

**Riverbanks Park Commission
Meeting Minutes
21 July 2022**

Attendance Report

Commissioners Present: Deneen Shockley, Mike Velasco, Alana Williams, Jan Stamps, Cliff Bourke, Jeff Reeves, Bob Davidson

Commissioners Absent:

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

Others Present: Rebecca Best

Call to Order

Vice Chair Stamps called the meeting to order.

Reading of the Minutes

The June 16, 2022 Commission Meeting minutes were approved as distributed.

Velasco motioned to approve the minutes, Bourke seconded, m/c unanimous.

Chairman's Remarks

Chair Jan Stamps remarked upon the Commission's newly appointed 2022-2024 executive committee. The committee will consist of; Jan Stamps (Chair), Alana Williams (Vice Chair), Mike Velasco (Treasurer), and Cliff Bourke (Secretary)

Stamps shared that her word for her term as Chairwoman will be "appreciation." She is very appreciative of all the hard work of the commissioners and Riverbanks' staff, and looks forward to serving as chair.

President & CEO Report:

President & CEO Tommy Stringfellow provided the following report:

- Financial review:
 - Membership ended the year with about 49,000 member households- about 10,000 over budget. This is a testament to the great value of a Riverbanks' membership program.
 - Society ended the year with a net revenue of about \$1 million. The Society Board will meet in September to discuss project options to apply the net revenue to.
 - Total attendance finished the year with about 1.15 million visitors. We will be budgeting 1.2 million visitors for FY23.
 - Davidson motioned to approve the June financials, Shockley seconded, m/c unanimous.
- Stringfellow shared the current status of the bond request with the counties. Richland County chose not to take Riverbanks' bond request to first reading, primarily due to the uncertain economy. This will halt the conversation in Lexington County for the time being as well. Stringfellow will continue to work with both the counties on a more optimal timeline for requesting in the future.
- Stringfellow shared an update on the additional parking request from the City of Columbia for the accessibility to Boyd Island. Stringfellow is in the process of investigating.
- Saddened to share that longtime friend and support of Riverbanks, Joe Blanchard, passed away last week. In lieu of flowers he requested that donations be made to Riverbanks. Riverbanks appreciates Mr. Blanchard's community leadership and advocacy. He will be greatly missed.

Administrative Officer Report:

Administrative Officer Christie Vondrak provided the following report:

- Vondrak shared some upcoming reminders and updates:
 - New VP of Finance, Ashley Harris started yesterday! We are so glad to have her and her wealth of knowledge and experience on board with us. She will begin attending these meetings next month.
 - National Zoo Keeper week is this week; July 18-24
 - Brew at the Zoo- August 5
 - Bowling for Rhinos- August 28
 - Zoofari- September 23

Operating Officer Report:

Operating Officer Lochlan Wooten provided the following report:

- New SSA General Manager, Nate Ennis has started this week. We look forward to introducing him to you soon!
- We have also hired a Conservation Programs Manager. She will begin at the end of August, and we are so excited to have her on board managing the important conservation work that Riverbanks does.
- Our Toucan Tuesday program was back this year in our annual partnership with Harvest Hope. Food banks are especially in need of non-perishable goods this year, so we are encouraging the public to bring two canned goods for a buy-one get-one admission ticket promotion and are encouraging our staff to donate when able as well.
- This week we hosted the City of Columbia Police Department to lead an active shooter training program onsite for staff. This was a valuable training and we hope to have them out a few times per year to empower and encourage staff.
- Wooten shared the story of a child who recently came to Riverbanks as a public safety officer for a day through a Make-A-Wish styled program. It was a special day for all staff involved, and we were honored to participate.
- Very disappointed to share that our new splash pad surface did not hold up to the chlorine and elements. The Li'l Sprouts Splash Zone is open, but the main Aflac Splash Zone will not reopen this summer. We will continue to assess product options moving forward.
- ARCC construction progress continues. Much of the progress is not visible from the outside of the building, but the interior progress continues.
- Wooten discussed the potential of using capital funds to allocate for future campus improvement projects.

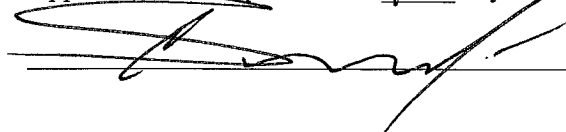
Executive Session:

Davidson motioned to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel compensation matter. Shockley seconded, m/c unanimous.

Following executive session, Shockley motioned to include Stringfellow in the merit bonuses. Bourke seconded, m/c unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned.

Approved and adopted on the 18 day of August 2022.

 _____, Secretary