

## Audubon Commission Minutes

September 19, 2019

A meeting of the Audubon Commission was called to order on Thursday, September 19, 2019, at 12:00 pm in Gulf Conference Room at the Audubon Aquarium by President Duncan.

Present were: Kelly Duncan, Leila Eames, Frances Fayard, Brent Wood, Boysie Bollinger

Excused were: Gayle Benson, Danny Conwill, Storey Charbonnet, Catherine Morrell, Olivia Manning, Norma Jane Sabiston, Coleman Ridley, Ravi Sangisetty, Charles Teamer, Linda Baum, Ashley Francis, Lex Kelso, Bruce Hoefler, Beth Lambert, Nicole Lewis, Freddie King, Minh Nguyen, Field Ogden, Sally Shushan.

The minutes of the June 13, 2019 meeting were unanimously accepted as distributed.

President Duncan opened the meeting and noted that no members of the public were present.

### Finance Report

Ms. Conkerton, EVP, and CAO gave a financial update through July 31, 2019. She reported that gross revenue is \$34.8M, and net revenue is \$3.86M. Flooding and TS Barry influenced revenue and attendance due to facilities' closure for several days. She went on to report that we will be using \$500K contingency. Our expenses through July are at \$31M and 55% of our budget is salaries and benefits.

<b>JULY 2019 FINANCIAL DASHBOARD</b> <i>(AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)</i>						
<b>NET OPERATING RESULTS BY FACILITY:</b>						
<b>FACILITY</b>	YTD ACTUAL 2019	YTD BUDGET 2019	<b>BUDGET VARIANCE</b>	YTD ACTUAL 2018	<b>PRIOR YEAR VARIANCE</b>	TOTAL BUDGET 2019
Aquarium/EGST	6,539	6,787	<b>(248)</b>	7,827	<b>(1,288)</b>	6,839
Zoo & Park	(2,556)	(1,886)	<b>(670)</b>	(1,191)	<b>(1,365)</b>	(5,702)
Butterfly Garden & Insectarium	463	504	<b>(41)</b>	575	<b>(112)</b>	387
FMASSC	(415)	(436)	<b>21</b>	(53)	<b>(362)</b>	(828)
Louisiana Nature Center	(175)	(198)	<b>23</b>	(165)	<b>(10)</b>	(349)
<b>NET OPERATING RESULTS</b>	<b>\$3,856</b>	<b>\$4,771</b>	<b>(\$915)</b>	<b>\$6,993</b>	<b>(\$3,137)</b>	<b>\$347</b>
Excludes capital revenues and expenses.						

Laurie presented a motion to authorize the President of the Audubon Commission or the President & CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract extension with Vanir Management, Inc. through March 2020. Vanir is Audubon's construction management firm. Motion passed unanimously. (Fayard/Wood/unanimous)

## **Public Affairs and Legal Report**

Ms. Rebecca Dietz, EVP of Public Affairs and General Counsel reported that Audubon's Community Connect program has welcomed 28,000 visitors since the program's inception in January 2019. Community Connect provides different avenues of complimentary admission to Audubon facilities for Orleans Parish residents. She also reported that Audubon collected over 3,000 swimsuits for NORD public pools. Fayard commented on the positive public feedback on the swimsuit program.

She further reported that two series of upcoming public meetings for community input would be held; the first regarding our tennis courts, and the second regarding Gov. Nicholls/Esplanade wharves and Riverfront. Tennis Committee to lead meetings. Fayard interested in participating in Tennis input process. She ended her report by announcing we will be filing a business loss/interruptions claim and FEMA for TS Barry.

## **Olmsted Report**

Brent Wood, Treasurer, reported on a new Olmsted Park campaign. After the success of the previous Olmsted Renewed campaign, this is a 3-year campaign with a goal of \$10M for improvements to the Park/Riverview/and Historic Zoo.

## **Facilities Report**

Dr. Kyle Burks, Chief Operating Officer, reported a successful AZA conference that welcomed some 3,000 Zoo and Aquarium colleagues. He also reported on the importance of focusing on our mission for the future. Zoo Report: Bulan, the new baby orangutan is out, and we have a new breeding recommendation for our amur leopards. Joel Hamilton, our Curator, is leaving Audubon and a new nation-wide search is on to find his replacement. Aquarium Report: Scales & Ales is on October 4<sup>th</sup>, and the Shark Touch Pool opening has been pushed back slightly to later this year. Staff went to the Bahamas right after Dorian for unrelated work, and were able to assist and provide aide and relief to hurricane victims. SSC Report: ASW gave tours during AZA.

## **New Business**

Dr. Burks presented a motion to present matter not on the agenda regarding the G.U.L.F program. Motion passed unanimously. (Eames/Fayard/Unanimous).

He then presented a motion to authorize the President of the Commission or the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute a contract with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries for Audubon's continued management of the G.U.L.F. Responsible Fisheries Management certification program. Motion unanimously passed. (Fayard/Eames/Unanimous)

Mr. Duncan presented the following motions:

- 1) Entertain a Motion to take up a matter not on the agenda regarding the approval of an Amendment to a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Audubon Commission and the State of Louisiana, Department of Administration regarding repayment of GoZone tax bond debt.

This matter is an Amendment to the CEA that governs re-payment of GoZone tax bond debt issued by the State to the Audubon Commission after Hurricane Katrina.

- We need unanimous consent to take up a matter not on the agenda.
- Public Comment on entertaining a matter not on the agenda.
- Ron Forman will present the CEA Amendment

Motion passed unanimously. (Bollinger/Wood/Unanimous)

- 2) Authorizing the President of the Commission or the President and CEO of Audubon Nature Institute to execute an Amendment to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the State of Louisiana and Audubon Commission governing repayment of tax bond debt (GoZone debt) originating after Hurricane Katrina, upon final review and approval by Audubon Nature Institute's General Counsel. Motion passed unanimously. (Fayard/Eames/Unanimous)

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Linda G. Baum  
Secretary