



Audubon Nature Institute
Celebrating the Wonders of Nature

December 2, 2015

A meeting of the Audubon Commission was called to order on Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in the Presidents' Room at the Audubon Zoo by President Duncan.

Attending were: Linda Baum, Gayle Benson, Storey Charbonnet, Angus Cooper, Kelly Duncan, Bart Farris, Rashida Ferdinand, Ashley Francis, Deborah Harkins, Olivia Manning, Catherine Morrell, Peter Moss, Field Ogden, Pamela Ryan, Charles Teamer, Tom Watson, Carol Wise and Brent Wood

Excused were: Danny Conwill, Boysie Bollinger, Frances Fayard, Bruce Hoefler, Beth Lambert, Helena Moreno

Also attending: Henry Kinney and Michael DeShazo, legal counsel and Richard Rainey, Times-Picayune.

President Kelly Duncan opened up the meeting by welcoming the commission members, press and several members of the public. The minutes of the April 30, 2015 meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed. Mr. Duncan asked Mr. Forman, President and CEO and Ms. Conkerton, EVP and CAO to discuss the millage roll back/forward and present the motions. Mr. Forman reported that the Commission needs to vote on rolling back the millage to the adjusted rate and then on whether to roll forward to keep the current rate. This in essence would be a gain of \$350,000 and the money would be used to replace a 25 year old fire suppression system at the Aquarium.

Ms. Conkerton then read the motions.

Roll Back

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Audubon Commission of the Parish of Orleans, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on December 2, 2015 which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the following adjusted millage rates be and they are hereby levied upon the dollar of the assessed valuation of all property* subject to ad valorem taxation within said Parish for the year 2016, for the purpose of raising revenue:

	MILLAGE
Audubon Zoo	0.30 mills
Audubon Aquarium of the Americas	2.82 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assessor of the Parish of Orleans, shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2016 the taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of said Parish shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

Mr. Duncan asked for discussion, there being none he asked for a vote and it passed unanimously.

Millage Roll Forward

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Audubon Commission of the Parish of Orleans, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on December 2, 2015 which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the taxing district voted to increase the millage rate(s), but not in excess of the prior year's maximum rate(s), on all taxable property shown on the official assessment roll for the year 2016, and when collected, the revenues from said taxes shall be used only for the specific purposes for which said taxes have been levied. Said millage rate(s) are:

	Adjusted Rate	2016 Levy
Audubon Zoo	0.30 mills	0.32 mills
Audubon Aquarium of the Americas	2.82 mills	2.99 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assessor of the Parish of Orleans, shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2016 the taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of said Parish shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

Mr. Duncan asked for discussion. Ms. Ryan asked how the rate is decided and Mr. Forman responded that the current rate is normally adjusted downward so that the current tax revenue remains the same even though property values have increased. The tax recipient agency can then, by law, roll the rate back up to the rate previously allowed by the voters which will produce an increase in revenues the tax recipient agency. Most agencies receiving the millage in New Orleans have rolled up their rate. With no further discussion the motion passed unanimously.

Tax Collection Transfer

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Audubon Commission in a public meeting held on December 2, 2015, that collections of the aquarium tax millage in excess of that needed to service the bonds shall be transferred in 2016 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 2016 from the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, to the Audubon Commission; and

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

Dr. Farris asked for a motion to amend the agenda to include a motion to add the President of the Commission to also be able to act on behalf of the Commission in all matters pertaining to these transfers. Dr. Teamer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The motion was re-read as:

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Audubon Commission in a public meeting held on December 2, 2015, that collections of the aquarium tax millage in excess of that needed to service the bonds shall be transferred in 2016 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 2016 from the Board of Liquidation, City Debt, to the Audubon Commission; and

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

Mr. Duncan asked for discussion, there being none the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Francis, Mr. Wood, Mr. Ogden and Mr. Charbonnet left the meeting.

Construction and Contracts

Mr. Forman and Ms. Conkerton reported on several motions:

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with the lowest qualified bidder for Tropical Bird House construction with a cost estimate of \$2,600,000. The construction package is set to go out to bid in December. Renovations include complete restoration of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, mold removal, roof repair including installation of new greenhouse roof system, and complete landscaping package. Project also includes all-new exhibits and support spaces for animal staff to care for a variety of species. (Ogden, Wood, unanimous)

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with the lowest qualified bidder for Jaguar Jungle Phase II construction with a cost estimate of \$2,630,100. The construction package is set to go out to bid in December. Bid package includes new "night house" exhibit with a variety of educational and animal exhibits featuring bats, mammals, and insects of the region. New restrooms are included as well as a "market place" and renovation of the temple to incorporate a climbing component for kids. (Watson, Teamer, unanimous)

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with the lowest qualified bidder for the Alliance for Sustainable Wildlife construction with a cost estimate of \$3,600,000. The construction package is out to bid, with bids due back on December 4. This package includes programs developed with San Diego Zoo to provide new structures for housing and breeding giraffe and okapi in addition to necessary upgrades to other hoof stock areas including barns, fencing, and appropriate access to all. (Wood, Teamer, unanimous)

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with the lowest qualified bidder for the Aquarium Fire Suppression System with an estimated cost of \$250,000 - \$350,000. The project is expected to bid end of December. (Benson, Moss, unanimous)

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with the lowest qualified bidder for the Audubon Park Asphalt Trail project with an estimated cost of \$490,000. The project is currently out to bid. (Harkins, Moss, unanimous)

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with Eskew Dumez Ripple one of four architectural firms selected to be in a service pool through a request for proposals process, for design services related to the Aquarium/Theater Combined Lobby and Exhibits project consisting of creating a single lobby for the Aquarium and Entergy Giant Screen Theater and adding exhibits within Phase II of the Aquarium. The estimated construction cost is \$9,800,000. (Wise, Baum, unanimous)

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with PGAV, one of four architectural firms selected to be in a service pool through a request for proposals process for design services related to the Penguin Exhibit Construction project with an estimated cost of \$6,100,000. The project consists of renovations, upgrades, and development of a new Penguin exhibit and modifications to enhance surrounding second floor exhibits of the Aquarium. (Harkins, Baum, unanimous)

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with Eskew Dumez Ripple, one of four architectural firms selected to be in a service pool through a request for proposals process, for design services related to the Park Shelters, Playgrounds, and Landscaping construction project with an estimated cost of \$1,500,000. The project consists of landscaping and playground equipment, roof replacement and shelter and bathroom upgrades. (Manning, Wise, unanimous)

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with Billes Partners, one of four architectural firms selected to be in a service pool through a request for proposals process, for design services related to the Odenheimer Phase II: Pathways construction project with an estimated cost of \$1,200,000. This project includes stabilization of the center building of the Odenheimer complex. Removing mold, lead, and termite damage as needed and repairs associated with this. (Ryan, Moss, unanimous)

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with Torre Design Consortium, LTD., which was selected through a request for proposals process for design services related to the Tigers construction project with an estimated cost of \$5,100,000. This project completes the Asia area in the Zoo and will include tigers and additional multi-species exhibits. (Wise, Benson, unanimous)

Authorize the President of the Commission or the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to sign an amendment with Global Trust Certification, Ltd. that extends the term of the agreement "Development of an ISO Accredited Seafood Certification Model for Gulf Coast Fisheries" through June 30, 2016. (Teamer, Watson, unanimous)

Special Guest

Jason Recher, Managing Director of the Freeport McMoRan Audubon Species Survival Center introduced Gabriella Vasquez, Stranding Coordinator who gave a presentation on her work at Audubon in the Louisiana Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Rescue Program. Ms. Vasquez started as a junior keeper at Audubon when she was 13 and now works full time with Audubon saving wildlife.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Linda G. Baum
Secretary