

**Riverbanks Park Commission
Meeting Minutes
15 August 2019**

Attendance Report

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

Commissioners Absent: Alana Williams, Mike Velasco, Phil Bartlett

Staff Present: Tommy Stringfellow, Katie Eaton, Breta Rheney

Call to Order

Chairman Tibshrary called the meeting to order.

Reading of the Minutes

The July 18, 2019 commission minutes were approved as distributed.

Stamps motioned, Howard seconded, m/c unanimous.

Chairman's Remarks

Tibshrary remarked that he had the pleasure of bringing one of his grandsons to the zoo yesterday to see the dinosaurs. Tibshrary believes the exhibit was very well done and a great addition to the zoo.

Financial Report

Chief Financial Officer Rheney shared the following monthly financial report:

- Rheney noted that the timing of the annual Lexington County property tax payment, based on their initial payment, is quarterly and payable at the first of the quarter. Richland County's pays monthly as the tax is collected.
- The auditors will be here over the next couple of weeks to perform field work.

Attendance

Budgeted attendance for the month of July was 112,700; actual attendance was 127,057, up 14,357 visitors – a great start to the new fiscal year. Membership sales are still holding strong resulting in membership visits tracking ahead of projected visits. Paid attendance represented 37%, membership visits represented 60%, and free represented 3% of the total.

Revenue

Year to date budgeted gross revenue through July was \$1,799,700; actual revenue was \$1,871,324, resulting in a \$71,624 increase compared to budget.

Expenses

Gross year to date through July budgeted expenses were \$2,058,100; actual expenses were \$1,685,075, resulting in \$373,025 savings compared to budget.

Primary contributors to the savings are due to accruals, timing of invoices, savings in open or unfilled positions, and reduced staffing expenses during bad weather days.

Society

Annual budgeted membership households is 38,000; Year to date actual membership is 41,053. Actual membership revenue through July was \$410,702 compared to budget of \$355,700, resulting in an increase of \$55,002 in Society membership revenues for the month. Society memberships sales are strong due to the value of repeat visitations, the new Farm Experience and the discounted ticket incentive for the Dinosaur Experience. Waterfall Junction is a great value to members especially during the hot months of July and August.

Howard motioned to approve the July financials, Davidson seconded, m/c unanimous.

Chief Executive Officer's Report

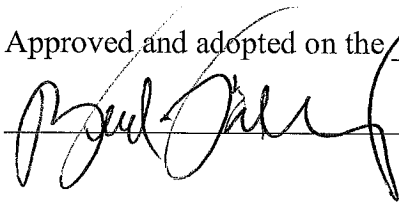
President and CEO Tommy Stringfellow provided the following report:

- Stringfellow was informed that state dollars are available in varying amounts. He noted that state dollars are not reoccurring, and requests would need to be made for designated capital projects every year. It was recommended to retain a part-time or contracted lobbyist for assistance with State funding for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Full time was not recommended. The commission requested that Stringfellow review the selection process for procuring a lobbyist at the next meeting, and they agreed to pursue state funding. It was decided that Rebecca Best would remain an advisor for county council relationships.
- Saturday, October 12 Riverbanks will host a Community Leader Appreciation Day.
- Penny Tax Update- Originally \$4M was given to the Greystone interchange. Riverbanks used \$2.8M to build the pedestrian bridge to aid in alleviating traffic towards Riverbanks. The process is ongoing for a redesign for the Greystone intersection.
- This past Monday was World Elephant Day which kicked off our long farewell to our elephants. The transport crate has been delivered and the elephants are being introduced to it so that they are comfortable and familiar with it for their transport.
- Next month we will have the final rendering from CLR of the rhino exhibit. Its very cool and will be a great update to that exhibit.
- Brew at the Zoo went well. Tickets sold out. The weather forecast was bad all day but ended up being great weather for Brew. Net was about \$70,000.
- ZOOfare is September 20. Dinosaur exhibit will be open.
- Timeline Update- Elephant farewell will be in October. The Master Plan Introduction is proposed for December. Rhino exhibit is looking at late spring/early summer 2020 opening.

Howard motioned to adjourn, Stamps seconded, m/c unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned.

Approved and adopted on the 26 day of September 2019.



Secretary
Chair BT