

Riverbanks Park Commission
Meeting Minutes
21 April 2022

Attendance Report

Commissioners Present: Bob Davidson, Deneen Shockley, Mike Velasco, Alana Williams, Jan Stamps

Commissioners Absent: Cliff Bourke, Jeff Reeves

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

Others Present: Theo DuBose, Bond Attorney of Haynsworth, Sinkler, Boyd, Rebecca Best of Best Consulting, Robert Hobson of First Tryon Advisors

Call to Order

Chairman Davidson called the meeting to order.

Reading of the Minutes

The March 21, 2022 commission minutes were approved as distributed.

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Davidson applauded Riverbanks' Curator of Birds, Colleen Lynch, and her team for recently being awarded the AZA Plume Award. This award recognizes excellence and achievement in avian husbandry, and the Riverbanks team was specifically recognized for reaching sustainability within their collection. An amazing accomplishment to be proud of!

President & CEO Report:

President & CEO Tommy Stringfellow provided the following report:

- Financials
 - Society hit a milestone of the first time exceeding 50,000 member households. Member revenue is almost \$830K over budget.
 - Total attendance 77,000 over budgeted. Expecting a strong finish to the end of our fiscal year.
 - Velasco suggested the operation reserve fund be increased to \$3M
 - Public support- \$6.5M from Shuttered Venue Operators Grant. We are waiting on the reporting platform to open before utilizing those funds.
 - Velasco motioned to approve the March financials, Williams seconded, m/c unanimous.
- Master Plan update- CLR visited recently to recap the Master Plan developed in 2019, and to define the scope of the project.
- County Council Update- Rebecca Best and Stringfellow have been meeting with the administrators and council persons from both Lexington and Richland County. They hope to present the Master Plan at future council meetings.
- Bond Discussion- DuBose shared a calendar of upcoming steps and processes for what a bond request and timeline would look like. Robert Hobson from First Tryon Advisors reviewed financial implications of requesting a bond.

- FY 2022-23 Budget Update- we are currently in the final stages of wrapping up the FY 22-23 budget. The finance committee will meet prior to the next meeting to review in detail.
- Legislative Day- May 4. Daytime portion of the day will include a reading of a proclamation by Governor McMaster on the State House steps. The evening portion will be an opportunity to invite the SC legislators and their staff and families out to Riverbanks to thank them for their support.

Administrative Officer Report:

Administrative Officer Christie Vondrak provided the following report:

- Riverbanks Teams have been busy hiring and onboarding 140 new hires since January
- We had a very successful spring break week this month. Our staff served as the “spring break service squad” to spend extra time out in the park in areas of need to provide a quality experience for guests during this busy time. We made sure to take care of our staff during this time as well and provided them a lunch box of goodies and had a food truck visit our site to give staff a free lunch as a thank you for their hard work.
- Volunteer appreciation week was last week. We celebrated our dedicated volunteers with daily giveaways and treats.
- Riverbanks Anniversary celebration- Riverbanks will celebrate 48 wild years on April 25. We will have a celebration cake on site for staff to drop by and grab a treat.
- Several in person events coming up in the next few weeks:
 - Wine Tasting- April 29
 - Midlands Gives- May 3
 - SC Legislative Day- May 4
 - Riverbanks Run- May 7

The meeting was adjourned.

Approved and adopted on the 19th day of May 2022.

Jan Stampo, Vice Chair