

Riverbanks Park Commission
Meeting Minutes
20 May 2021

Attendance Report

Commissioners Present: Bob Davidson, Deneen Shockley, Alana Williams, Mike Velasco

Commissioners Absent: Phil Bartlett, Mary Howard, Jan Stamps

Staff Present: Tommy Stringfellow, Christie Vondrak, Lochlan Wooten, Katie Eaton

Call to Order

Chairman Davidson called the meeting to order.

Reading of the Minutes

The April 15, 2021 commission minutes were approved as distributed.

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Davidson asked to keep Commissioner Jan Stamps in your thoughts as she is feeling unwell. He also shared that Commissioner Phil Bartlett whose term expired in February will no longer be attending meetings. Richland County is working on appointing his replacement.

President & Chief Executive Officer's Report

President and CEO Tommy Stringfellow provided the following report:

- April financial review:
 - We are continuing to assess deferred maintenance items and the capital list. Will allocate a portion of our funds for capital improvements. Next month we will present the list of capital projects to the commission.
 - Membership household numbers are looking great at around 40,000 households.
 - Revenue is holding strong despite lower attendance.
 - Will need to determine how to pay the payroll taxes that were deferred as an incentive from covid19.
 - Government savings account has increased this month due to Richland's property tax collections and Lexington has paid their 4th and final payment of their budgeted contribution. The Boyd Foundation money is also being held in this account and will be transferred to expenses as they are used.
 - Velasco motioned to approve the April financials, Williams second, m/c unanimous.
- The Commission Finance Committee (Williams and Velasco) will need to meet prior to the June meeting for preliminary budget review.
- Boyd Foundation Gift- we are beginning the bid process for the contractor of the aquarium renovation project. The selected contractor will give us the timeline for beginning the project and timeline to completion, along with the cost. The Boyd Foundation originally pledged \$2 million for the project but encouraged Riverbanks to make the renovation the best it could be and agreed to extend the gift to achieve that. The

final numbers of the gift, and any amount required by Riverbanks will be confirmed when final bidding and selection of contractors are completed.

- The counties are in their budget reading processes. It currently looks like Richland County will continue to give Riverbanks the full millage, and that Lexington County won't be giving any less than last year.
- Stringfellow discussed the prospect of a property for sale on Candi Lane. Due to the location and position of the property they agreed not to pursue.

Chief Administrative Officer's Report:

CAO Christie Vondrak provided the following report:

- For the last couple of months the Chiefs have taken the Town Hall program on the road and have been meeting with departments individually for their own departmental Town Hall. It has been very productive and great feedback has come out of the meetings. We are looking forward to sharing more about these.
- We are continuing with our creative hiring efforts. The creation of a new position in Waterfall Junction has encouraged great applicants, along with the Governors announcement to end the government supported covid relief aid.
- The CDC has updated their safety guidelines for mask wearing for vaccinated versus unvaccinated people. Our staff's policies will mirror those of CDC guidelines, except for education programs and specific animal areas. These new policies will go into effect this Monday, May 24th.

Chief Operating Officer's Report

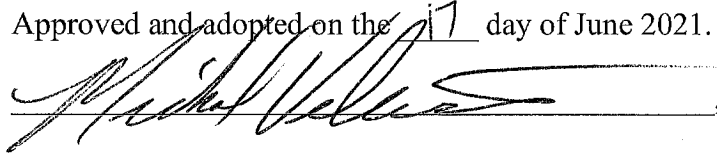
COO Lochlan Wooten provided the following report:

- Sad to share the passing of Riverbanks' beloved alpaca, Roadie.
- As part of the ARC renovation, many animals will have to move out to make room for construction, and some species will not be returning. The herpetology team did an amazing job moving the gharials. Tentative date of August 1 for closing the ARC.
- The horticulture team has been successful with propagating an endangered species of sunflower that is natively found outside of Rock Hill, South Carolina. Yesterday the team went up to the Catawba Reserve to replant some of the seedlings back to their native home.
- Riverbanks Run was extremely successful. It was our first on site event in over a year, and it went really well. We also had the first on site member's night last week and will have another next week. Hoppy Hour is coming up in June, and Brew at the Zoo is slated to be back this summer as well.
- AZA has selected the week of August 23rd for the accreditation team to visit for inspections.
- Camp will begin in mid-June. It will operate at 75% of normal capacity this year. Interest was very high, and there is long waitlist.
- Will be opening Waterfall Junction on Memorial Day. Increasing timed tickets very slowly with a goal of ending timed ticket reservations in June for both members and paid guests.
- Midlands Gives raised \$18,623 this year.

- In March we did an incremental increase at the gate and we will do a membership increase in January 2022. These increases gets us closer to the national membership average and will get us closer to our goal.
- Wooten shared a new specialty license plate that will be available soon. More information to follow, but we are excited about this new exciting opportunity.

The meeting was adjourned.

Approved and adopted on the 17 day of June 2021.

 _____, Secretary