

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

September 27, 2011

Attending:

Committee Members

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

Board Members

Dennis Billew
Mabel Jenkins
Phyllis Johnson
Ray Lambert
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Smith
Jim Walters
Steven Woodruff

Visitors

Kevin Chapman, Georgia Southern University
Sue Moore, Georgia Southern University
Matt Newberry, Georgia Southern University
Glenn Ivie, Friends of Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites
Walter Jones, Morris News Service
Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council
Katie Kirkpatrick, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce
Andy Fleming, Friends of Georgia State Parks & Historic Sites
Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation
Leah Barnett, Georgia Conservancy
John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Allen Barnes
Todd Holbrook
Homer Bryson
Spud Woodward
Becky Kelley
Dave Crass
Dan Forster
Wally Woods
Steve Friedman
Terry West
Lauren Curry
Karl Burgess
Danny Tatum
Emily Hitchcock
Kyle Pearson
Cathy Barnette
Sally Winchester
Joe Yeager
Bryan Tucker
Mary Ann Evans
Hellen Harris

The September 27, 2011 meeting of the Land Acquisition Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Earl Barrs.

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

Mr. Friedman reminded the Committee that he would conduct an Executive Session in his office to discuss future land acquisition items after the Board meeting on Wednesday, September 28, and invited all Board members to attend.

Mr. Friedman stated that the first item for consideration was approval to enter into a 10-year Intergovernmental Agreement with Walker County for 5.5± acres, Crockford-Pigeon Mountain Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Walker County, Georgia, for construction and maintenance of a 20-foot wide trail system, including the Estelle Trailhead and a trail adjacent to Highway 193, as well as possession of a 200-foot radius area around the Shaw Barn at Crockford-Pigeon Mountain WMA.

Mr. Friedman stated that Walker County will be responsible for the development, operation and maintenance of the trail and eventually plans to tie it into a larger system of trails. He further stated that the Shaw Barn will be restored, repaired and maintained by Walker County at no cost to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

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

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Mr. Carruth and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to enter into a 10-year Intergovernmental Agreement with Walker County on 5.5± acres for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a trail system at Crockford Pigeon Mountain WMA, Walker County, Georgia. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Friedman stated that the next item for consideration was granting of a revocable license and permanent easement over 2.9± acres by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Georgia Power Company for the replacement, upgrading and maintenance of an underground utility cable providing power to Skidaway Island State Park, Chatham County. He further stated that the proposed utility line will run along the main road and will not go through any marsh habitat. He added that the proposed line will change slightly from what was originally outlined by Savannah Electric and that this change will make the lines easier to locate in the future.

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

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

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, 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 Georgia Power a revocable license and permanent easement over 2.9± acres for the purpose of replacement, upgrading and maintenance of an underground utility cable providing power to Skidaway Island State Park, Chatham County, Georgia. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Friedman stated that the next item for consideration was petition for removal of Heritage Preserve designation of John Tanner State Park and conveyance of John Tanner State Park to Carroll County, 136± acres, Carroll County, Georgia. He further stated that this is a 136-acre State Park that is currently designated as a Heritage Preserve.

Mr. Friedman stated that a request has been made by Carroll County for the State to convey John Tanner State Park to Carroll County. He further stated that the Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Division (PRHSD) supports the conveyance of the property to Carroll County subject to a conservation easement that will ensure the property remains a public park. He added that the consideration for the conveyance will be payoff of the bonds in the amount of \$76,327, along with some personal property of \$1,000.

Mr. Friedman stated that Carroll County adopted a Resolution on September 6, 2011, approving the proposed conveyance, acknowledging that it is prohibited from assigning any interest it may acquire in the property to a private individual or entity, and agreeing that it will continue to use the property as a public park.

Mr. Friedman stated that he would request that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution regarding the removal of Heritage Preserve designation of John Tanner State Park.

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Mr. Hatfield and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to remove the Heritage Preserve designation on 136 acres± at John Tanner State Park and conveyance of John Tanner State Park to Carroll County. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Friedman stated that the next item for consideration was for acceptance of a 136± acre conservation easement from Carroll County over John Tanner State Park and requested that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution regarding this conservation easement.

A motion was made by Mr. Leebern, seconded by Mr. Hatfield and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to accept the conservation easement over 136± acres at John Tanner State Park, Carroll County, Georgia. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Friedman stated that the next item was a briefing on Petition for Change of Use of a Heritage Preserve, High Falls State Park, 0.41± acres, Butts County, Georgia. He further stated that the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) submitted a letter of petition requesting change of use of

Heritage Preserve designated property as required under Chapter 391-1-8 in late August 2011. He added that DOT plans to replace the existing State Route 36 Bridge over Towaliga River in High Falls State Park.

Mr. Friedman stated that during construction, traffic would be maintained on a temporary detour bridge placed to the south of the existing bridge. He further stated that this petition is to acquire 0.133± acres for a permanent right-of-way easement and 0.273± acres for a temporary detour easement. He added that since High Falls State Park has been designated as Heritage Preserve, it is necessary to follow the procedures set out in Chapter 391-1-8 for a change of use.

Mr. Friedman stated that DOT will implement a number of erosion-control and mitigation measures to minimize the impact of the project on the heritage preserve during construction, which will include the use of silt fence, hay bales, fabric and rock ditch check dams, and riprap, as needed, to control erosion. He further stated that after construction, these erosion-control materials will be removed and the area will be graded and grassed to return to its original condition.

Mr. Friedman stated that DNR will hold a public hearing on November 1, 2011, and will bring the matter to the Board for a vote at its December meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Upon adjournment of the Board meeting, the Land Acquisition Committee reconvened in Suite 1454. Mr. Friedman briefed the Committee on the pipeline. The members of the Land Acquisition Committee members in attendance were: Loyce Turner, Chairman; Bill Carruth; Joe Hatfield; Walter Hudson; and Rob Leebern. Board members in attendance were: Earl Barrs, Chairman; Duncan Johnson; Ray Lambert; Mark Smith, Philip Wilheit, Jr.; and Steven Woodruff. Staff members in attendance were: Mark Williams, Commissioner; Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate; and Celisha Rosser.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.