

**RIVERBANKS PARK COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
20 October 2016**

Attendance Report

Commissioners Present: Mary Howard, Lloyd Liles, Jan Stamps, Bud Tibshrary, and Jim Smith

Commissioners Absent: Alana Williams, Phil Bartlett

Staff Present: Satch Krantz, Tommy Stringfellow

Guests Present: Ed Diebold, Dr. Martha Weber

Call to Order

Chairwoman Howard called the meeting to order.

Reading of the Minutes

The September 2016 minutes were approved as distributed.

Special Presentation

Director of Animal Collections Ed Diebold introduced Riverbanks' Chief Veterinarian Dr. Martha Weber. Dr. Weber gave an in-depth presentation on the Zoo's new digital x-ray equipment including several images that demonstrate the quality of the system. She also reviewed some important cases, including the fact that many of Riverbanks' largest animals are reaching the end of their life expectancy. She noted that geriatric care is becoming more important for zoos since many animals live far longer in captivity than in the wild. The Commission was very complimentary of Dr. Weber's presentation.

Chief Finance Officer's Report

- **September 2016 Finance Report** -- In the absence of CFO Breta Rheney, Krantz provided the following report:

At the end of the first quarter of the 2016/2017 fiscal year Riverbanks is showing a deficit of approximately \$727,000, compared to a budgeted deficit of \$675,000. Operating draws from Society and revenue from Boo, Lights and other holiday events in the upcoming months will help in offsetting the current deficit. Other highlights include:

Attendance

Attendance is strong, running slightly over 17,000 ahead of budget and about 14,700 ahead of last year. These overages are a result of member visitors exceeding admission visitors. The mix of visitors is 56% members and 40% admission, affecting our admission revenue. Our budget is based on the prior year actual of 45% members and 51% admission. Memberships at the end of the first quarter were approximately 38,500, almost 4,400 ahead of prior year. During October memberships exceeded 39,000 households.

Balance Sheet

Assets

- Cash is still steady. One more payment application is expected from Rodgers Builders to complete the bond and bridge projects. We are awaiting our third payment from the Richland County Transportation Tax fund of almost \$515,000. There is approximately \$316,000, to draw, plus the 50/50 split for the unsuitable soil.

Revenue vs Expense

Revenue

- Total revenue is running almost \$30,000 ahead of budget; although, admission revenue is running almost \$72,000 under budget. This is a result of the shift in the attendance of a higher percentage of member visitors vs. visitors paying general admission.
- Total revenue is over \$100,000 ahead of prior year, exclusive of the Society operating transfer. Admission revenue is over \$78,000 ahead of prior year. This is a result of the increase in ticket pricing, since the actual admission attendance is over 6,500 less than current.

Expenses

- Department Expense differences are mostly timing of actual vs. budget.
- Utilities overage is split between electrical & water/sewer and is due to new exhibits in the Zoo & Garden. The staff is continuing to monitor these by meter to better understand the increases.

2016/2017 Capital Plan – Krantz reviewed with the Commission the staff's plan to develop a prioritized list of capital projects for the 2016/2017 fiscal year. This same plan has been used for a number of years. Once the list is developed, the staff will meet with the Commission's finance committee (Smith and Tibshrary) to establish a funding level. That level will then be approved by the full Commission and funded by the Society. Krantz noted that there are a handful of projects that are such a priority that they need to be considered for immediate implementation. Three of those projects exceed the President/CEO's approval limit (\$50,000):

1. Waterfall Junction Stepping Stone Pond Conversion = \$130,000
2. Replacement of hospital HVAC system = \$75,000
3. Additional sea lion shade structure + \$100,000

Liles moved, Tibshrary seconded, m/c unanimous, to approve these projects for implementation and funding by the Riverbanks Society.

Chief Operating Officer's Report

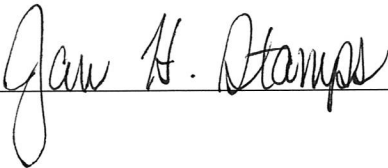
- **SSA General Manager** – COO Stringfellow introduced Emma Blackman as Riverbanks' new SSA general manager. Emma replaces Laura Caster who has transferred to SSA's Monterey Bay Aquarium account. Emma briefly addressed the Commission and pledged to continue to grow the Riverbanks account.
- **Boo at the Zoo** – Stringfellow reminded the Commission that Boo at the Zoo begins Friday, October 21st and will run through October 30th.

President and CEO's Report

- **Cart Incident** – Krantz reviewed the known facts surrounding Friday's cart accident. The large electric cart that is used to transport guests to the first zip line station lurched forward with no one on board and struck two zip line participants.
- **Sea Lion Pool** – The status of the sea lion filtration system was discussed. Krantz noted that one of the two large perlite filters has failed and, as a result, has negatively impacted the aesthetic condition of the pool water. The quality of the water (animal health) is still quite good. He noted that the filter manufacturer has accepted responsibility and will arrive on-site in early November to rebuild both filters.
- **Hurricane Matthew** – Krantz provided a brief report on damages related to Hurricane Matthew. He noted that overall there was very little damage but a total of nine trees were lost, six on the Botanical Garden road and two in the CSX right-of-way in the Zoo parking lot. There was no structural damage nor did the Zoo and Garden lose power. Krantz praised the Zoo and Garden staff for all their hard work in getting the Zoo open by 10:15am on Sunday.

The meeting was adjourned.

Approved and adopted on the 17 day of November 2016.


_____, Secretary