

Minutes
Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Committee
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E.
Suite 1252 East Tower
Atlanta, GA 30334

August 30, 2016

Attending:

Committee Members

Nancy Addison
Duncan Johnson, Jr.
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert, Jr.
Matt Sawhill
Miki Thomaston
William Bagwell, Board Chair, ex-officio

Board Members

Dwight Davis (via conference call)
Dwight Evans
Rob Leebern
Aaron McWhorter
Mike Phelps
Matt Sawhill
Paul Shailendra
Philip Watt
Philip Wilheit

Guests

Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble
Harold Reheis, Joe Tanner and Associates
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Chris Manganiello, Georgia River Network
Andrew Schock, TCF
Leah Dixon, Georgia Conservancy
Robert Ramsay, Georgia Conservancy
Jonathan Harding, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Alex Bradford, Georgia Farm Bureau
John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance
Carolyn Pait, Oglethorpe Power Corporation

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Walter Rabon
Terry West
Kyle Pearson
Melanie Johnson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Rusty Garrison
Col. Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Spud Woodward
John Biagi
John Bowers
Karl Burgess
Lt. Wayne Hubbard
Capt. Johnny Johnson
Capt. Bob Lynn
Jan McKinnon
Maj. Stephen Adams
Lt. Col. Jeff Weaver
Antoinette Norfleet
Mark Walker
Richard Dunn
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Doralyn Kirkland
Dika Kuoh
Chuck Mueller

The August 30, 2016 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Committee was called to order by Chairman William Bagwell.

Chairman Bagwell called on Nancy Addison, member of the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Committee in the absence of the chairman and vice chairman.

Ms. Addison called on Becky Kelley, Director of the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division, for a presentation on the Georgia Plan for Outdoor Recreation 2017-2021.

Ms. Kelley stated that every 5 years the state of Georgia updates the Statewide Comprehensive Plan (SCORP). She further stated that the SCORP has been in production for the last year as they moved through a process mandated by the Federal government. She added that it will be open for public comment between now and the October Board meeting when the Board will vote.

Ms. Kelley stated that after the final version is approved by the National Parks Service, it will become the guide for distributing appropriations from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. She further stated that the Division was assisted by Vanguard Contingent, the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, and GreenInfo to make the SCORP possible.

Ms. Kelley thanked the Advisory Committee for their input and assistance. Ms. Kelley further stated that the SCORP document is a brief document based on the award-winning SCORP document they developed in 2008. She added that it is required to have certain components.

Ms. Kelley stated that in the development of the SCORP document, they inventoried outdoor recreation opportunities and created an online map including amenities. She further stated that a telephone survey of about 1,100 Georgia residents and surveys of local, state and federal practitioners. She added that in order to gather public input they used the following methods: dedicated website, press releases, social media announcements, three public meetings, three focus groups, meetings of the Advisory Committee and Board of Natural Resources, and presentation to several audiences and conferences.

Ms. Kelley stated the phone survey gathered excellent information about reasons why Georgians choose to recreate. She further stated that a repeated demand was made for trails and better accessibility. She added that studies show that people are more physically active when recreation activities are available.

Ms. Kelley stated that local and state economies are stimulated by the presence of abundant and well-managed outdoor recreation areas. She further stated that the demand for parks, trails and outdoor recreation opportunities will continue to increase. She added that the demand will increase across the state including urban areas.

Ms. Kelley stated that the strategic action statement is made up of 4 parts: 1) Parks promote healthy communities; 2) Parks enhance economic vitality; 3) Parks conserve natural resources and 4) collaboration is necessary.

Ms. Kelley thanked all contributors.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.