## **Zoo Atlanta**

# Raymond B. King, President and CEO

# **Economic Forecasting Conference**

**August 25, 2010** 



### **Zoo Atlanta Vision & Mission**



#### <u>Vision</u>

We envision a world in which humankind values, protects and preserves the diversity of species on Earth.

### **Mission**

We strive to inspire the citizens of Atlanta and Georgia and all visitors to the Zoo to value wildlife on Earth and to help safeguard existing species through conservation.

#### We do this by:

- Providing an informative, educational, and engaging experience
- Being respectful and responsible stewards of the animals and the physical and financial assets entrusted to us
- Engaging in related conservation activities and research



### **Zoo Atlanta Overview**

Year Established: 1889

Location: Grant Park

Fiscal Year: Calendar Year

Open 363 days a year

Not-For-Profit Status: 501(c)(3)

Number of Board Members: 60





## Why Do Zoos & Aquariums Matter?

#### **General Public**

Our visitors place a high value on the role of zoos and aquariums in teaching children about the natural world, respect for living creatures and animal conservation efforts

#### **Teacher & Administrators**

Utilize zoos and aquariums to teach students to value animals and natural resources via close-up experiences with living animals (i.e. School Field Trips)

#### **Media**

To provide creditable information to the public about the lives and care of animals and to be an authoritative educational resource for local human-wildlife interactions

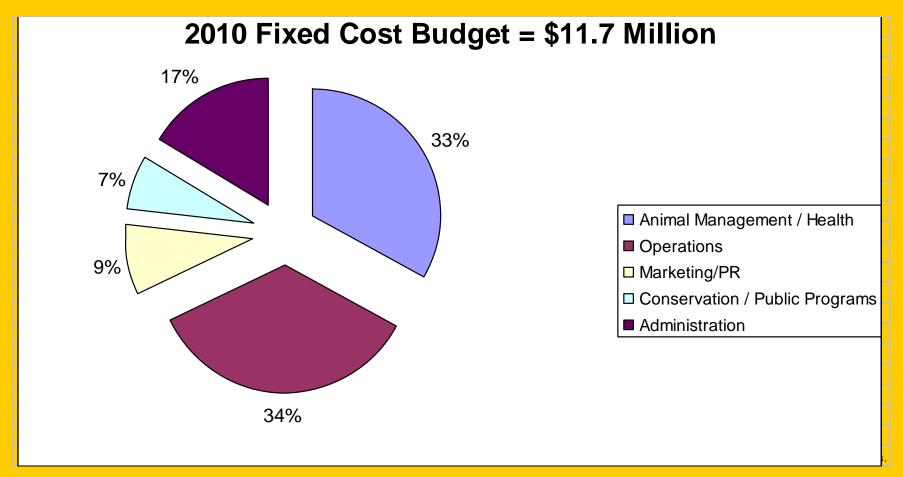
## **Zoo Atlanta ... By the Numbers**

Annual Visitors
Bird, mammal and reptile specimens
Species Survival Plans
Operating Budget
Member households
School group visitors
Full Time Staff

700,000
900
30
\$15M
34,000
70,000
160

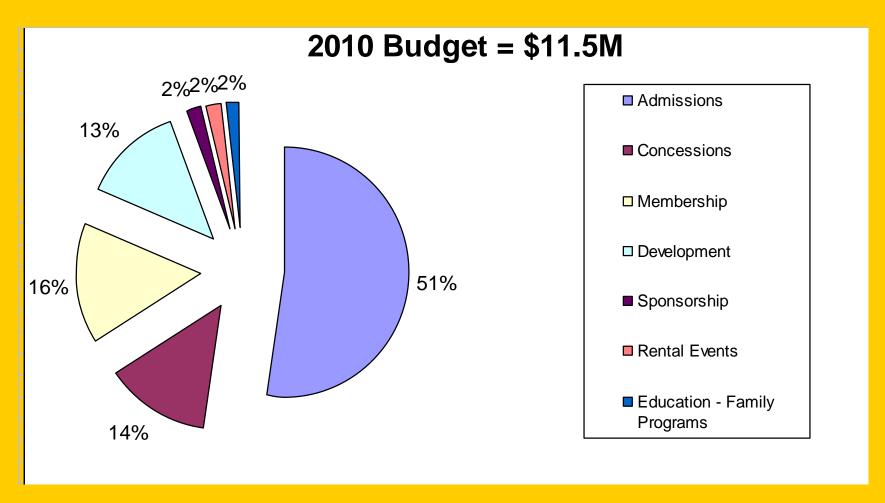


# **Zoo Operations: The Zoo is a Fixed Cost Business**





# Operating Contribution Supports Fixed Costs





## The Recession's Impact on Zoo Atlanta

### There are positive impacts

Staycation?

- Consumer's expectations for entertainment \$
- Advertising more bang for buck
- Available staff and volunteers
- Reduced cost of borrowing





## The Recession's Impact on Zoo Atlanta

#### There are also challenges:

- Discretionary visitor spending (per capita spending in the Zoo) is down 3% year over year ending 2009; July 2010 results remain at lower level
- School budget pressures Zoo visits were down in 2009 vs. 2008 by 27%; year to date July 2010 is up 6%
- Business rentals down 25% from 2008 and holding
- Decline in annual fundraising versus 2008 trend by 1%
- Small business partner risk
- Reduced return on endowments
- Available capital for investments
- Highly Competitive Market
- Technology and consumer sophistication





# The Rest of the Story – Opportunity and Challenge

The Single Biggest Impact to Attendance is Weather:

- Zoos love a long drought
- Heat and Humidity, not so much
- Severe cold is not for Atlantans



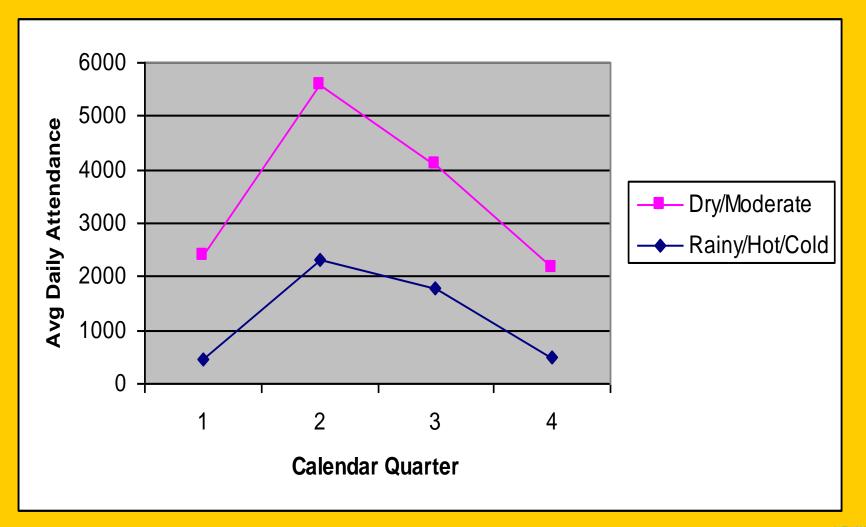






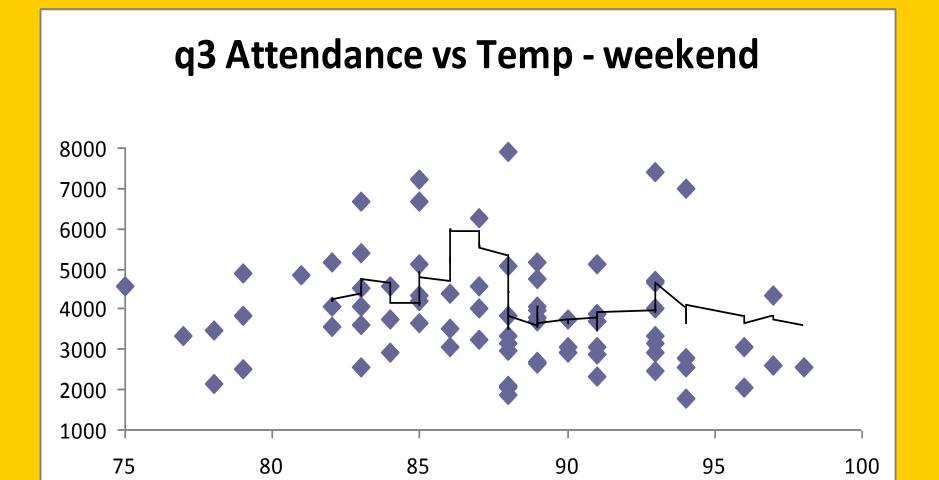


# **Weather – The Biggest Impact**





## **Attendance Trends with Temperature**





### What is The Zoo To Do?

- Seek visitor experience opportunities with exciting programming like
  Asian Sun Bear, Keeper Talks, Discovery Stations, Gecko's, etc.
- Promote membership the best family value in town (and good weatherproofing)
- Compliment with mission related programs like teacher workshops, school's out camp, Home School Academy
- Tap new markets like social events with a unique and interesting venue and catering partner
- Increase fundraising efforts
- Plan conservatively and build fiscal strength



## **Forecasting Challenges**

- Pricing and price elasticity
- Increasing cost of benefits



- Employee morale during reductions in employee investments
- Choosing the right discretionary items to either reduce or increase





# Raymond B. King President & CEO

- Joined Zoo Atlanta June 1, 2010
- Previous Position: SunTrust Bank Senior VP of Community Affairs
- Spent 22 years with SunTrust
- Has chaired 6 non-profit boards:
  - Research Atlanta
  - Theatre in the Square
  - Committee for a Better Atlanta
  - Regional Business Coalition
  - Metropolitan Atlanta Arts and Culture Coalition
  - Fernbank Museum of Natural History
- Native of Atlanta
- Georgia Tech Graduate

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