

Riverbanks Park Commission
Meeting Minutes
21 June 2018

Attendance Report

Commissioners Present: Bud Tibshrary, Alana Williams, Jan Stamps, Mary Howard, Bob Davidson, Mike Velasco
Commissioners Absent: Phil Bartlett
Staff Present: Tommy Stringfellow, Breta Rheney, Katie McCoy, Lochlan Wooten

Call to Order

Chairwoman Howard called the meeting to order.

Chief Marketing Officer's Report

Marketing report was provided by Lochlan Wooten:

- Wooten presented an analysis of Riverbanks' strategic plan. This plan includes contributions from all levels of staff regarding their goals for future growth.
- Riverbanks engaged a firm to do an economic impact study. We will have the data collected from the study available as a tool to measure impact.
- Wooten shared a recent article from The State newspaper regarding the recent births at Riverbanks and their impact on species survival.

Reading of the Minutes

The May 2018 minutes were approved as distributed.

Tibshrary motioned to accept, m/c unanimous.

Chief Finance Officer's Report

Financial report was provided by Breta Rheney:

- Rheney shared that the new auditing firm, The Hobbs Group, will begin their process Monday on site, with a goal to wrap up and present to Commission in November.
- Rheney updated on a slight budget edit that was made due to Richland County's budget approval

Rheney shared an overview of the May financials:

Attendance

May attendance is budgeted at 132,300; actual attendance is 127,729, which is down 4,571 from budget. This is due to several weeks of unseasonably rainy weather in May. Otherwise, when weather was good, attendance exceeded budget. Attendance trends continue to be positive. Year-to-date budgeted attendance is 1,103,500, with actual attendance at 1,151,871, an increase of 48,371 visitors.

Revenue

Year-to-date budgeted revenue is \$14,286,093; actual revenue is \$ 14,762,842, resulting in a \$476,749 increase over budget. Revenue trends continue to be on track with the increased attendance.

Expenses

Budgeted expenses through May were \$14,088,953, with actual expenses at \$13,677,753, a savings of \$411,200.

The bulk of savings are a result of the timing of expenditures that will be completed in June as well as savings from staffing efficiencies during bad weather days and vacant positions.

Society

Member households are holding at 40,000, with a budget of 38,000, creating additional revenues. Financially, the increase in number of households and success of fundraising events along with expense savings where possible has generated an excess of over \$900,000 in the Society budget through May.

Year End Forecast

If weather holds to an average June, the forecast for attendance is projected to exceed budget by 65,000 additional visitors yielding a total of 1,265,000 for the season. The announcement of the baby gorilla has drawn immediate interest, resulting in increases over our daily budgeted attendance thus far.

Due to efficiencies in the management of staffing hours during bad weather days, vacancies in open positions and various departmental operational expense savings we will complete our fiscal year under our proposed expense budget.

Bottom line: We expect an excess of over \$800,000 in budgeted revenues for the Park District and over \$900,000 for the Society.

Stamps motioned to accept the financial report, Tibshrary seconded, m/c unanimous.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

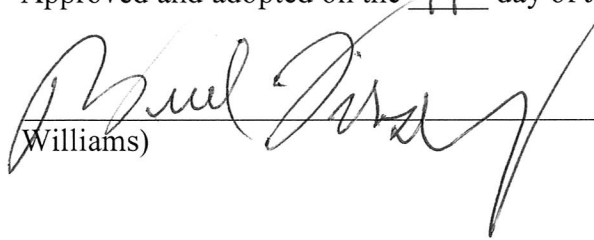
President and CEO Stringfellow provided the following report:

- Stringfellow shared several animal updates:
 - Baby koala is growing and doing well
 - All three lion cubs have been determined to be females. They will be out on exhibit by mid-July
 - Baby gorilla and mom are doing well. The gender of the baby has not been determined yet
 - Renovated the dig barrier in the meerkat exhibit. They will be back on exhibit tomorrow
 - John has been working to identify new individuals to obtain for the seal/sea lion exhibit

- Park updates:
 - The newly renovated restaurant “ The Watering Hole” (formerly Ndoki Pizza) will open to the public on Saturday
 - The Animal Ambassador Building has been completed inside, and construction is in the final touches of cage work. The existing ambassador collection will be moved into that building, along with new animals acquired
 - Stringfellow shared the plan to expand offices onsite, and to begin to move staff into Rivermont
- Stringfellow reminded the Commission the new Executive Committee terms will begin at the July meeting. Incoming chair, Commissioner Bud Tibshrary, commended Mary Howard for her outstanding service during her term as chair.

The meeting was adjourned.

Approved and adopted on the 19 day of July 2018.

 _____, Chair (on behalf of secretary Williams)