

Audubon Commission Public Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2016

A meeting of the Audubon Commission was called to order on Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 4:00 pm. in the Audubon Tea Room by President Duncan.

Attending were: Linda Baum, Storey Charbonnet, Kelly Duncan, Bart Farris, Deborah Harkins, Bruce Hoefler, Beth Lambert, Field Ogden, Olivia Manning, Tom Watson, Brent Wood

Excused were: Gayle Benson, Boysie Bollinger, Danny Conwill, Angus Cooper, Frances Fayard, Rashida Ferdinand, Ashley Francis, Helena Moreno, Catherine Morrell, Ravi Sangisetty, Pamela Ryan, Charles Teamer, Carol Wise

Also attending: Michael DeShazo, legal counsel.

The minutes of the April 28, 2016 meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

Finance Report

Ms. Conkerton, EVP and CAO reviewed the May 2016 Operating Budget:

May Operating Budget (in thousands)

MAY YTD 2016 - FINANCIAL DASHBOARD						
(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)						
NET OPERATING RESULTS BY FACILITY:						
FACILITY	ACTUAL 2016	BUDGET 2016	BUDGET VARIANCE	ACTUAL 2015	PRIOR YEAR VARIANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET 2016
Aquarium/EGST	5,651	5,614	37	5,014	637	6,310
Zoo & Park	(543)	(793)	250	(193)	(350)	(4,879)
Butterfly Garden & Insectarium	612	480	132	184	428	23
FMASSC	(482)	(340)	(142)	(306)	(176)	(900)
Louisiana Nature Center	0	0	0	0	0	(100)
	\$5,238	\$4,961	\$277	\$4,699	\$539	\$454

She reported that the 2015 audit was completed and that the auditor found no problems with Audubon's finances. Audubon was in compliance with bid laws and no problems were found with the purchasing card system. The findings were determined to be a clean audit and Audubon is pleased with the results. She further reported that based on changes to the sales tax law, Audubon is generating approximately \$140,000 a month in sales taxes for the state. She then reported that attendance revenue is up, food and beverage and membership are down slightly.

President Duncan thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting, and reviewed the rules for public speaking (2 minutes per speaker). He reminded everyone to keep their comments to items that appear on the agenda. Public comment was then received. During public comment, a representative of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority spoke regarding the need for certain servitudes to be granted by the Commission in connection with an upcoming flood protection project. President Duncan acknowledged the importance of such projects, and stated that the Commission would work with SLFPA to accommodate their request. After the public comment period, President Duncan stated that the Commission appreciates the input it is receiving.

Staff Reports

Ms. McClaran, VP of Construction, reported that after public comment was received on what to do with appropriated funds from the City of New Orleans for Riverview, Audubon has decided to renovate the bathrooms. She stated that Audubon has closed the bathrooms and put up temporary facilities. She further reported that Audubon is reviewing a proposal to convert them into ADA-accessible restrooms.

President Duncan stated that due to public comments received regarding the public participation resolution, the Commission may want to defer a vote again so it can be reconsidered. Further discussion on the resolution ensued, and the Commission then voted to defer the vote on the resolution. (Farris, Hoefler, unanimous).

Mr. Rich Toth, VP and Managing Director of Downtown Facilities, reported that Audubon is celebrating the first ever rescue, rehabilitation and release of a dolphin into its natural Louisiana habitat.

Mr. David Niebuhr, VP of Education and Acting Managing Director of Uptown Facilities, stated that Audubon is working with the city to actively monitor mosquitos and try to minimize the number of them in the Zoo and the Riverview. He further reported that the Zoo has two new Lemur babies. He then reported that Bumi, a Malayan tiger had its first day on exhibit.

Mr. Forman, President and CEO reported on upcoming renovations to the jogging path around Audubon Park, which will occur in four stages beginning on July 5. He also encouraged those in attendance to consider volunteering with Audubon.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Linda G. Baum
Secretary