

**Riverbanks Park Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**20 April 2017**

**Attendance Report**

Commissioners Present: Mary Howard, Bob Davidson, Jan Stamps, Bud Tibshrary, Alana Williams, and Jim Smith

Commissioners Absent: Phil Bartlett

Staff Present: Satch Krantz, Tommy Stringfellow, Breta Rheney

**Call to Order**

Chairwoman Howard called the meeting to order.

**Reading of the Minutes**

The March 2017 minutes were approved as distributed.

**Chief Finance Officer's Report**

CFO Rheney provided the following report:

Through the end of March Riverbanks produced a surplus of \$742,284. This statement reflects the transfer of a significant portion of those funds to cover the remaining bridge and bond expenses, leaving us with excess revenues of \$177,934.

- **Attendance**

Through March, attendance climbed to 891,672, which is 103,172 over budget. Although we are 97,107 ahead of prior year, the variance dropped by 28,728 from the end of February. This is due to Spring Break occurring in March last year versus April this year.

- **Revenue vs. Expense**

*Revenue*

- Revenue continues to remain strong and supports overages in department and capital expenses.
- Educational programs supporting the Riverbanks' mission continue to improve as compared to budget. Approximately 40% of the savings is from increased gross revenue. Most of the remaining is savings in personnel cost.
- Rides and attractions reflect the increase in Explorer and upper level memberships. As of 3/31 these memberships increased by 1,818. The "differential" portion that supports the unlimited wristband usage is transferred to each related attraction. This provides about 50% of their variance in budget. The remaining is savings in personnel cost.

### *Expenses*

- Administrative budget variance is made up of an unbudgeted existing position (IT) including benefits (this position is partially funded by SSA), some employee break room expenses paid from the prior fiscal year fund balance and overages in consolidating expenses previously reported in other departments.
- Animal care has some departmental savings that help offset others with overages. The mammal department has incurred a significant amount of overtime participating in the diving responsibilities for Sea Lion Landing. Also, the hospital has incurred additional expenses for supplies, medications and lab work related to several high-profile cases and overall better management of our animals. The bird and reptile departments have incurred some unplanned and unanticipated non-capital equipment purchases and improvements.
- Facilities management has overages in the Life Support Systems department (LSS). This is due to unbudgeted spending for replacement parts and other supplies, as well as expenses related to several additional purchases of salt at almost \$16,000 per shipment. Three more shipments are in the capital fund related to the glass replacement. These will be funded by an outside source or moved to LSS, further increasing their overall expenses. This is the first full year of LSS operations, and we are still making determinations as to what it takes to support this department.
- We continue to monitor utility expenses as the first full year of Destination Riverbanks comes to a close. We will run into more overages in water from the operation of the new splash pad, in addition to the original splash pad that opened last April.
- **Comments**
  - The FY2018 budget planning is in process. We would like to set a meeting within the next couple of weeks with the Finance Committee to discuss plans for the upcoming year.

### **Chief Operating Officer's Report**

COO Stringfellow presented the following:

- **Spring Break Recap** – Stringfellow noted that Riverbanks experienced an extremely successful Spring Break week. Over 103,000 people visited over the 10-day period from April 7 – 16. A one-day record was set on Thursday, April 13, when over 14,000 guests entered the Zoo and Garden.
- **Membership Recap** – The Society currently has just over 42,000 active household memberships, another record high. It is anticipated that these numbers will eventually decrease as the impact subsides from the various Destination Riverbanks additions.
- **Outreach Sponsorship** – Stringfellow was pleased to announce that SCE&G has agreed to sponsor Riverbanks' educational outreach programs for \$50,000.
- **Beyond the Banks** – The Commission watched the most recent edition of the WIS Beyond the Banks series. WIS has done an incredible job of

preparing the public for the pending gorilla birth and will continue to provide additional segments.

### **Chief Executive Officer's Report**

CEO Krantz provided the following report:

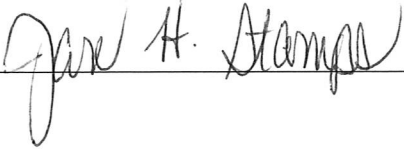
- **Capital Projects** – Krantz provided photographs of some of the larger capital projects addressed this fiscal year – the Discovery Center floor, penguin floor, Tuskers deck and sidewalk and the Lil Sprouts Splash Zone renovation. He thanked the Commission for funding these much-needed projects.
- **Greenway Construction** – Krantz and Stringfellow attended a meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Richland County Transportation Penny offices to discuss and address any concerns the Zoo may have with the proposed Greenway. Representatives of Richland County and the City of Columbia were also in attendance. The River Alliance was not represented. Discussions centered on three items: the intended use and location of the proposed “maintenance building,” the location of a proposed “floating” restroom, and the termination of the Greenway at Boyd Island.

### **Executive Session**

The Commission went into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter but no action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned.

Approved and adopted on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May 2017.

 \_\_\_\_\_, Secretary