

Riverbanks Park Commission
Meeting Minutes
19 September 2019

Attendance Report

Commissioners Present: Bud Tibshrary, Bob Davidson, Jan Stamps, Mary Howard, Phil Bartlett, Alana Williams (by phone), Mike Velasco (by phone)

Commissioners Absent:

Staff Present: Tommy Stringfellow, Katie Eaton, Breta Rheney

Guest Presentation

Aquarium Curator Jennifer Rawlings presented on the challenges facing corals along the Florida Reef Tract. Riverbanks is participating in a nationwide coral preservation program to help protect the species being affected by the rapid loss along the coast.

Call to Order

Chairman Tibshrary called the meeting to order.

Reading of the Minutes

The August 19, 2019 commission minutes were approved as distributed.

Bartlett motioned, Stamps seconded, m/c unanimous.

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Tibshrary welcomed everyone on this beautiful day. He would like to extend his thanks to Aquarium Curator Jennifer Rawlings for presenting to the Commission today.

Financial Report

Chief Financial Officer Rheney shared the following monthly financial report:

- Rheney shared a reminder that the Lexington County \$1.2M will come in quarterly.
- Rheney shared that the audit is going well. Still building the comprehensive financials.
- Stringfellow requested to transfer fund balances of \$300,000 to operating reserve and \$100,000 to equipment (backhoe) and utility vehicle purchases, effective as of June 30, 2019.
 - Bartlett motioned for budgetary changes, Velasco seconded, m/c unanimous.

Attendance

Budgeted attendance for the month of August was 97,000; actual attendance was 103,690, up 6,690 visitors – a great start to the new fiscal year. Year to date we are up to budgeted attendance by 21,407. Membership sales are still holding strong, resulting in membership visits tracking ahead of projected visits. Paid attendance represented 37%, membership visits represented 60%, and free represented 3% of the total.

Revenue

Year to date budgeted gross revenue through August was \$3,184,200; actual revenue was \$3,316,100, resulting in a \$131,901 increase compared to budget.

Expenses

Gross year to date through August budgeted expenses were \$3,530,700; actual expenses were \$3,163,189, resulting in \$367,511 savings compared to budget.

Primary contributors to the savings are due to accruals, timing of invoices, savings in open or unfilled positions, and reduced staffing expenses during bad weather days.

Society

Annual budgeted membership households is 38,000; Year to date actual membership is 40,704. Actual membership revenue through August was \$877,743 compared to budget of \$773,300 resulting in an increase of \$104,443 in Society membership revenues for the month. Society memberships sales are strong due to the value of repeat visitations, the new Farm Experience and discounted ticket incentive for the Dinosaur Experience. Waterfall Junction is a great value to members especially during the hot months of July and August.

Howard motioned to approve the August financials, Davidson seconded, m/c unanimous.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

President and CEO Tommy Stringfellow provided the following report:

- Save the Dates
 - October 12- Community leadership appreciation day.
 - October 10- Joel Sartore- National Geographic Photographer
- Elephant Update- Stringfellow shared the video of the Milwaukee elephant habitat. Elephant Belle's move to Milwaukee is scheduled for the end of October to early November.
- Trips to Africa- there has been increased expressed interest in Riverbanks hosting more trips to Africa for donors. Satch will be hosting Botswana in June, Tommy and Ed Diebold will be hosting Kenya in July.
- Animal Updates-
 - Two binturongs have been added to the RCO tunnel. They are new to the collection.
 - Lorikeet Update- lorikeets have been off exhibit since beginning of July. We took the opportunity to upgrade the exhibit while they were off. The updates are complete, and the exhibit will be open to public again by Saturday.
 - The two Siamang islands have been connected by an artificial vine. Siamang Max is now able to swing freely between both islands and is very much enjoying this.
- Zoofari is tomorrow. Expecting several council members to attend. Sam Bleiwise will be the emcee tomorrow, and Jimmy Derrick will be the auctioneer.
- Master Plan-
 - October- elephant send-off
 - November meeting will have the final completed master plan.
 - Parking Fee- January 1st. This will allow us to collect funds to demolish warehouse to create more parking, and pursue options for covering various

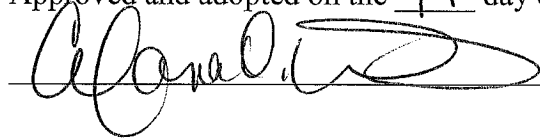
parking areas with solar panels. Will disseminate information to members and guests prior to implementation.

- Winter Hours- We have evaluated attendance and the times that people enter the park. Based on findings, December and January this year we will experiment with a 10:00am opening. This should be a cost savings. Keepers and maintenance groups are excited about the change as it will allow them more time to deep clean and upgrade areas in public spaces.
- Penny Tax Update- Last week we received the drawings from the architect for a potential update to the Greystone interchange. There is an estimated \$650K left from penny tax money and we are looking for ways to improve the Greystone interchange to improve traffic flow into the Zoo and to get ahead of added Riverwalk traffic.

Howard motioned to adjourn, Stamps seconded, m/c unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned.

Approved and adopted on the 17th day of October 2019.

 _____, Secretary