over five years in support of the programs efforts. Mr. Forman asked for a motion to approve supporting the S.A.F.E. founders circle pledge. (Quinn, Sloss, unanimous)

Mr. Rich Toth, VP and Managing Director of Downtown Facilities reported that the aquarium has started a new sea otter meet and greet premium experience. He further reported that the Weeki Wachee mermaids are coming back to the Aquarium in early November along with the "mermaid salon" and a new "breakfast with the mermaids" in the gulf tank area.

Mr. David Niebuhr, VP of Education and Acting Managing Director of Uptown Facilities, reported that crews have been busy keeping the park and Zoo clean due to the amount of rain received over the last month. He further reported that Nature Center construction is progressing and everyone is looking forward to it's opening in 2017.

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

Poco Sloss
Recording Secretary