

Riverbanks Park Commission
Meeting Minutes
16 June 2022

Attendance Report

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

Commissioners Absent: Bob Davidson

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

Call to Order

Vice Chair Stamps called the meeting to order.

Reading of the Minutes

The May 19, 2022 Commission Meeting minutes were approved as distributed.

Chairman's Remarks

Vice Chair Jan Stamps thanked the staff for their continued hard work, especially in this oppressive heat.

President & CEO Report:

President & CEO Tommy Stringfellow provided the following report:

- Financials
 - Total membership over 51,000 households.
 - School group numbers increased this year over prior.
 - Paid attendance is down, up almost 70,000 total visits this year to prior. Will most likely finish the year with close to 1.2 million visitors.
 - Operating support line is over budget due to the Shutter Venue Operators Grant that we received due to Covid.
 - Per caps are strong and above budget.
 - Cliff motioned to approve the May financials, Shockley seconded, m/c unanimous.
- Bond update- Richland County voted to take the Riverbanks bond request to committee. Stringfellow will present to the Richland County Council Committee on June 28th. The committee will then vote to take the request to a reading, date to be determined. The presentation for Lexington County will likely be at the end of July to allow time for Penny Tax discussions to conclude. Stringfellow will keep the Commission informed on relevant dates.
- State funding Update- Yesterday the House and the Senate voted to approve \$2,000,001 for Riverbanks. The vote will go to the Governor for final approval in the next few weeks.
- Stringfellow presented the FY22-23 proposed capital items list for approval from this year's earned revenue funds.
 - Velasco motioned to approve up to \$10.5M to designate for priority capital projects, Stamps seconded, m/c unanimous.

Administrative Officer Report:

Administrative Officer Christie Vondrak provided the following report:

- Vondrak shared some upcoming reminders and updates:
 - We continue the VP of Finance search. We have done two rounds of interviews with three extremely qualified candidates that we are excited about. We hope to have an offer out in the next couple of weeks.
 - We continue to monitor covid cases. Cases are trending up in our community, but we continue to have our contact tracing protocols in place for our staff.
 - We have a heat advisory in Columbia and are encouraging our staff to hydrate and stay cool.
 - End of fiscal year Town Hall is on June 30th. We are excited to share great news with our staff.
 - National Zookeeper week is July 18-24
- Vondrak shared the plans for reinvesting in Riverbanks full time and part time staff. This was met with unanimous approval from the Commissioners.

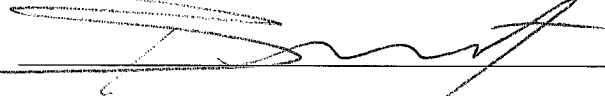
Operating Officer Report:

Operating Officer Lochlan Wooten provided the following report:

- Excited to share we have flamingo chicks on exhibit, and also lorikeet chicks behind the scenes.
- The Toucan Tuesday partnership with Harvest House has returned! Guests can bring in two canned goods and will receive buy one get one admission.
- Brew at the Zoo tickets went on sale yesterday. The event is on August 5.
- The next member's night is July 8
- The new soft play surface at Waterfall Junction has been a huge hit.
- Household members are still at 51,000
- Construction in the ARCC continues. Building is on budget both financially and timeline wise. Looking to open in October.
- Conservation committee- Rachael is continuing interviews for the open Conservation Program Manager position. We are excited to get that role on board to continue the focus on conservation programs at Riverbanks.

The meeting was adjourned.

Approved and adopted on the 21 day of July 2022.


_____, Secretary