

Riverbanks Park Commission
Meeting Minutes
19 July 2018

Attendance Report

Commissioners Present: Bud Tibshrary, Jan Stamps, Mary Howard, Bob Davidson, Phil Bartlett

Commissioners Absent: Alana Williams, Mike Velasco

Staff Present: Tommy Stringfellow, Breta Rheney, Katie McCoy

Call to Order

Chairman Tibshrary called the meeting to order.

Reading of the Minutes

The June 2018 minutes were approved as distributed.

Chairman's Remarks

Tibshrary remarked that it is an honor to be chair of the Commission, especially following chairwoman Howard, who did an outstanding job as chair.

Tibshrary and the group discussed doing plaques for outgoing Commission Chairs. It was determined by the Commissioners to provide plaques at an upcoming meeting to former Commission Chairs; Liles, Stamps, Bartlett and Howard.

Chief Finance Officer's Report

Financial report was provided by Breta Rheney:

Rheney shared that the finance department is working on the preliminary yearend close out summary.

Attendance

June budgeted attendance was 96,500; actual attendance was 38% above budget at 133,928, an additional 37,428 visitors. Introductions of lion cubs, gorilla baby and a giraffe calf significantly helped to boost attendance.

Year-end budgeted attendance was 1,200,000; actual attendance was 7% above budget at 1,287,126, an increase of 87,126 visitors. Continued popularity of Destination Riverbanks attractions and heightened focus on guest engagement helped boost attendance.

Revenue

- Year-end budgeted revenue was \$15,611,676; actual revenue was \$15,704,353, resulting in a \$92,677 increase compared to budget.
- Primary contributors to the increase include increased sponsorship revenue and increased classes and program revenue.

- Additional revenues are expected to be processed and could change these figures.

Expenses

- Year-end budgeted expenses were \$15,610,811; actual expenses were \$14,885,272, resulting in \$725,539 savings compared to budget.
- Primary contributors to the savings include staffing efficiencies during bad weather days, utilities and vacant positions.
- Additional expenses are expected to be processed and will change these figures.

Society

- Year-end budgeted membership was 38,000; actual membership is 39,789. The increase in memberships and success of fundraising events along with expense reduction, where possible, generated an excess of over \$1,250,000 in revenue over budget.

Bartlett motioned to accept the financials, Stamps second, m/c unanimous.

Chief Human Resources Officer's Report

Christie Vondrak, chief human resources officer, shared a recap for the Commission regarding the morning's employee breakfast. At the breakfast, staff were introduced to Riverbanks' coming attraction- dinosaurs! The commission also received a special guest visit from the new dinosaur costumed ambassador.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

President and CEO Stringfellow provided the following report:

Animal Updates

- Gorilla baby is doing well. The gender has not yet been determined.
- Lion cubs are all doing well. The public voting on names will end at 5:00pm this evening.
- Vet staff confirmed that gorilla Macy is pregnant again and passed her first trimester. She could be due Sept./Oct.
- 6 new Galapagos tortoises were born.

Park Updates

- Capital projects are under review. Stringfellow will send out a list prior to the next meeting to be voted on.
- Society budget is in the process of being finalized as well. Society voted on their budget at their meeting last week and everything was approved.
- Tibshrary shared that the Commission would like to assign a committee to review the By-laws. That committee will be comprised of Howard, Stamps, and Bartlett.
- Tibshrary asked that the financial reviews be presented on the TV screen in the future.

The meeting was adjourned.

Approved and adopted on the 16th day of August 2018.

Alana A. Wig, Secretary