

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

June 26, 2012

Attending:

Committee Members

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

Board Members

William Bagwell
Phyllis Johnson
Aaron McWhorter
Mark Mobley
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 Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Committee was called to order by Acting Board Chairman Rob Leebern. Chairman Leebern called on Steven Woodruff, Chairman of the Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Committee.

Mr. Woodruff called on Becky Kelley, Director, Parks, Recreation & Historic Sites Division (PRHSD), for a briefing on the status of Unicoi State Park Lodge.

Director Kelley stated that PRHSD has been working with the North Georgia Mountains Authority (NGMA) to explore their lodge operations, particularly at Unicoi. She further stated that they are moving forward with that analysis, and through NGMA has engaged an independent group to perform a market analysis of the Unicoi market. She added that because Amicalola Falls is also in the northeast Georgia market, they will be included in the analysis.

Director Kelley stated that the report on these two areas should be completed by the end of July and that PRHSD would have a good assessment of where they stand with options and where the market capacity may be, which will give a good foundation for bringing recommendations to the Board for discussion possibly at the August meeting.

Director Kelley stated that she would like to acknowledge Bill Donohue, Executive Director of NGMA, and his staff for all their help in the ongoing project. She further stated that members of the Governor's staff and the Office of Planning and Budget have been given tours of both facilities and have been informed of the issues and opportunities going forward at both sites.

Director Kelley stated that reservations at Unicoi State Park Lodge have been extended through the end of December 2012.

Director Kelley gave an updates on the following: (1) flooding situation at Stephen C. Foster State Park; (2) activities at state parks during the July 4th celebration; (3) Friends of Georgia State Parks grants awarded for park improvements all over the state.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.