

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

December 7, 2010

Attending:

Committee Members

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

Board Members

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

Visitors

Jim Scarbrough, Gwinnett Water Resources
Ronny Just, Georgia Power Corporation
David Wamer, Georgia NWTF
Will Wingate, Georgia Conservancy
Amanda Morrow, Georgia Southern University
Kevin Chapman, Georgia Southern University
Sue Moore, Georgia Southern University
Matthew Luke, Georgia Southern University
Debbie Phillips, Georgia Industry Environmental Coalition

Staff Members

Todd Holbrook
Paul Burkhatler
Allen Barnes
Spud Woodward
Dave Crass
Becky Kelley
Dan Forster
Suzanne Burnes
Steve Friedman
Jac Capp
Linda MacGregor
Jeanne Cyriaque
Lauren Curry
Terry West
Homer Bryson
Jim Ussery
Doralyn Kirkland
Emily Hitchcock
Kyle Pearson
Jeff Weaver
Connie Buck
Mary Ann Evans
Hellen Harris

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Bryan Tolar, Georgia Agribusiness Council

Mike Giles, Georgia Poultry Federation

Juliet Cohen, Upper Chattahoochee RiverKeeper

Joe Cook, Coosa River Basin Initiative

Katie Kirkpatrick, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce

Thomas Farmer, The Nature Conservancy

David Word, Joe Tanner & Associates

Carolyn Pait, Oglethorpe Power Corporation

Abit Massey, Georgia Poultry Federation

Margaret Campbell, Troutman Sanders

Tavia McCuen, Forestar

Jill Johnson, Georgia Conservation Voters

Hunter Broun

Ray Boyd

The December 7, 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 called on Becky Kelley, Director of the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division (PRHSD).

Director Kelley stated that at the August Board meeting PRHSD proposed an amendment of the Park Pass Rule to discontinue free Wednesdays to be effective February 1, 2011, by striking Rule 391-5-1-.03(3)-(b)-8, which exempts daytime visitors on Wednesdays. She further stated that this recommendation is a component of PRHSD's efforts to make the state park system more self-sufficient and less reliant on state general funds. She added that she estimates that the discontinuation of free Wednesdays will result in approximately \$484,000 in additional non-state funds annually to support Georgia's state parks and historic sites system.

Director Kelley stated that a public hearing was held on this issue and that forty-four comments were given during that time, with 23 of those comments opposing the discontinuation of free Wednesdays. She further state that there were alternatives that could be used in lieu of the free Wednesdays, one of which was a free pass from any library in Georgia.

Director Kelley stated that she would like to request that the Committee recommend that the Board approve this proposed amendment.

A motion was made by Mrs. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Lambert and carried unanimously that the Committee recommends that the Board approve the proposed amendments to Park Pass Rule Chapter 391-5-1-.03, Access to Sites, which exempts daytime visitors on Wednesdays with the effective date of February 1, 2011. (Proposed Amendments attached hereto and made a part hereof)

Director Kelley stated that Friends of Georgia State Parks had been recognized in a national magazine as one of the most progressive and well organized groups in the nation. She further stated that the same magazine would be doing an article on Direction 2015 approach as a long-term way to handle the current economic situation.

Director Kelley briefed on conservation hunts on state parks, junior golf program, and business plans for parks and historic sites.

Mrs. Jenkins announced that a One Georgia grant had been given for Camp Lawton and an Interpretive Center at Magnolia Springs State Park.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.