

STONE MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION
March 17, 2015

A meeting of the Stone Mountain Memorial Association was held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, at Evergreen Conference Center, Stone Mountain Park, Stone Mountain, Georgia.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS PRESENT

Carolyn Meadows, Chairman
Greer Johnson, Vice Chairman
Scott Johnson
Becky Kelley, Director State Parks & Historic Sites
Ray S. Smith, III
Dick Childers
Perry Tindol
Joan Thomas

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS ABSENT

Roy Roberts

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
Caylee Noggle and Kristen Carruth, State of Georgia Office of Planning and Budget
Michael Dombrowski, General Manager, Silver Dollar City/Stone Mountain Park
Meredith Lipson, Partner, Mauldin & Jenkins CPA's
Anthony Williams, Marriott Golf
Larry Winslett
Members of the Public – Chris Poholek, Childress Klein
Other SMMA staff

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 Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Johnson, and unanimously approved to waive the reading of the minutes of the December 16, 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

Ms. Meadows welcomed Caylee Noggle and Kristen Carruth to the meeting. Ms. Noggle and Ms. Carruth are with the State of Georgia Office of Planning and Budget.

Mr. Chris Poholek, Partner with Childress and Klein, was also in attendance. Mr. Poholek's firm is renovating the Target building across from the Stone Mountain Tennis Center. The property will be Space Max and is a climate controlled storage facility. It will be staffed with security personnel and have indoor facilities for RV storage. The goal is to maintain a neat, clean, secure building. No outside storage will be permitted.

SILVER DOLLAR CITY/STONE MOUNTAIN PARK REPORT

Mr. Dombrowski updated the Board on the parking increases recently approved by the SMMA Board. A public relations response was prepared to address any public issues with the increase, but no complaints have been registered.

Spring Break will feature a new 4-D movie called "Rio". There will be an extreme parrot show, a magic show and the laser show. Good weather will increase attendance.

The Board thanked Mr. Dombrowski for the Stone Mountain Park baskets he distributed.

FINANCE REPORT – YEAR-TO-DATE

Ms. Durham reported that the Finance Committee met earlier and discussed the financial statements through February 28, 2015. Total revenues year-to-date were \$2.2 million and total operating expenses were about \$1 million compared to the budget of \$1.2 million. After depreciation the net income year-to-date is \$131,000 compared to a budgeted loss of \$520,000.

PRESENTATION OF 2014 AUDIT REPORT

Ms. Meredith Lipson, a partner with Mauldin & Jenkins, CPA's, stated that she presented the audit report in detail earlier at the Finance Committee meeting.

The audit was for the year ending December 31, 2014 and resulted in an unmodified or "clean" opinion. No findings and no deficiencies were noted in the report. The fiscal year ended with net position or net equity of \$90.2 million and is about \$2 million less than the prior year. Total operating revenues for 2014 were \$10.7 million. Total operating expenses were \$6.8 million, depreciation expense was \$5.8 million, and the change in net position was a loss of \$1.9 million.

Ms. Lipson is available for questions and encouraged the Board to contact her at any time.

LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Mr. Cowhig stated that the land management document is a valuable tool. All partners in the Park are represented and include team members from Silver Dollar City/Stone Mountain Park, Marriott and SMMA.

Ms. Naomi Thompson described different areas that are monitored, including trails, lake and streams, amphibians and certain infrastructure. Volunteers and other

environmental, park, and other entities are included as partners and references in Stone Mountain Park land management.

The carving inspection was discussed, and Larry Winslett photographs the carving periodically to note any changes or erosion issues. Lichen was cleaned from the carving last year. Mr. Winslett shared photos of the carving and updated the Board on certain endangered plant species that are in the Park.

Ms. Meadows inquired about the bee population. Ms. Thompson said these are monitored and are doing well.

Mr. Stephens stated that the Georgia Association of Golf Course Superintendents has named Anthony Williams as the Superintendent of the Year. Mr. Williams distributed a letter from Mr. Robert Trent Jones. Mr. Jones spoke of how special the Stonemont Golf Course is and the serenity that accompanies the beauty of the course.

Mr. Williams stated that the courses are Audubon certified and water conservation efforts have been employed along with the new pump station. Water quality has also improved. Ms. Meadows congratulated Mr. Williams on his efforts and thanked him for making the Park and the SMMA look good to the outside world.

Monadnock Madness was discussed. This is a project in conjunction with Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area Alliance and includes Stone Mountain, Arabia Mountain and Panola Mountain. Ms. Thompson credited Brian McKnight of her staff with several nice nature photos that are included in the new Stone Mountain Park commemorative guide being sold in the gift stores.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief Kelley stated that the natural district has been very busy and active as the weather turns toward spring. New boating safety brochures have been instrumental in reducing the number of violations found on the lake along with lake patrol visibility and boat inspections.

The annual public safety recap report was distributed. This reports summarizes numbers of incidents and fire department runs. Chief Kelley compares these numbers to other cities and counties in the metropolitan Atlanta area.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Carolyn Meadows, Chairman

Submitted by Gail Durham