

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

December 1, 2009

Attending:

Committee Members

Loyce Turner, Chairman
Earl Barrs
Jenny Lynn Bradley
Joe Hatfield
Walter Hudson
Mabel Jenkins
Phyllis Johnson
Jim Tysinger
Tom Wheeler
Bill Carruth, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Bill Archer
Dennis Billew
Gene Bishop
Warren Budd
Dwight Davis
Ray Lambert
Jim Walters
Philip Watt

Visitors

Reginald Brown, University of Georgia
Andrew Schock, 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 Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Bill Carruth. Chairman Carruth called on Loyce Turner, Chairman of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Committee.

Mr. Turner called on Becky Kelley, Director of the Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Division (PRHSD).

Mrs. Kelley stated that PRHSD is pursuing possible outsourcing of its state park lodge and golf course operations in order to reach a higher level of sustainability. She further stated that the Division's seven state park lodges are already assigned to the North Georgia Mountains Authority (NGMA) as management projects under an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), which has been in place since 2003. She added that this agreement allows for utility of NGMA's expertise and best business practices and provides maximum flexibility in outsourcing efforts. She further added that she would like to request the Committee's recommendation to the Board to support the transition of seven state park golf courses to NGMA for outsourcing purposes.

Mrs. Kelley stated that the outcome of outsourcing efforts will determine which facilities will be privatized.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Hatfield and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board amend the Intergovernmental Agreement to transition seven state park golf courses into the agreement and to approve the concept of continuing to collaborate with NGMA on the outsourcing efforts and ultimately on the operation of the lodges and golf courses.

Mrs. Kelley stated that the second item for consideration was action on a Resolution for an Intergovernmental Agreement with Gordon County for Resaca Battlefield Historic Site. She further stated that for years, DNR has been working in partnership with Gordon County, Georgia for the preservation of the historic Resaca Civil War Battlefield Site. She added that Gordon County supported the acquisition of the tract and is now offering to assume responsibility for construction and operation of the site.

Mrs. Kelley stated that Gordon County has agreed to construct a Visitors Center using both State General Obligation Bond proceeds and County funds to operate and manage the property as the Resaca Battlefield Historic Site for the purpose of preserving and interpreting the Battle of Resaca for future generations by accommodating the visiting public and by providing appropriate visitor center facilities. She further stated that this 50-year IGA would enable the State to open the site without any financial burden and enable the County to provide and promote heritage tourism that will benefit the local community. She added that she would like to request that the Committee recommend to the Board adoption of the Resolution. (PowerPoint attached and made a part hereof)

Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jenkins, seconded by Mrs. Bradley that the Committee recommends that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with Gordon County for Resaca Battlefield Historic Site.
(Resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Mrs. Kelley updated the Committee on the status of the PRHSD budget.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.