

**Riverbanks Park Commission
Meeting Minutes
20 November 2025**

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of the agenda is available to radio and TV stations, newspapers, and persons requesting notification; was posted in the lobby of Riverbanks' administration building and was uploaded to Riverbanks' webpage.

Attendance Report

Commissioners Present: Cliff Bourke, Bob Davidson, Chip Huggins, Jeff Reeves, Deneen Shockley, Mike Velasco (via phone), Alana Williams.

Staff Present: Tommy Stringfellow, Christie Vondrak, Lochlan Wooten, Jessica Austin.

Others Present: Terry McDougall & Jill Macauley of Behavioral Solutions.

Call to Order

Chairwoman Williams called the meeting to order at 12:30pm.

Reading of the Minutes

The October 16, 2025, Commission Meeting minutes were approved as distributed.

Shockley motioned to approve the minutes. Huggins seconded, m/c unanimous.

Chairwoman's Remarks:

- Hope to see everyone at Wild Lights tonight.
- Commissioners decided not to have the December meeting. Will resume in January of 2026.

Executive Session:

Shockley motioned to enter executive session. Davidson seconded, m/c unanimous.

- Commissioners entered executive session to discuss an issue pursuant to SC Code § 30-4-70 (a) (1).

No vote was taken after Executive Session.

Finance Report:

VP of Finance Ashley Harris provided the following report:

- October Dashboard Report:
 - Attendance through October year to date reported 3% below budget, yet 7.2% above prior year
 - Through October, member visits are up about 17,000 over prior years
 - Added Free SE School Group count line item to attendance section
 - Overall, net revenues over expenditures are running \$400K better than budget and \$700K better than prior year. Commissions from food and retail were reporting strongly through October.
 - The largest driver of earned revenues reporting over budget is from the Miscellaneous revenues line - insurance proceeds. We received \$250,585 in insurance proceeds from the burnt tram in September.
- October Balance Sheet:
 - LGIP's average interest rate for October was 4.32%
 - Due from bond fund dropped significantly from prior months due to a draw down from the bond proceeds
 - Made final capital transfer adjustment for FY25 after final audit work
- October Statement of Revenues and Expenses:

- Boo at the Zoo came in slightly under budget due to weather in the final two nights. Igloos did well and we came in over budget for sponsorships.
- Departmental expenses are tracking consistently with prior months
- Utilities are running significantly under budget due to credit applied in recent months.
- Required to submit FY25 Audit by February 1st. Will deliver draft to auditors by mid-December. Plan is to submit the drafts to the boards in January for approval.

Huggins motioned to approve the financials, Shockley seconded, m/c unanimous.

Chief Administrative Officer Report:

Chief Administrative Officer Christie Vondrak provided the following report:

- Dates and Reminders
 - November 21 – Town Hall – celebrating Kevin Eubanks’ retirement
 - November 21 – January 11 – Wild Lights
- Nominated for USA Today’s Best Zoo Lights
- Recapped Guest Services Appreciation Week

Chief Operating Officer Report:

Chief Operating Officer Lochlan Wooten provided the following report:

- Walls are going up on the education center. Will send photos of progress.
- Legacy, the green sea turtle, arrived at Riverbanks. This is from the same sea turtle at Myrtle Beach that hatched Scoot, Journey, and Destiny.
- Kamari is out in the yard and doing very well
- Received Nell, cotton topped tamarind, from US Fish and Wildlife. Will be able to tell the story of how we acquired her and what it means to interrupt wildlife trafficking.
- Bringing in Pesho and Sedai, grandcubs of Suri and Thibisa, very soon.
- Gorilla enrichment photos featuring waffles made by keeper LaBorde Coble.
- Boo at the Zoo was a success. Looking forward to everyone seeing Wild Lights this year.

The meeting was adjourned.

Approved and adopted on the 15 day of January 2025.

 _____, Secretary