

Audubon Commission Minutes

April 26, 2018

A meeting of the Audubon Commission was called to order on Thursday, April 26, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. in the Presidents' Room at the Audubon Zoo by President Duncan.

Present were: Boysie Bollinger, Danny Conwill, Linda Baum, Kelly Duncan, Bruce Hoefler, Beth Lambert, Field Ogden, Pamela Ryan, Norma Jane Sabiston, Ravi Sangisetty, Charles Teamer, Brent Wood, Carol Wise

Excused were: Storey Charbonnet, Gayle Benson, Leila Eames, Frances Fayard, Ashley Francis, Ludovico Feoli, Debra Harkins, Catherine Morrell, Olivia Manning, Coleman Ridley

Also attending: Henry Kinney, legal counsel.

The minutes of the January 17, 2018 meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

President Duncan opened the meeting and asked the one member of the public present if he would like to comment and he declined.

Finance Report

Ms. Conkerton, EVP, and CAO reviewed the March 2018 Operating Budget (in thousands):

MARCH 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	954	335	619	4,327	(3,373)	6,560
Zoo & Park	(1,590)	(1,899)	309	(931)	(659)	(5,353)
Butterfly Garden & Insectarium	116	(44)	160	399	(283)	77
FMASSC	(13)	(160)	147	(156)	143	(548)
Louisiana Nature Center	(74)	(72)	(2)	(6)	(68)	(355)
	(\$607)	(\$1,840)	\$1,233	\$3,633	(\$4,240)	\$381
Excludes capital revenues and expenses.						

Ms. Conkerton reported that revenue is currently ahead of budget due to the timing of the millage proceeds deposit. This amount makes up for first quarter losses. She stated that expenses are under budget due to tight controls on salaries and overall operational expenses. She further reported that membership is 13% above budget potentially due to tweaking processing procedures and producing more direct mailers.

Staff Reports:

Mr. Forman reported that there were a few motions that need approval.

Ms. Conkerton stated that a resolution was needed authorizing the President of the Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract extension with Vanir Management, Inc. through March 2019. Mr. Duncan stated that Vanir was selected by a committee for their expertise in Construction Management and have done a great job for Audubon. The motion was considered and approved by the Commission. (Ogden/Bollinger/unanimous)

Mr. Rich Toth, VP and Managing Director of Downtown Facilities reported that he had two motions related to the Gulf United For Lasting Fisheries sustainable seafood program and one related to a new exhibit. He stated that a motion was needed authorizing the President of the Audubon Commission to execute an amendment to the "Agreement for Consulting Services for the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative (GSSI) Benchmarking and Related Certification Scheme Developments," between the Audubon Commission and Global Trust Certification, Ltd. The purpose of the amendment is to extend the term of the contract through June 30, 2018. The motion was considered and approved by the Commission. (Hoefler/Lambert/unanimous).

He further reported that a motion was needed authorizing the President of the Audubon Commission to execute an amendment to the existing "G.U.L.F. Responsible Fisheries Management Certification Program," contract between the Audubon Commission and the State of Louisiana, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. The purpose of the amendment is to extend the term of the contract through December 31, 2018. The motion was considered and approved by the Commission. (Baum/Ogden/unanimous).

Mr. Toth then reported that a motion was needed authorizing the President of the Audubon Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract and any related documents with the lowest qualified bidder for the Shark Touch Pool project estimated at \$3,000,000. The project consists of complete renovation of second-floor exhibit space allowing guests to interact with Sting Ray and Shark species. The motion was considered and approved by the Commission. (Teamer/Wise/unanimous)

Dr. Kyle Burks, VP and Managing Director of Audubon Zoo and Park, reported that two new females and one new male gorilla are now on exhibit in primates. He stated that in an effort to grow populations of gorillas a few of Audubon's gorillas found homes at other zoos as well. He further reported that Kids Zoo to Do and Zoo to Do events are coming up and encouraged all commission members to purchase tickets to the events.

Mr. Forman, President, and CEO discussed the public meetings that have been held for the Audubon Park Master Plan and introduced Mark Ripple, Principal from Eskew, Dumez, Ripple to update the Commission members on the meetings held and what comments have been received on the park. He also stated that the next public meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 16 at 6:00 pm in the Audubon Tea Room.

Mr. Duncan asked if a motion could be made adding an item to the agenda. (Francis/Ryan /unanimous)

Mr. Forman reported that Commission Member Christopher Meeks has resigned and that the Audubon Commission has authority to fill the vacancy. He further reported that the Nominating Committee unanimously recommends Ludovico Feoli to move into the unexpired term. A motion was made and unanimously approved by the commission. (Sabiston/Ryan/unanimous)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Linda G. Baum
Secretary