

STONE MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION
August 19, 2014

A meeting of the Stone Mountain Memorial Association was held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 19, 2014, at Evergreen Conference Center, Stone Mountain Park, Stone Mountain, Georgia.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS PRESENT

Carolyn Meadows, Chairman
Ray Smith III
Greer Johnson, Vice Chairman
Scott Johnson
Becky Kelley, Director State Parks & Historic Sites
Roy Roberts
Joan Thomas

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS ABSENT

Dick Childers
Perry Tindol

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Cowhig, Director of Planning and Development
Chief Chuck Kelley, Director of Public Safety
Duane Studdard, Administration Manager
Other SMMA staff
Gerald Rakestraw, HFEC, VP Silver Dollar City/Stone Mountain Park
Barry Brantley, member of the public

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Meadows, SMMA Chairman, called the meeting to order and stated that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Smith, and unanimously approved to waive the reading of the minutes of the June 17, 2014 meeting and to adopt the minutes as printed. A draft copy of the minutes was sent to each Board Member prior to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

SILVER DOLLAR CITY/STONE MOUNTAIN PARK REPORT

Mr. Stephens stated that Mr. Rakestraw sent a report due to the fact that he and his staff are attending an annual golf tournament for the charity that provides financial

assistance to their employees who are in need. The golf tournament is the biggest fundraiser of the year.

The Park numbers have been stronger the last few months due to the drier weather. The laser show has been well received by the consumer. The Fourth of July celebration was so well attended that the Park gates were closed two days in a row. Chief Kelley stated that the Park was closed on the 4th and the 5th. When all the parking is full and there are no empty parking places, the Park is closed. This usually only happens on July 4th.

HFEC is making a big investment in Labor Day weekend with extra fireworks on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. No laser show will held on Monday as this is a historically light day for attendance.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

Ms. Thompson reported that the Education Department is already booked for the 2014-2015 school year. About 5,000 children in the fall and another 7,000 in the spring will attend classes offered by the SMMA Education Department. Other events such as walks and talks, Rock and Mineral Day, Plein Air or "paint-out", and partnered events like Home School Day are well attended.

Honey created by the Stone Mountain Park bees was distributed and production was low this year. Moths destroyed some of the hives.

The land management plan includes ways to control pine beetles and other pests. Mulch is not brought in from outside sources and diseased trees are disposed of off Park property.

Ms. Thompson distributed materials that illustrated various areas of land management. She discussed the Georgia Rock and Mineral workshop held for teachers. This workshop lasted a week and covered different areas around Georgia.

FINANCE REPORT – YEAR-TO-DATE

Ms. Durham reported that the Finance Committee met earlier and discussed the financial statements through July 31, 2014. Total revenues year-to-date were \$6.1 million and total operating expenses were about \$3.9 million compared to the budget of \$4.2 million. After depreciation the net loss year-to-date is \$1.2 million compared to a budgeted loss of \$1.9 million.

REVISIONS TO THE ORDINANCES OF THE STONE MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

Chief Kelley reviewed the proposed changes to the ordinances for Stone Mountain Park. The weapons ordinance is updated to reflect a reference to the current Georgia code section. State law will replace the previous weapons ordinance.

Drones will be prohibited in Stone Mountain Park and the definitions and restrictions on model airplanes and aircraft were updated and discussed. The ordinance for personal transportation vehicles is amended to conform to state law and this necessitated a reduction in the speed limit from 30 to 25 miles per hour. The boating ordinances have been updated as well as the prohibited entry ordinance. Hours of operation have been updated to reflect extended hours of operations. The Park will open at 5 a.m. versus 6 a.m. Dates have been changed in the Pets and Other Animals ordinance to reflect rescue of pets left in vehicles from April 1 and October 31.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Studdard thanked the Board for their support of the new communications system for Public Safety. The system went live last Tuesday and there is a small list of items to be addressed. Marriott, HFEC, and SMMA use this system and Public Safety also has the ability to communicate with DeKalb County, GBI, the bomb squad and other agencies during an emergency. The system should be totally complete in the next two to three weeks. Chief Kelley stated that the timing could not have been better because his staff had started experiencing difficulties with the old system.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Carolyn Meadows, Chairman

Submitted by Gail Durham