

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

December 1, 2009

Attending:

Committee Members

Jim Tysinger, Chairman
Dennis Billew
Jenny Lynn Bradley
Joe Hatfield
Mabel Jenkins
Ray Lambert
Loyce Turner
Philip Watt
Bill Carruth, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Bill Archer
Earl Barrs
Gene Bishop
Warren Budd
Dwight Davis
Walter Hudson
Phyllis Johnson
Jim Walters
Tom Wheeler

Visitors

Reginald Brown, University of Georgia
Andrew Schcock, The Conservation Fund
Andy Fleming, Friends of Georgia State Parks
Tommy Fleming, Friends of Georgia State Parks
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Greg Jones, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Jim Stokes, Sustainable Solutions of Georgia
Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club

Staff Members

Chris Clark
Allen Barnes
Paul Burkhalter
Todd Holbrook
Spud Woodward
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Marlin Gottschalk
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Terry West
Jim Ussery
Doralyn Kirkland
Emily Hitchcock
Lauren Curry
Mike Spencer
Megan Gray
Walter Rabon
Becky Marshall
Wally Woods
Doug Haymans
Paul Meders
Connie Buck
Jeff Weaver
Paul Nelson
Homer Bryson
Mary Ann Evans
Hellen Harris

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Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council

Thomas Farmer, The Nature Conservancy

Shana Udvardy, Georgia Conservancy

Will Wingate, Georgia Conservancy

Lindsay Averett, Oglethorpe Power

John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance

Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Association of Georgia

Ronny Just, Georgia Power

Gary Black, Georgia Agribusiness Council

The December 1, 2009 meeting of the Historic Preservation Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Bill Carruth. Chairman Carruth called on Jim Tysinger, Chairman of the Historic Preservation Committee.

Mr. Tysinger called on Dave Crass, Acting Director of Historic Preservation Division (HPD).

Dr. Crass briefed the Committee on the founding and development of HPD and its current status of HPD under his leadership. He stated that HPD actually started as the old Georgia Historical Commission in 1952. He further stated that at that time and for decades thereafter, the primary focus was on administering and interpreting the Historic Sites that later became part of the Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Division (PRHSD), along with administering the Historical Marker Program. He added that in 1973, the Georgia Historical Commission was incorporated into the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) upon its inception, and that the focus then shifted to implementing the Federal National Historic Preservation Act, which set up the nationwide historic preservation system in the 50 states and territories.

Dr. Crass stated that over the last 15 to 20 years, HPD has been going through a period where they slowly accreted additional responsibilities and duties, some of which were adequately funded so that they were sustainable, but others have not been. He further stated that this has led to the development of an organizational structure that has not helped develop professionals into managers and does not provide for team approaches to either individual projects or ongoing programs. He added that the programs have not linked well with the organizational structure and that the day-to-day functions do not correspond well either.

Dr. Crass stated that he would be coming back at the January meeting to present a new structure for HPD with details of programmatic changes that will be implemented. He further stated that he has already carried out an examination of all division activities in light of the DNR A-list functions, which are raising awareness, increasing engagement and instilling a conservation ethic in Georgia's citizens. He added that he anticipates a realignment and a refocusing on the core functions of HPD.

Dr. Crass stated that he has begun a trust relationship between management and staff and will continue to improve in this area. He further briefed the board on other improvements that he intends to make at HPD. (PowerPoint attached and made a part hereof)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

After the Historic Preservation Committee was adjourned, Board Chairman Bill Carruth called on Allen Barnes, Director of Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for an update.

Mr. Barnes stated that his philosophy in directing EPD rests on three fundamentals – be respectful, responsive and responsible. He stated that environmental sustainability and economic sustainability are compatible goals and that they can and must coexist. He further stated that compliance is not an option; it's the law. He added that his goal is 100% compliance through education, compliance assistance and enforcement mechanisms.

Chairman Carruth called on Dan Forster, Director of Wildlife Resources Division (WRD), for an update.

Mr. Forster updated the Committee on the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies conference, hosted by WRD in Atlanta and attended by 600 colleagues from 15 Southeastern states.

Mr. Forster gave an update on the outsourcing of the License System, stating that it had been one year since its inception. He further stated that a majority of licenses are now being sold over the Internet, with 61% being sold over the Internet in the month of October. He added that one million licenses have been sold to date and that boats are now being registered over the new system.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.