

Audubon Commission Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2017

A meeting of the Audubon Commission was called to order on Thursday, October 26, 2017, at 12:00 pm. in the Pisces Room of the Audubon Aquarium by President Duncan.

Attending were: Linda Baum, Boysie Bollinger, Kelly Duncan, Leila Eames, Ludovico Feoli, Deborah Harkins, Bruce Hofer, Beth Lambert, Christopher Meeks, Field Ogden, Coleman Ridley, Charles Teamer, Brent Wood

Excused were: Gayle Benson, Storey Charbonnet, Danny Conwill, Angus Cooper, Frances Fayard, Ashley Francis, Olivia Manning, Catherine Morrell, Pamela Ryan, Ravi Sangisetty, Carol Wise

Also attending: Henry Kinney, legal counsel.

Mr. Duncan opened the meeting by welcoming new commission member, Coleman Ridley, and the other commission members and asking if there were any members of the public at the meeting. No members of the public were present. The minutes of the April 27, 2017, meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

Finance Report

Ms. Conkerton, EVP, and CAO reported on Septembers year to date 2017 operating budget.

SEPTEMBER YTD 2017 FINANCIAL DASHBOARD						
<i>(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)</i>						
NET OPERATING RESULTS BY FACILITY:						
FACILITY	YTD ACTUAL 2017	YTD BUDGET 2017	BUDGET VARIANCE	YTD ACTUAL 2016	PRIOR YEAR VARIANCE	TOTAL BUDGET 2017
Aquarium/EGST	7,484	6,847	637	7,297	187	6,292
Zoo & Park	(2,541)	(2,515)	(26)	(3,872)	1,331	(4,955)
Butterfly Garden & Insectarium	541	289	252	521	20	39
FMASSC	(398)	(540)	142	(555)	157	(748)
Louisiana Nature Center	(61)	(184)	123	0	(61)	(257)
	\$5,025	\$3,897	\$1,128	\$3,391	\$1,634	\$371
<small>Excludes capital revenues and expenses.</small>						

Ms. Conkerton further reported that in every year that the millage does not roll up or down an authorization is needed by the Commission to maintain the current rate. The Commission considered and approved the following (Baum, Eames, unanimous):

WHEREAS, in 2017 the millage levied by the Audubon Commission was 0.32 mills for the Audubon Zoo and 2.99 mills for the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas;

WHEREAS in 2018, there is no millage roll-back or roll forward, and the Audubon Commission intends to maintain the millages at their current rates;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millages are hereby levied on the 2018 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Audubon Commission:

Audubon Zoo	0.32 mills
Audubon Aquarium of the Americas	2.99 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2018, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2017, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

Ms. Conkerton further reported that a motion was needed authorizing the transfer of the millage funds from the Board of Liquidation to the Audubon Commission. The Commission considered and approved the following (Ogden/Meeks/unanimous):

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Audubon Commission in a public meeting held on October 26, 2017, that collections of the aquarium tax millage in excess of that needed to service the bonds shall be transferred in 2018 from the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, to the Audubon Commission;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that collections of the zoo tax millage in excess of that needed to service the bonds shall be transferred in 2018 from the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, to the Audubon Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that J. Kelly Duncan and L. Ronald Forman be authorized to act on behalf of the Commission in all matters pertaining to these transfers.

Ms. Conkerton further reported that the 2016 Audited Financial Statements were reviewed by the Executive Committee at the June 7, 2017, Executive/Finance/Audit Committee meeting and were emailed to the full Commission on June 26, 2017. The Executive Committee approved the financials as presented. A motion to accept the Commission's 2016 Audited Financial Statements was considered and approved by the Commission. (Hoefler/Lambert/unanimous)

Mr. Ron Forman, President, and CEO discussed the city's vision for riverfront development. The goal is to build parks/green space from Woldenberg Park to the edge of Crescent Park. He reported that Audubon Commission would play a major role with the city, Port of New Orleans, and tourism industry working together. Mr. Forman introduced Mr. Henry Kinney who asked for two motions to be added to the agenda in relation to

Audubon's role in riverfront development. The motion to add these two items to the agenda was approved by the Commission. (Lambert/Bollinger/unanimous).

The first motion was in reference to Audubon's involvement with a ferry bridge terminal to be built on the grounds of the Aquarium.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: J. Kelly Duncan, President of the Commission, subject to the approval of the Executive and Legal Committee of the Audubon Commission, be and is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents among the Audubon Commission, the City of New Orleans, and the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority for the building of the ferry bridge terminal, adjacent to the Aquarium of the Americas and for the planning, design, construction, and operation of that ferry bridge terminal.

The motion was considered and approved by the Commission. (Hoefler/Lambert/unanimous).

The second motion referenced the combing of riverfront property.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: J. Kelly Duncan, President of the Commission, subject to the approval of the Executive and Legal Committee of the Audubon Commission, be and is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents among the Audubon Commission, the City of New Orleans, and the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority for the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the area known as the Crescent Park wharves and riparian land, the Esplanade Avenue wharves and riparian land, the Governor Nicholls wharves and riparian land, and the Moonwalk area.

The motion was considered and approved by the Commission. (Feoli/Harkins/unanimous).

Mr. David Niebuhr, VP of Education and Managing Director of the Louisiana Nature Center reported that the Nature Center is now open 7 days a week. He stated that since the grand opening the Nature Center has seen about 2,000 students through the doors and along the trails. He reported that there have been several scout overnight camping trips and education programs throughout the day. He then reported that a fall festival was being planned. Dr. Teamer stated that Whitney Bank and Franklin Avenue Baptist church recently held a fundraising dinner at the Nature Center and both parties stated the event was a success. Mr. Niebuhr further reported that a motion was needed authorizing the President of the Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with Boasso Construction, the lowest qualified bidder for the Audubon Louisiana Botany Renovation project. The scope of work will include all necessary repairs to the botany building to restore it to its original design. The motion was considered and approved by the Commission. (Feoli/Teamer/unanimous).

Mr. Kyle Burks, VP and Managing Director of Audubon Zoo and Park reported the grand opening of the Alliance for Sustainable Wildlife partnership with San Diego on September 28, 2017, was a success. Executives and Board Members of San Diego Zoo Global and AZA President Dan Ashe attended and celebrated the event. He further reported that the Zoo will be undergoing AZA Accreditation this year which occurs every 5 years. Mr. Burks then reported that a motion was needed authorizing the President of the Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with the lowest qualified bidder for the Audubon Zoo Lions bid package estimated at \$5,683,214. The scope of work will include construction and design of lions holding/breeding facility and a 13,000-square foot exhibit to be located in the zoo's current Africa exhibit. The motion was considered and approved by the Commission. (Wood/Harkins/unanimous).

Mr. Burks further reported that a motion was needed authorizing the President of the Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with Steele-R Development, the lowest qualified bidder for the Riverview restroom and walkway improvement project. The scope of work includes demolition and rebuilding of the restroom across from the softball fields and walkway to the playground. The motion was considered and approved by the Commission. (Ridley/Bollinger/unanimous).

Mr. Burks then reported that a motion was needed authorizing the President of the Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with the lowest qualified bidder for the Audubon Zoo Sea Lion Improvements bid package estimated at \$175,000. The scope of work is to add a dry resting area for Sea Lions as required by USDA. The motion was considered and approved by the Commission. (Ogden/Baum/unanimous).

Mr. Rich Toth, VP and Managing Director of Downtown Facilities reported that the Fried Chicken Festival in Woldenberg Park was a success with nearly 100,000 in attendance. He further reported that New Orleans City Council members recently commended the Aquarium for its leadership in educating the public about the harmful impacts of plastic trash and alternatives that are better for our environment. He then reported that mermaids are coming back to the Aquarium in November and will be featured in the coral reef tank. H further reported that a motion was needed authorizing the President of the Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with a qualified Energy Efficiency Contractor that will evaluate and replace equipment and building systems that will result in an energy reduction with a guaranteed savings. This will be a 20-year contract for agreed upon equipment or building systems that will lower the energy bill at the Aquarium. A brief discussion was held and the motion was approved by the Commission. (Bollinger/Meeks/unanimous).

Mr. Toth asked for a motion relating to the G.U.L.F. Responsible Fisheries Management certification program to be added to the agenda. The motion to add the new item to the agenda was approved by the Commission. (Harkins/Ogden/unanimous).

The Commission considered and approved the following (Harkins/Meeks/unanimous):

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), through Its Office of Fisheries, desires to enter into a contract with Audubon Commission to deliver services related to sustaining aquatic life; and,

WHEREAS, the contract requires Audubon Commission to maintain the G.U.L.F. Responsible Fisheries Management certification program in accordance with all appropriate international standards. Put forward the G.U.L.F. Responsible Fisheries Management certification program for recognition by the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative and manage the recognition process. Maintain all operational aspects of the certification scheme including those related to existing certificates and make the scheme available to any other Gulf of Mexico fishery as requested and supported by relevant stakeholders. Conduct, manage, and/or supervise other certification-related activities including, but not limited to, ensuring due process and due diligence regarding G.U.L.F. sustainability pre-assessments, sustainability full assessments, and sustainability audits; G.U.L.F. Responsible Fisheries Management certification program-related Fishery Improvement Plans/Marine Advancement Plans; and engagement with relevant stakeholders and other relevant parties as necessary. The scope of this work will be performed at a fixed fee of \$500,000 (FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS) over two years; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Audubon Commission authorizes its President, J. Kelly Duncan, by his signature to enter into the afore-mentioned contract with LDWF on behalf of the commission.

Mr. Forman introduced Jayme Necaise, Director of Animals and Visitor Programs and Zack Lemann, Curator of Animal Collection who gave an overview of events at the Insectarium, presented some insects for the Commission members present and reported that Crawloween, a Halloween celebration at the Insectarium, was taking place this weekend.

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

Linda G. Baum
Secretary