

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

June 26, 2012

Attending:

Committee Members

Loyce Turner, Chairman
Dennis Billew
Joe Hatfield
Duncan Johnson
Mark Mobley
Steven Woodruff
Rob Leebern, Acting Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

William Bagwell
Phyllis Johnson
Ray Lambert
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Smith
Jim Walters
Philip Wilheit

Visitors

Ronny Just, Georgia Power
Doug Fulle, Oglethorpe Power
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition
Phil Zinsmeister, Sierra Club
John Eberhart, Georgia Earth Alliance
Rebecca Lam, Environment Georgia
Jeanette Gayer, Environment Georgia
Madison Poche, Environment Georgia
Robin Osindel, Environment Georgia
Stefan Bugge, Environment Georgia
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Jud Turner
Todd Holbrook
Homer Bryson
Spud Woodward
Dan Forster
Becky Kelley
Dave Crass
Steve Friedman
Lauren Curry
Ben Stowers
Doug Haymans
John Bowers
Mike Harris
Richard Tanner
Jim Ussery
Doralyn Kirkland
Joshua Ellis
Zachary Harris
Kyle Pearson
Eddie Henderson
Steven Adams
Jac Capp
Paul Nelson
Leigh Burns
Mary Ann Evans
Hellen Harris

The June 26, 2012 meeting of the Land Acquisition Committee was called to order by Acting Board Chairman Rob Leebern. Chairman Leebern called on Loyce Turner, Chairman of the Land Acquisition Committee.

Dr. Turner called on Steve Friedman, Chief of Real Estate, for presentation of four action items, stating that item (b) has been removed from consideration.

Mr. Friedman stated that the first item for consideration was a request to grant a revocable license and permanent easement by the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly to the Georgia Power Company for the purpose of installing, maintaining and operating overhead and underground utility lines providing power to certain facilities within Fort Yargo State Park, Camp Will-A-Way, Barrow County.

Mr. Friedman stated that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) holds over 1,800 acres at Fort Yargo State Park, on which Camp Twin Lakes operates Camp Will-A-Way on a portion of the site. He further stated that this camp is for children with serious illnesses, disabilities and other challenges, and that DNR has requested Georgia Power install, maintain and operate additional electrical service to the campground host site and recreational fields. He added that Georgia Power has developed a plan for the installation of overhead and underground service on approximately 0.05± acres.

Mr. Friedman stated that the affected property is heritage preserved designated and that the Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Division (PRHSD) fully supports the project and does not consider the activity to be a change of use, because there is mutual benefit provided by Camp Will-A-Way. He further stated that Fort Yargo State Park has Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF), which will mean compliance with issuance of the revocable license and permanent easement. He added 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 to approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Billew, seconded by Mr. Mobley and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties and General Assembly approval to grant a revocable license and permanent easement by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly to Georgia Power Company for the purpose of installing, maintaining and operating overhead and underground utility lines providing power to certain facilities within Fort Yargo State Park, Camp Will-A-Way, Barrow County, as presented. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Friedman stated that the second item for consideration was for renewal of License No. DACW01-1-87-10146 for public park and recreational purposes (25-year license agreement), U. S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers (COE), 100± acres of real property at Florence Marina State Park, Stewart County. He further stated that DNR entered into a 25-year license agreement with COE on April 1, 1987, and that COE has offered to renew the 25-year license agreement. He added that on these 100± acres are a boat ramp, fishing pier, and Kirbo Educational Center, which conducts programs on the history of the area.

Mr. Friedman stated that he would like to request that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Billew, seconded by Mr. Woodruff and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to authorize the Commissioner to seek State Properties Commission approval to renew License No. DACW01-87-10146 for public park and recreational purposes (25-year license agreement), U. S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, 100± acres of real property at Florence Marina State Park, Stewart County, as presented. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Friedman stated that the next item for consideration was to grant a revocable license and permanent easement by the State Properties Commission and General Assembly for the purpose of installing, maintaining and operating fiber optic cables providing telephone and internet service to Lake Blackshear Resort, Citizens Telephone Company, Georgia Veterans State Park, 1± acres, Crisp County. He further stated that the PRHSD asked that Citizens Telephone Company bring a fiber optic line into Georgia Veterans State Park, which will provide faster, cheaper and more reliable service to Lake Blackshear Resort.

Mr. Friedman stated that North Georgia Mountains Authority (NGMA) personnel have long sought out a cheaper and more reliable service provider for their Internet and video services to Lake Blackshear Resort, and that this new easement will be used by Citizens Telephone Company, the service provider, which will save over \$9,500.00 annually compared to the current providers. He further stated that the new fiber optic cables will allow 5-mbps or more, providing faster internet and wi-fi service throughout the resort. He added that it will also provide a clear digital service and double the available television channels. He further added that Georgia Veterans State Park will have the opportunity to tie into the fiber optic line for their use, which would expand internet capacity for the office, as well as wi-fi service for the campground.

Mr. Friedman stated that the affected property is heritage preserve designated and that PRHSD recommends that the activity not be considered a change of use, because it is at DNR's request and will solely benefit the Department, and will not interfere with the protection and conservation of the recreational, natural and cultural resources of the property. He further stated 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 to approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Billew, seconded by Mr. Johnson 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 by the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly to Citizens Telephone Company on 1± acres for the purpose of installing, maintaining and operating fiber optic cables providing telephone and internet service to Lake Blackshear Resort, Georgia Veterans State Park, Crisp County, as presented. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mr. Friedman stated that the final item for consideration was to grant a revocable license and permanent easement by the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly for the purpose of installing, maintaining and operating fiber optic cables providing telephone and internet service to Unicoi State Park and Lodge, Habersham Electric Membership Corporation, 0.12± acres, White County. He further stated that PRHSD asked Habersham Electric Membership Corporation to bring a fiber optic line into Unicoi State Park and Lodge, which will provide faster, cheaper and more reliable service.

Mr. Friedman stated that this easement will be used by Habersham Electric Membership Corporation and the actual provider of services, Trailwave. He further stated that it will save DNR over \$3,600.00 annually compared to the current provider. He added that the new fiber optic cables will allow more consistent upload and down speeds as well.

Mr. Friedman stated that the affected property is heritage preserve designated, and the PRHSD recommends that the activity not be considered a change of use, because it at DNR's request and will solely benefit the Department, and will not interfere with the protection and conservation of the recreational, natural and cultural resources of the property.

Mr. Friedman stated that he would like to request that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the item as presented.

A motion was made by Mr. Billew, seconded by Mr. Johnson 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 by the State Properties Commission and the General Assembly to Habersham Electric Membership Corporation on 0.12± acres for the purpose of installing, maintaining and operating fiber optic cables providing telephone and internet service to Unicoi State Park and Lodge, White County, as presented. (Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.