

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

**Attendance Report**

Commissioners Present: Mary Howard, Bob Davidson, Jan Stamps, Bud Tibshrany, Alana Williams, Phil Bartlett, and Jim Smith.

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Tommy Stringfellow, Breta Rheney, Lochlan Wooten

**Call to Order**

Chairwoman Howard called the meeting to order.

**Special Presentation:**

Director of Marketing Lochlan Wooten gave a presentation on the upcoming impact of the Solar Eclipse and the various programs we are participating in as well as some of the challenges we will be facing. We will be staffing and operating the event like we do for Spring Break, with all hands on deck. We are excited about the revenue and educational opportunities the event offers.

**Reading of the Minutes**

The June 2017 minutes were approved as distributed.

**Chief Finance Officer's Report**

CFO Rheney provided the following report:

Currently we have excess revenues of \$324,797. Highlights of the report follows:

**Attendance**

The annual attendance for FY2017 is projected to be 1,389,856. This is over budget by 189,856 and 109,032 over the prior fiscal year. *Annual attendance may change as we complete the closing of the fiscal year.*

**Revenue vs. Expense**

***Revenue***

- Revenue for the year is shown as \$990,798 over budget and \$1,194,949 over prior fiscal year, excluding the Society operating contribution increase.
- Concessionaire Commission and net Rides and Attractions comprise 51% of the increase over budget.

- The Admission Fee revenue is the largest increase over prior year due to the increase in ticket pricing, comprising 78% of the increase.

### ***Expenses***

- The Departmental expenses are currently in excess of budget by \$150,233 and \$824,130 over prior fiscal year.
- Utilities are \$140,305 over budget, comprising 93% of the excess before end of year accruals.
- The excess over prior year is felt in all departments and are mostly due to the new exhibits and increased attendance.
- Animal Care, Guest Services & utilities comprise 67% of the increase.

### ***Operating Transfers***

- These transfers consist of the following:
 

○ Birdhouse & Discovery Center floor	\$ 60,152
○ Toddler splash pad	\$143,100
○ Hospital roof, HVAC & water heater	\$122,861
○ Sea Lion acrylic glass & shade structure	\$120,779
○ Bond & bridge expenses	\$544,172

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

Interim President and CEO Stringfellow provided the following report:

- Sea Lion - Broken exhibit glass expense coverage is still ongoing. Will be meeting with CLR to ask for their participation in sharing the cost. All systems are now running properly.
- Capital project update - Tommy provided an excel spreadsheet with a list of all the projects that were approved, completed and pending for review.
- Tommy also reviewed the upcoming Brew at the Zoo event. VIP tickets were sold out and all but 200 tickets of the 2,400 have been sold for the event. We expect tickets to sell out in next few days.

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

Interim President and CEO Stringfellow provided the following report:

- Elephants update- There will be a meeting on Thursday, August 3 with CLR to begin assessing the possibility of converting the exhibit to accommodate male elephants and/or different species. PETA has requested a copy of the necropsy report. To date the report hasn't been completed but will be submitted to PETA when available.
- The introduction of the two female lions is going well. Zuri, the male lion, will be introduced to the females at a later time.
- Introduction of the two new female zebras into the exhibit with the current zebra and ostrich is also going well and as planned.

- Meerkats are currently off exhibit, due to a contagious virus that is spread by feral cats. We are hopeful to have the two Meerkats back on exhibit by early August.
- Galapagos exhibit will be expanded with donations and sponsorships from Mary and Francis Neuffer, Jane and Sam Friedman, Bank of America and Dr. Baker. A total of \$74K has been collected to date for this expansion project.
- We have two new penguin chicks, two new black footed kittens and a new flamingo chick.
- Saluda Riverwalk project- Construction to begin the first week of August. The contractor working on the Riverwalk section behind the Zoo should complete this phase before March 2018.

**Executive Session**

The Commission went into Executive Session to discuss the candidate search progress.

The meeting was adjourned.

Approved and adopted on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of August 2017.

Jaw Stamps, Secretary