

STONE MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION  
May 21, 2013

A meeting of the Stone Mountain Memorial Association was held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, 2013, at the Department of Planning and Development Construction and Services, Stone Mountain Park, Stone Mountain, Georgia.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS PRESENT

Carolyn Meadows, Chairman  
Greer Johnson, Vice Chairman  
Roy Roberts  
Ray S. Smith, III  
Joan Thomas  
Perry Tindol

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dick Childers  
Scott Johnson  
Becky Kelley, Director State Parks & Historic Sites

OTHERS PRESENT

Bill Stephens, C.E.O.  
Bob Cowhig, Director of Planning and Development  
Gail Durham, Director of Finance  
Chief Chuck Kelley, Director of Public Safety  
Gerald Rakestraw, HFEC  
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 Ms. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Smith, and unanimously approved to waive the reading of the minutes of the April 16, 2013 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 distributed a handout with details on the Memorial Day Event at Stone Mountain Park. HFEC is trying to elevate the celebration of Memorial Day and attract more visitors to the Park for this event. The focus is to honor the fallen armed forces service members and to recognize the service of those who are currently serving the country. Contact has been made with a group of non-profit organizations who help those returning from deployment and their families. The activities include recognition of these families, a 1K and 5K run, a special appearance by Bryan Anderson who is a triple amputee and his book signing at Memorial Hall, and special concerts on the lawn including Charlie Daniels on Sunday, May 26. Contact has been made with military bases to promote the event. Allgood Plumbing is the only sponsor this year, but contact has been made with several large companies who are interested in sponsoring next year.

Ms. Thomas asked when the summer program will begin. Mr. Rakestraw stated that the summer program content begins the next Saturday, June 1.

## SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Mr. Cowhig said his department has been working with Global Information Systems (GIS) to map all the utilities within Stone Mountain Park. He welcomed the Board to the Planning, Development and Services complex for SMMA. He said these departments have been in the current location since 2011. The two buildings house administration, grounds quality, the auto shop, and grounds maintenance facilities.

Mr. Cowhig explained that the Services Department is responsible for all of the physical issues including buildings, picnic areas, drainage, and any public areas outside of the leased facilities. Members of the staff were introduced with a brief description of their responsibilities. There are 18 full-time employees on the staff. The line supervisors for each area also have responsibilities when there is an active construction project. A supervisor is appointed to stay with the contractor and monitor progress, budgets and any problems on-site that may occur.

Most of the staff has been with SMMA many years and have great institutional knowledge. Combined, they have 387 years of service with Stone Mountain Park. Mr. Cowhig distributed a handout with the names of team members, years of service, and a summary of their responsibilities and the structures, areas, and systems they maintain.

Richard Beckworth is a department supervisor and has worked on the GIS system. This project will take considerable time and effort to complete. A demonstration of the system and its capabilities indicates that being able to locate a water line, electrical lines, gas lines, sewer and drainage lines in a timely fashion will allow repairs and maintenance work to occur with a minimum amount of delays. The system allows data and maintenance on these systems to be updated to reflect work performed. Mapping all this data has been a collaborative team effort between SMMA personnel and HFEC personnel that started back in 2007 to identify all infrastructure and systems. Currently, all the data is in "flat files" stored in file drawers. These drawings must be pulled to try and identify the work area. Now, all the data is being "mapped" into a computer database and when completed, can be accessed by various personnel.

## FINANCE REPORT – YEAR-TO-DATE

Ms. Durham reported that total revenues through April 30, 2013 were \$3.4 million and better than budget. Total operating expenses were about \$1.8 compared to about \$2.3 million in budgeted expenses. The net loss through March was about \$307,000 compared to a budgeted loss of about \$998,000.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Stephens asked Chief Chuck Kelley to update the Board on security measures with regards to the upcoming Memorial Day event. The Chief stated that because of the bombing in Boston recently, some security procedures have changed. The Boston Police Department had bomb dogs do a sweep one hour prior to the event. The area was swept again one hour prior to the time the bombs exploded. The subjects dropped the back packs into garbage cans and walked far enough away so they would not get affected and then immediately detonated the bombs. It proves that it is very hard to defend against this type of attack. The Boston event also had a very good Police presence.

The Stone Mountain Park Police are treating Memorial Day much like the Fourth of July event. The Georgia Tech bomb dogs will come in a few hours prior to the event and check the laser lawn. Chief Kelley has scheduled more officers and rangers to work this event. The GBI bomb squad will be on-site and undercover agents will be in the crowd.

The helicopter has been rented and will monitor traffic and parking conditions. The concerts should draw crowds. There will be five main entrance points where back packs, coolers and bags will be checked.

Ms. Meadows asked when another gun safety course will be offered. Chief Kelley stated that he would try to do one in mid-June and can conduct one prior to the next Board meeting.

Ms. Meadows encouraged the Board members to tour the Services Department facilities and to visit different areas of the Park. She stated it is a beautiful facility and the members should familiarize themselves with all the various facilities and areas.

## 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, Secretary