

STONE MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION
DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEES MEETING
June 17, 2014

A joint meeting of the Development and Finance Committees of the Stone Mountain Memorial Association was held at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 17, 2014, at Evergreen Conference Center, Stone Mountain Park.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Dick Childers

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Ray S. Smith III, Chairman Development Committee

Joan Thomas

Perry Tindol

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

Greer Johnson

Scott Johnson, Chairman Finance Committee

Becky Kelley

Roy Roberts

OTHERS PRESENT

Carolyn Meadows, Chairman SMMA

Mark Williams, Commissioner DNR

Bill Stephens, C.E.O.

Gail Durham, Director of Finance

Bob Cowhig, Director of Planning and Development

Chuck Kelley, Director of Public Safety, Chief of Police

Mike Lee, Assistant Chief of Police

Duane Studdard, Administration Manager

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order. Ms. Meadows welcomed Mark Williams, the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Stephens stated that the strategic plan for SMMA has been updated and provided to all Board members. He said there were not many changes to last year's plan. Most changes dealt with updating formats dictated by the State of Georgia.

Mr. Stephens will work with DOT to try and obtain funds for more paving in Stone Mountain Park. SMMA will host the DOT central office picnic at the Park on September 11, 2014. This will include about 600 DOT employees.

Review of Year-to-Date Financial Statements

Ms. Durham reported that year-to-date revenues through May 31, 2014 were \$4.4 million and better than budget. Total operating expenses were \$2.7 million compared to the budgeted amount of \$3.0 million. The net loss year to date was about \$789,000 compared to the budgeted loss of \$1.3 million.

The statement of cash flows reflects net cash provided by operating activities of \$343,000 year to date. Investments in capital assets year to date are \$1.4 million. The net decrease in cash through May 31 is \$1 million. The cash and investment balance at the end of May was \$8.4 million.

Capital projects include the new communications system for the Department of Public Safety. This project is due to be completed by the end of August. The golf irrigation/pump station project is complete, and all invoices should be paid by the end of August. The paving project on Stonewall Jackson is complete and resulted in total cost of about \$505,000 or \$215,000 under budget.

The balance sheet reflects total cash and investments of \$8.4 million. The 5% Marriott reserve payments were \$1.6 million at the end of May. Net assets are about \$92 million at the end of May.

Public Safety Update

A 41 year old heart attack victim was transported to the hospital last weekend and did not survive. Over the past four years there have been 11 cardiac arrests at the Park and eight of these guests survived due to the use of AED's by the Park police and emergency staff. The GBI handles cases when someone dies on state property, not the county Medical Examiner.

Chief Kelley stated that his department has aggressively patrolled the lake this year for boaters and kayakers who do not have life vests. Commissioner Williams reported that drownings have increased this year. An educational video must be watched prior to renting a boat at State Parks and facilities. Boater education will also be required based on current law. Get Outdoors month was recently celebrated and Governor Deal and his wife attended this event at Sweetwater. Mrs. Deal had an event at the Railroad Depot called "Splash". This is to encourage youth education in swimming.

The Federal and State gun laws were discussed. Mr. Williams stated that Federal law takes precedent over State law.

Update from DNR

Commissioner Williams updated the committees on transitions within the State parks system. Certain lodges have been moved under the North Georgia Mountains Authority. As a whole, the State parks are about 78% self-sustaining. Some are operating at 20% and others at 140%. A business model was implemented about five years ago and revenue opportunities were explored, such as weddings and catering. He stated that Becky Kelley has been instrumental in managing this transition. The parks make more revenue when people stay overnight versus day use only. Cabins, yurts, and campsites produce revenue.

The Commissioner also stated that DNR had about four different types of law enforcement with different standards and rules of engagement. Wildlife, parks, and game wardens have been transitioned under one Colonel. Jekyll Island is doing well. Gate receipts are up this year. New hotels are now open and one is under construction.

Kayak fishing and paddle boards use has really grown on the State lakes.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Notes taken by
Gail Durham