

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

April 26, 2011

Attending:

Committee Members

Loyce Turner, Chairman
Bill Carruth, Vice Chairman
Joe Hatfield
Walter Hudson
Duncan Johnson
Rob Leebern
Philip Watt
Earl Barrs, Board Chair, ex-officio

Board Members

Dennis Billew
Phyllis Johnson
Ray Lambert
Mark Smith
Philip Wilheit
Steven Woodruff

Visitors

Kevin Green, Clean Air Campaign
Daniel Groce, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club
Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power
Maggie Lee, Freelance Reporter
John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Todd Holbrook
Spud Woodward
Becky Kelley
Marlin Gottschalk
Dan Forster
Steve Friedman
Emily Hitchcock
Kyle Pearson
Lauren Curry
Doug Haymans
Suzanne Burnes
Jeff Weaver
Ben Stowers
Homer Bryson
Candy Henderson
John Kilpatrick
Cathy Barnette
Mary Ann Evans
Hellen Harris

The April 26, 2011 meeting of the Land Acquisition Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Earl Barrs.

Chairman Barrs called on Loyce Turner, Chairman, Land Acquisition Committee, who called on Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate.

Mr. Friedman stated that the Georgia Heritage Trust Act of 1975 provides that any state-owned land which the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) manages and the Board of Natural Resources identifies as having significant historical, natural or cultural value may be dedicated by the Governor as a Heritage Preserve. He further stated that this dedication is done by an Executive Order, which designates the best and most important uses to which the land is to be put to use. He further added that Heritage Preserve lands cannot be used for purposes other than those in the dedication without approval by the General Assembly and the Governor.

Mr. Friedman stated that O.C.G.A., §12-3-76 provides the procedure where any use other than the dedicated use or uses set forth in the Executive Order can be considered. He further stated DNR staff has identified the need for Rules to be promulgated to deal with the process of change of use to Heritage Preserve and that the Real Estate Office will bring this item to the Board at the May meeting. He added that a public hearing would then be held and that the final Rules would be presented for consideration at the June meeting.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Friedman stated that the next item was consideration of acquisition (purchase) of 0.54± acres of real property, Gilreath tract (Wildwood addition), Chattahoochee River Regional Park, Habersham County. He further stated that DNR previously accepted a donation of two tracts totaling 1.47± acres located in Habersham and White Counties from the Trust for Public Land (TPL). He added that those tracts are being used as public launching sites for kayaking, rafting and canoeing.

Mr. Friedman stated that DNR is proposing the purchase of a 0.54± acre parcel adjacent to the Habersham County tract to provide parking. He further stated that the public is already parking on this property without approval from the landowner, and that losing this tract would greatly limit public access. He added that this purchase would be made with redirected General Obligation Bond funds from DNR 86.

Mr. Friedman stated that he would like to request that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution regarding this purchase.

A motion was made by Mr. Carruth, seconded by Mr. Hudson and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval for the acquisition (purchase) of 0.54± acres of real property, Gilreath tract (Wildwood addition), Chattahoochee River Regional Park, Habersham County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Friedman stated that the next item for consideration is for approval to enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Monroe County to place an outdoor siren at High Falls State Park, Monroe County. He further stated that Monroe County Emergency Management contacted personnel at High Falls State Park in December 2010 about installing an outdoor warning siren on an existing pole on park property. He added that in addition, there would be no cost for power or maintenance incurred by DNR.

Mr. Friedman stated that this siren would warn visitors to the park as well as the surrounding population in the event of severe weather. He further stated that the Monroe County Board of Commissioners adopted a Resolution on March 1, 2011, authorizing the County to enter into this Intergovernmental Agreement. He added that this agreement will be for 50 years.

Mr. Friedman stated that he would like to request that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution regarding this Intergovernmental Agreement.

A motion was made by Mr. Carruth, seconded by Mr. Hudson and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to enter in an Intergovernmental Agreement between Monroe County and the Department to place an outdoor siren at High Falls State Park, Monroe County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Friedman stated that the last item for consideration was the granting of a revocable license and permanent easement over 2.74± acres by the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly to Greystone Power Corporation for construction and maintenance of an electrical power line, Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas County. He further stated that there is a single circuit in place down Riverside Parkway in Douglas County between Highway 92 and Camp Creek Parkway, but due to development including the American Red Cross facility and the Douglas County Water and Sewer Authority Bear Creek treatment plant, an additional electrical circuit needs to be added for reliability purposes. He added that the current poles and lines are within the Department of Transportation (DOT) right-of-way, but this expansion will require an extension onto the park property of 15 to 20 feet.

Mr. Friedman stated that no adverse impact of any interest of DNR has been identified relative to operations and that the revocable license will be converted to a permanent easement by the General Assembly.

Mr. Friedman stated that he would like to request that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution regarding granting this revocable license.

A motion was made by Mr. Carruth, seconded by Mr. Hudson and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission and General Assembly approval to grant a revocable license and permanent easement over 2.74± acres to Greystone Power Corporation for construction and maintenance of an electrical power line, Sweetwater Creek State Park, Douglas County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.