

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

June 23, 2010

Attending:

Committee Members

Philip Watt, Chairman
Bill Archer
Joe Hatfield
Mabel Jenkins
Phyllis Johnson
Ray Lambert
Loyce Turner
Steven Woodruff
Jenny Lynn Bradley, Board Chairman, ex-officio

Board Members

Earl Barrs
Dennis Billew
Warren Budd
Bill Carruth
Dwight Davis
Walter Hudson
Jim Walters

Visitors

Representative Bob Lane
Pat Harris, Assistant to Representative Bob Lane
Ben Harris, Georgia Power Company
Jennifer Whitmire, Georgia Power Company
Steve Ewald, Georgia Power Company
Maggie Lee, Freelance Reporter
Scott Tanner, Joe Tanner & Associates
Bettie Sleeth, Home Builders Association of Georgia
Corey Babb, Metro North Georgia Water Planning Dev.
Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation
Aaron Estis, The Estis Group

Staff Members

Chris Clark
Allen Barnes
Spud Woodward
Dave Crass
Becky Kelley
Marlin Gottschalk
Dan Forster
Emily Hitchcock
Kyle Pearson
Paul Burkhalter
Todd Holbrook
Steve Friedman
John Bowers
John Biagi
Lauren Curry
Homer Bryson
Brittany Flood
Paul Nelson
Mark Whitney
John Martin
Suzanne Burnes
Cathy Holtzclaw
Rusty Garrison
Doralyn Kirkland
Linda Patrick
Sarah Dearman
Antoinette Norfleet
Mary Ann Evans

The June 23, 2010 meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Committee was called to order by Board Chairman Jenny Lynn Bradley. Chairman Bradley called on Philip Watt, Chairman of the Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Committee.

Dr. Watt stated that there were no action items, but that he would like to call on Becky Kelley, Director of Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Division (PRHSD) for a briefing.

Director Kelley briefed the Committee on the PRHSD Strategic Planning Initiative, which is called Direction 2015. She stated that this will allow the creation of a special team of Department of Natural Resources (DNR) associates to determine how sustainable the parks system can become. She further stated that by FY-2015, she would like to sustain self-supporting capacity of 75% within the parks system. She added that there are critically important natural, cultural and recreational resources within DNR's responsibility of stewardship, and she wants to be sure that as we assess our need to generate more revenue and minimize our costs, that we determine what it actually does cost to take care of these assets and resources.

Director Kelley stated that PRHSD should move into the business of recreation administration and management and will bring in experts to help with this cause. She further stated that several groups will be brought in for their expertise in this area. She added that the North Georgia Mountains Authority (NGMA) and Coral Hospitality would provide assessments of the lodge operations.

Director Kelley stated that the Strategic Business Development Team would be headed by Assistant Director Paul Nelson. She further stated that the first year of the initiative would be focused on golf courses and lodges, and that the parks system had been divided into groups of 20, so that it would be easier to devote full attention of study to each one. She added that this group will determine a clear indication of what the maximum capacity of each park, lodge and golf course is, so that when conversation arises with Legislators and the general public as to why those facilities are important, and why it is important that the State of Georgia recognizes underwriting the costs of sustaining those facilities, we will have a good argument to present that case.

Director Kelley stated that PRHSD would undergo a reorganization to accomplish the task of moving forward to sustain the high quality service that is expected and desired.

Director Kelley gave an overview of the Land and Water Conservation (LWCF) program, stating that DNR is the administrator of the federally-funded LWCF. She further stated that these are local grants that, based on the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) adopted in 2008, specifically advance that process.

Director Kelley briefed the Committee on several items of interest, including the Outdoor School Program and the partnership between PRHSD and the Boy Scouts of America.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.