

**Riverbanks Park Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**17 June 2021**

**Attendance Report**

Commissioners Present: Bob Davidson, Deneen Shockley, Mike Velasco, Mary Howard, Jan Stamps

Commissioners Absent: Phil Bartlett, Alana Williams,

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

**Call to Order**

Chairman Davidson called the meeting to order.

**Reading of the Minutes**

The May 20, 2021 commission minutes were approved as distributed.

**Chairman's Remarks**

Chairman Davidson remarked that the attendance numbers continue to look positive, and he is looking forward to beginning next fiscal year in July.

**President & Chief Executive Officer's Report**

President and CEO Tommy Stringfellow provided the following report:

- May financial review:
  - Memberships are still performing well. Currently at 41,345 member households. Society is up about half a million in revenue from budget.
  - Attendance is still below budget, but with opening the capacity and removing timed ticketing, we expect to see improvement in those numbers
  - Per cap spending continues to remain high
  - Dashboard report reflects that we are in a positive position as we wind up our fiscal year in the next two weeks.
  - We will be assembling a list of expenditures that utilized the state funds given to Riverbanks for COVID19 related expense. We will share the list next meeting.
    - Shockley motioned to approve the May financials, Howard second, m/c unanimous.
- FY 2021-22 Budget
  - Looking ahead to the next budget year, we would like to invest in our staff after a very challenging year.
  - Lexington County approved Riverbanks' contribution at \$1M at their 2<sup>nd</sup> reading last Tuesday night and Richland County is estimating they will collect more in millage this year and has increased their contributions by almost \$600,000.
    - Velasco motion to accept the FY2021-22 budget, stamps second, m/c unanimous.

- Capital list
  - Stamps motioned to approve up to \$4.2M to designate for capital and \$400,000 for operating reserve, Howard seconded, m/c unanimous.
- Proud to announce that Lexington County has appointed Mr. Jeff Reeves to fill Mary Howard's position on the Commission when her term expires at the end of July. His first meeting will be in August.

**Chief Administrative Officer's Report:**

CAO Christie Vondrak provided the following report:

- Our goal with the new budget has been to take care of our team. This past year was one of the most difficult in Riverbanks history, and we could not be more proud of our team that stuck through or came back to Riverbanks.
- The departmental Town Halls were invaluable. Many of our departments had similar questions and concerns regarding their pay, Riverbanks' plans for the future and where Riverbanks' financials are.
- In this current fiscal year we have already begun to assess and adjust compensation in maintenance, IT, hospital staff and animal care.
- This year we feel confident that we will be able to reward staff with longevity pay. We will also be able to do a thank you bonus for part time staff who returned to Riverbanks after being laid off.
- Next year- increasing compensation in Guest Services, Horticulture and Zookeepers. Would also like to provide an allowance for uniform purchases, increase opportunities for travel and training and increasing recognition and events.
- Proposing a tiered across the board increase.

The meeting was adjourned.

Approved and adopted on the 15 day of July 2021.

Michael Velasco, Secretary