

STONE MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION
January 21, 2014

A meeting of the Stone Mountain Memorial Association was held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2014, at the Evergreen Conference Center, Stone Mountain Park, Stone Mountain, Georgia.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS PRESENT

Greer Johnson, Vice Chairman
Dick Childers
Becky Kelley, Director State Parks & Historic Sites
Roy Roberts
Joan Thomas
Perry Tindol

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS ABSENT

Carolyn Meadows, Chairman
Scott Johnson
Ray S. Smith, III

OTHERS PRESENT

Bill Stephens, C.E.O.
Bob Cowhig, Director of Planning and Development
Chief Chuck Kelley, Director of Public Safety
Duane Studdard, Administration Manager
Naomi Thompson, Education Supervisor
Gerald Rakestraw, HFEC
Anthony Williams, Marriott Golf
Other SMMA staff
Other HFEC staff

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Johnson, SMMA Vice 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. Roberts, and unanimously approved to waive the reading of the minutes of the November 19, 2013 meeting and the December 27, 2013 teleconference 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. Rakestraw said that in the fall the Park had made some financial headway, but after that there have been six or seven straight weekends of rain. Christmas was fun, but very wet. There were two days where all activities were cancelled due to the weather and that was very disappointing. When the weather was nice there was high demand and favorable responses from customers regarding the experience. The Rudolf and Bumble meet and greet received good reviews as well as the updated train ride. The Park was opened on Christmas Eve this year and was closed at 8 p.m. that evening. The employees received a free meal and a drawing for \$100 each hour during the day.

Snow Mountain is proceeding well if the weather continues to cooperate. This event will last through February 23rd. The attraction does not operate in high winds or lightning. Guests travel from other states for Snow Mountain and every effort is made to open the attraction for these guests.

FINANCE REPORT – YEAR-TO-DATE

Ms. Durham reported that total revenues through November 30, 2013 were \$9.5 million and better than budget. Total operating expenses were about \$5.9 million compared to about \$6.9 million in budgeted expenses. The net loss through November was about \$1.6 million compared to a budgeted loss of about \$3.2 million.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief Kelley recognized members of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) who received service and outstanding performance awards for 2013.

Car break-ins are still an issue. Purses, electronic devices, and keys should not be left visible in vehicles.

Ms. Johnson thanked the employees who received awards on behalf of the full Board. Chief Kelley was applauded for his service as well. Everyone appreciates the job DPS does to protect the public and assets of the Park.

LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Cowhig said this is the fifth year in utilizing the Land Management Plan (LMP). There is a committee that works on LMP and is comprised of Naomi Thompson SMMA, Frank Davis SMMA, Chris Mabey of HFEC, Anthony Williams of Marriott Golf, and Larry Winslett.

Mr. Winslett distributed an overview of the table of contents for the LMP documents. The main LMP book contains maps, policies, natural history information, aerial photos, carving reports, and land management area maps. As of July 2012 there were 76 separate land management areas. The second book contains information on natural history including plants, wildlife, and water quality. Information from other agencies such as DNR and Georgia Forestry Commission are included. The third book has information about specific wildlife species, including birds, butterflies, trees, and plants. The fourth book is dedicated to invasive species.

Ms. Thompson distributed an annual report for 2013 that summarized the work performed in conjunction with the LMP. Committee accomplishments regarding the tree replacement policy, water conservation, redefined LMP, eradication of invasive species,

trash cleanup, and lake monitoring were discussed. Innovative technologies are now used to monitor power generators, sewage lift stations, and HVAC systems for conservation.

Mr. Williams discussed the LMP and the progress at the golf course. The golf irrigation pump station required tree removal. The consensus was that the shoreline should not be disturbed. The final plan was to bore under the lake to minimize shoreline disturbance. The new pump station area will be a showcase for a pollinator garden and native plants.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Thompson discussed classroom programs for 2014 and distributed a handout for the outreach classes they are teaching. 12,000 students are expected to attend classes this year. There are 5 part time information desk staff persons, 2 full time instructors, and 2 part time instructors. Mondays are reserved for LMP activities and classes are conducted from 9-1 p.m. A teacher evaluation summary was discussed.

An event calendar with dates for various free public education activities was distributed. Ms. Thompson gave each member a calendar published by the Georgia Forestry Commission and a historical pictorial book published by the Stone Mountain Historical Society.

Ms. Johnson and the Board commended Ms. Thompson, her staff, and all the members of the Land Management Committee for their efforts with educating the public and ensuring the protection of the natural environment at Stone Mountain Park.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Greer Johnson, Vice Chairman

Submitted by Gail Durham