

STONE MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION
June 16, 2015

A meeting of the Stone Mountain Memorial Association was held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 16, 2015, at Evergreen Conference Center, Stone Mountain Park, Stone Mountain, Georgia.

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS ABSENT

Becky Kelley, Director State Parks & Historic Sites

OTHERS PRESENT

Bill Stephens, C.E.O.
Bob Cowhig, Director of Planning and Development
Chief Chuck Kelley, Director of Public Safety
Michael Dombrowski, General Manager, Silver Dollar City/Stone Mountain Park
Stan Morrell, Director of Special Events, Entertainment and Guest Experience, Silver Dollar City/Stone Mountain Park
Connie Rifkind, Finance Manager
Debbie Blihovde, Benefits Administrator
Duane Studdard, Administration Manager
Mike Lee,

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 May 19, 2015 Board 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 stated that Mr. Pozner had requested to make a public comment and public comments were limited to 3 minutes. Mr. Pozner said he appreciated the opportunity

to speak to the Board. He said he lived in Tucker and has been in Atlanta for 37 years. Mr. Pozner said he uses the park often and is grateful to have a wonderful park like Stone Mountain. Mr. Pozner said the park had a rich legacy from the confederate carving to the confederate flag and he learned much about the mountain from the book "Carved in Stone". He said in Dr. Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech Dr. King said "let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia." Mr. Pozner thought this part of our history should also be recognized. He proposed putting a plaque on top of the mountain with Dr. King's quote "Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia". He asked the board what needed to be done to bring this about. Ms. Meadows thanked Mr. Pozner for his comments and stated the board would look at his request.

SILVER DOLLAR CITY/STONE MOUNTAIN PARK REPORT

Mr. Dombrowski said he had asked Stan Morrell, who is the Director Special Events, Entertainment and Guest Experience for Silver Dollar City/Stone Mountain Park to come and share some information about Summer events. Mr. Morrell said he wanted to give a quick overview of the season's events. They do many guest experience surveys and the most asked for item was to bring back the train show. In response, they have brought back the train show. It is not exactly like it was, there are no horses, but it is a slapstick comedy with stunts. There are nine actors who perform the show. The show is about 7 minutes long. There is a pre-show video on the train which sets up the story. Then on the way back to the train depot the video tells you what happens to the bad guys. The show will run daily from June 13th to August 2nd. There are 14 shows a day. On the July 4th weekend they will do 27 shows a day.

This year at the laser show, kicks 101.5 FM radio station is providing the pre-show music. Fire effects have been added to the Laser Show. There are 3 flame cannons which shoot fire up 95 feet. They added pyro that lights back up in different colors. The show is a little longer than last year. The comments they are receiving on the train show and the laser show are very positive.

Ms. Thomas said she had heard on Star 94 that American Authors would be at the park. Mr. Dombrowski said yes they had partnered with the radio station and American Authors and Rachel Platten would kick off the 4th Celebration with a concert on Thursday the 2nd. There is a car show this weekend in tribute to Father's Day.

FINANCE REPORT – YEAR-TO-DATE

Ms. Rifkind reported that the Finance Committee met earlier and discussed the financial statements through May 31, 2015. Total revenue year-to-date was \$4.8 million compared to a budget of \$4.3 million. Total operating expenses were about \$2.9 million compared to the budget of \$3.2 million. SMMA is favorable in almost every category of overhead. After depreciation the net income year-to-date is a loss of \$643,000 compared to a budgeted loss of \$1.4 million.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO SMMA ORDINANCE

Ms. Meadows stated that the next item on the agenda was the proposed changes to Ordinance 8-106. Last month we had the first reading of the proposed changes. Mr. Smith

made a motion and Greer seconded to approve the Ordinance. It was approved unanimously. Today was the first reading of the proposed ordinance revision of the Fireworks Ordinance. Mr. Kelley stated that the Legislature changed the fireworks law. SMMA mirrored the State Law in the Fireworks Ordinance. Mr. Wollcott asked if SMMA could prohibit fireworks is there was a drought and it was very dry and a fire danger. Mr. Kelley said under the state law we could not.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Chief Kelley said the 50 commanding Generals from all the national guards are at Evergreen. They have this meeting annually and it moves around. One of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will be arriving today. He will give a speech tomorrow. Stone Mountain Police Department has been providing the security for the event and it has gone very well.

Mr. Kelly said they are in the final planning stages for the 4th of July. They have just received their security briefing from the FBI. It looks good right now. Their plan is ready. They will be working about 16 to 18 hours a day.

Ms. Meadows asked Mr. Kelley to follow up on the arrest of the ring of thieves breaking into cars. He said he wanted to commend Mike Lee, Mike Barnett, David Hill and Paul Maharry. They tracked down a stolen cell phone, found the car and arrested a female. They were able to arrest others in the ring and were able to clear about 6 or 8 other cases with evidence they recovered in the car.

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 Debbie Blihovde