

Audubon Commission Minutes

April 27, 2017

A meeting of the Audubon Commission was called to order on Thursday, April 27, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. in the Gulf Conference Room of the Aquarium by President Duncan.

Present were: Storey Charbonnet, Kelly Duncan, Ashley Francis, Ludovico Feoli, Bruce Hoefler, Beth Lambert, Field Ogden, Pamela Ryan, Charles Teamer, Tom Watson, Brent Wood

Also attending: Michael DeShazo and Henry Kinney, legal counsel.

The minutes of the January 28, 2017 meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

Mr. Duncan introduced the newly appointed Commission member Ludovico Feoli and welcomed him to his first Audubon Commission meeting.

President Duncan thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting and asked if anyone had any comments to make. No one came forward so he continued with the meeting.

Finance Report

Ms. Conkerton, EVP and CAO reviewed the February 2017 Operating Budget (in thousands):

NET OPERATING RESULTS BY FACILITY:						
FACILITY	ACTUAL 2017	BUDGET 2017	BUDGET VARIANCE	ACTUAL 2016	PRIOR YEAR VARIANCE	BUDGET 2017
Aquarium/EGST	405	284	121	(184)	589	6,292
Zoo & Park	(1,521)	(1,715)	194	(1,667)	146	(4,955)
Butterfly Garden & Insectarium	(173)	(236)	63	(172)	(1)	39
FMASSC	(207)	(190)	(17)	(194)	(13)	(748)
Louisiana Nature Center	(3)	(22)	19	0	(3)	(257)
	(\$1,499)	(\$1,879)	\$380	(\$2,217)	\$718	\$371
Excludes capital revenues and expenses.						

Ms. Conkerton reported that Audubon has a positive net revenue 4-5 months a year and that February net is in line with our typical year. Year to date attendance is 686,264, 13.5% increase over last year at 604,594. Year to date attendance revenue is \$6,098,593, a 9% increase over last year at \$5.6 million. Internal auditors have completed draft audited financial statements which were sent to the city's auditor. Final version will be reviewed next meeting. All audits were clean.

Dr. Teamer complimented Audubon staff on the way they prepare their financial statements and how they

present numbers clearly to the Commission.

Staff Reports:

Mr. Forman reported that there were three motions that need approval.

Ms. Conkerton stated that a resolution was needed to authorize the Audubon Commission to enter into a lease contract with Xerox for centralized printing solutions with an annual amount not to exceed \$45,000 for a period of 5 years and that the President of the Commission or the President of Audubon Nature Institute be authorized to execute the lease. (Ogden/Francis/unanimous)

Ms. Conkerton further reported that a resolution was needed to authorize the Audubon Commission to approve signing a contract with Wells Fargo Equipment Finance for the lease purchase of 67-2017 EZ Go Golf Carts at Audubon Golf Clubhouse in the amount of \$332,263.60 over 60 months, monthly payments of \$5,371.06 beginning September 1, 2017 and that the President of the Commission or the President of Audubon Nature Institute be authorized to execute the contract. (Watson/Ryan/unanimous)

Mr. Ogden asked why Audubon didn't just buy the golf carts at the end of the current lease and Mr. Bill Kurtz, Sr. EVP and COS stated that the carts are in rough shape after 5 years and Audubon would spend more in maintenance by purchasing them.

Ms. Conkerton then reported that a resolution was needed to authorize the Audubon Commission to enter into a contract with the lowest qualified bidder for a trash compactor ramp at Audubon Zoo estimated at \$231,000 and that the President of the Commission or the President of Audubon Nature Institute be authorized to execute the contract. (Watson/Ogden/unanimous)

Mr. Steven Kennedy, a member of the public present asked to speak. He stated that he represents several businesses in the region and wanted to relay the importance of supplier diversity by increasing the use of minority owned businesses in New Orleans. Ms. Conkerton stated that Audubon works with the City's office of Supplier Diversity and offered for Mr. Kennedy to meet with Audubon's purchasing director to learn more.

Mr. Forman introduced Ms. Toni Mobley, VP of Human Resources and Chief Service officer. Ms. Mobley gave a brief presentation on Cool Zoo stating the hours for the summer and that Cool Zoo will be hosting after hours' events as part of a new revenue generating opportunity. She then updated the Commission on customer service initiatives, improving customer service survey results and trying to move Audubon's Trip Advisor ratings up for family attractions.

Mr. Forman then introduced Ms. Ashley McClaran, VP of Construction who gave an update on construction projects. Ms. McClaran reported that animals are beginning to arrive for the Alliance for Sustainable Wildlife, a breeding partnership with San Diego Zoo Global, at the Audubon Species Survival Center on the Westbank. She stated that Bongos have arrived and are enjoying their new enclosures with plenty of room to roam. President Duncan asked Ms. McClaran and Mr. Forman to remind the Commission about the Alliance. Mr. Forman stated that the partnership was formed with San Diego Zoo Global with the purpose of breeding to save endangered species.

Ms. McClaran reported that the Zoo was shut down on Monday, April 24 for the arrival of the new Cooper Plaza sculptures. She then reported that a soft opening was held for the Audubon Louisiana Nature Center on April 22. City officials, donors and New Orleans East leaders were invited to tour the beautiful new campus. The Nature Center is currently open for scheduled educational programming and will open to the public this

summer.

Mr. Forman then introduced Ms. Jocelyn Russell who is the sculptor for the new family of animal sculptures in Cooper Plaza. Ms. Russell gave a presentation on the steps it took to complete the process and stated that it was her biggest project to date.

Mr. Duncan then stated that a motion was needed to go into Executive Session for a discussion of status and approval of further handing of Tahsa Herbert v. Audubon Commission, Audubon Nature Institute, Inc., and New Orleans City, Case No. 15-5425, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.
(Teamer/Ogden/unanimous)

After the discussion, Mr. Duncan stated that a motion was needed to go back into regular session. (Francis/Ryan /unanimous)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Linda G. Baum
Secretary