

## Audubon Commission Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2018

A meeting of the Audubon Commission was called to order on Thursday, November 15, 2018, at 9:00am in the Presidents' Room of the Audubon Zoo by Second Vice Chair Boysie Bollinger.

Attending were: Gayle Benson, Storey Charbonnet, Boysie Bollinger, Danny Conwill, Leila Eames, Ashley Francis, Bruce Hofer, Lex Kelso, Beth Lambert, Olivia Manning, Field Ogden, Coleman Ridley, Pamela Ryan, Norma Jane Sabiston, Ravi Sangisetty, Sally Shushan, Charles Teamer, Brent Wood

Excused were: Linda Baum, Kelly Duncan, Frances Fayard, Deborah Harkins, Catherine Morrell

Mr. Bollinger opened the meeting. There was one member of the public present.

The minutes of the October 10, 2018, meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

### **President's Report**

Mr. Bollinger asked Mr. Forman, President and CEO, to give the President's Report. Mr. Forman introduced Ms. Rebecca Dietz, Executive Vice President and General Counsel. Ms. Dietz reported that the New Orleans City Council has voted to put the Park Partners Millage on the December 6 City Council Agenda to be approved for ballot placement. She stated that NORD, Parks and Parkways, City Park and Audubon continue to work together on this important initiative and that a motion was needed for the collaborative millage.

WHEREAS, in 1972 voters of Orleans Parish approved a millage of 0.32 mills for the Audubon Zoo, and in 1986, voters of Orleans Parish approved a millage of 2.99 mills for the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas;

WHEREAS, the millages for the Aquarium and the Zoo will expire in 2021 and 2022, respectively;

WHEREAS, Audubon Commission strives to strengthen community partnerships and connect our neighbors to conservation, wildlife and nature;

WHEREAS, parks and recreation operators in the City of New Orleans desire to work collaboratively to protect, maintain and improve public spaces and recreation facilities in New Orleans;

WHEREAS, Audubon has been working with City Park, the New Orleans Recreation Development Commission, and the Department of Parks and Parkways to review current tax millage allocations for each organization and develop a collaborative approach to funding public parks and recreation throughout the City;

BE IT RESOLVED, that in furtherance of the collaboration among the parks and recreation operators in New Orleans, the Audubon Commission supports and approves the proposed May 2019 ballot initiative which would redistribute 6.31 total mills currently levied for parks and recreation in the following manner: 1.95 mills to New Orleans Recreational Development Commission; 1.80 mills to New Orleans Department of Parks and Parkways; 0.61 mills to City Park; and 1.95 mills to the Audubon Commission, such funds of the Audubon Commission to be used for the benefit of all Audubon Commission facilities.

The motion was considered and approved. (Sabiston/Benson/unanimous)

## **Finance Report**

Mr. Bollinger had to leave the meeting early and turned it over the First Vice Chair Danny Conwill. Mr. Conwill asked Ms. Conkerton, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer to give the finance report. Ms. Conkerton reviewed the proposed 2019 Operating Budget and reported on several business assumptions for the budget including \$2.8m in medical insurance premiums (up 17% from 2018 Budget), \$1.6m Property/General Liability Insurance expense (4% above the 2018 Budget), \$500k expense contingency (split between the Zoo/Park and Downtown) and that many new and exciting exhibits will be opening in 2019.

She further reported that net income for membership and gift shops are budgeted to be higher than 2018 forecast, net income for special events and concessions is slightly lower than 2018 and that attendance & admissions revenue is budgeted at \$18.4m (3% increase over the 2018 budget). All facilities will continue to only be open on Mondays from March 1 through September 3. There will be no increase in pricing for 2018. Ms. Conkerton further reported that attendance is budgeted for 2.2 million guests, a 7% increase over the 2018 year end forecast. After discussion, Ms. Conkerton asked for a motion to approve the 2019 Operating budget. The motion was considered and approved. (Ogden/Hoefer/Unanimous)

Ms. Dietz reported that a motion was needed to approve the terms of a master lease purchase agreement for energy savings equipment at the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas. Mr. Toth, VP and Managing Director of Downtown Facilities explained that maintenance systems were in desperate need of repair and replacement and that this affords the Aquarium to pay for them over time. Ms. Dietz reported that a motion was needed (see attachment A). The motion was considered and approved. (Charbonnet/Francis/Unanimous)

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