

Minutes
North Georgia Mountains Authority
Board of Directors Meeting
August 26, 2013

The North Georgia Mountain Authority Board of Directors held its regularly scheduled meeting in the DNR Board Room located at 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive S.E., Suite 1252 East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia. (A board package and handouts are attached hereto and made official parts of these Minutes as an Attachment)

Board Members Present:

Nancy Addison, Chairman
William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Ray Lambert, Jr.
Robert Leebern, Jr.
Philip Wilheit, Jr.
Delos Yancey

Staff:

Commissioner Mark Williams
Homer Bryson
Becky Kelley
Terry West
Michael Chadwell
David Clark
Bill Donohue
Carol Jackson
Brenda McMillian

DNR Board Members Present:

Philip Watt

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Addison called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. and requested a motion to approve the June 25, 2013 Minutes. A motion was made by Mr. Yancey, seconded by Mr. Leebern and unanimously approved.

Chairman Addison welcomed Carol Jackson and called on Mr. Donohue to make his report. Mr. Donohue introduced new NGMA Staff member Carol Jackson. She has a diverse business background in private business, county government and state government as a Legislator. As NGMA moves forward Ronnie Phillips will continue to help supervise operations, projects and site activities with Carol Jackson working on administration, legal, budget, and coordination with DNR and other agencies.

APPROVAL OF THE RENOVATION PROJECT MANAGER

Mr. Donohue referred to the Renovation Project memo dated August 19, 2013 and Chairman Addison requested a motion to approve hiring of the Stormont Hospitality Group as Project Manager for the lodge renovation project and authorize the NGMA Executive Director to sign the contract subject to the final review and approval of the State Attorney General's office in an amount not to exceed \$375,000. A motion was made by Mr. Wilheit, seconded by Mr. Davis and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF PRE-DESIGN ARCHITECT SERVICES

Mr. Donohue referenced the Renovation Project memo date August 19, 2013 and Chairman Addison requested a motion to approve authorizing the NGMA Executive Director to sign a contract for pre-design services subject to the approval of the final form of contract from the State Attorney General's office in an amount not to exceed \$75,000. A motion was made by Mr. Yancey, seconded by Mr. Wilheit and unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF GEFA INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Mr. Donohue stated that with the help of David Clark and Mr. Wilheit, who is familiar with this program, NGMA is interested in looking at available energy efficiency options. GEFA has worked with energy efficiency companies like GE and Honeywell in conjunction with different authorities, universities etc. at offering guaranteed energy efficiencies through new capital projects similar to what NGMA is about begin. Chairman Addison requested a motion to approve authorizing the NGMA Executive Director to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement with GEFA for technical assistance and support pertaining to energy efficiency and conservation improvement projects at NGMA facilities. The State Attorney General's office has approved the form of agreement. A motion was made by Mr. Leebern and seconded by Mr. Bagwell and unanimously approved.

MONTHLY REPORT

Mr. Donohue referred to the monthly report dated August 20, 2013 which included a table of the overall July financials for four of the properties and will send out the July financials for George T. Bagby and Little Ocmulgee at a later time. The park transition is going well thanks to Becky Kelley and her staff working with Coral to accomplish the changes that are taking place. The manager at Bagby is taking a position at Panola Mountain State Park. The Friends of Georgia State Parks is transitioning to the new arrangements. .

Mr. Donohue addressed a question that marketing is done in the areas of the resorts/parks through local print advertising and local CVBs with Carol taking the lead on funding issues and compliance with the regulations with the local CVBs. Coral has a group sales office of four and Groupons and Living Social is utilized as well. Brasstown had a very successful advertising through Groupon which is at a severely discounted rate.

Chairman Addison commented on seeing a letter printed in two different magazines that commented on Brasstown Valley and what a good time they had and what they did over the summer agreeing there is some good advertising going out that doesn't cost anything as well as word of mouth.

Mr. Donohue explained Walasi-yi is a state owned concession and store and the NGMA has a 20 year concessionaire agreement to operate the store. The Authority is responsible for the infrastructure and receives about \$40,000 per year in base rent. Walasi-yi has about \$700,000 per year revenue and is the only place that the Appalachian Trail goes through a building. The ownership of the concession agreement is changing to a financially secure individual with excellent management in place and an exciting vision for the operation. The amended agreement will be presented at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Addison requested a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Mr. Davis, seconded by Mr. Leebern and unanimously approved at 12:12 p.m.

ATTEST:

Nancy Addison, Chairman

Bill Donohue, Executive Director