

## STONE MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

January 19, 2016

A meeting of the Stone Mountain Memorial Association was held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19 2016, at Evergreen Conference Center, Stone Mountain Park, and Stone Mountain, Georgia.

### ASSOCIATION MEMBERS PRESENT

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

### ASSOCIATION MEMBERS ABSENT

Becky Kelley, Director of State Parks & Historic Sites  
Roy Roberts

### OTHERS PRESENT

Bill Stephens, C.E.O.  
Bob Cowhig, Director of Planning and Development  
Michael Dombrowski, General Manager, Silver Dollar City/Stone Mountain Park  
Edna Zimmerman, Director of Finance  
Debbie Blihovde, Benefits Administrator  
Chief Chuck Kelley, Director of Public Safety  
Duane Studdard, Administration Manager  
Mike Lee, Assistant Chief of Police & Fire  
Mike Barnett, Captain  
Linda Keeling, Communications Operator  
Carlton J Spicer, Part-Time Police  
Al Huff, Ranger  
Johnny Huff, Ranger  
Diane Warbington, Communications Operator  
Ray Elliott, Captain  
Garland Howard, Part-Time Communications Operator  
Phil Keanum, Corporal

### 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. Johnson, and unanimously approved to waive the reading of the minutes of the November 17, 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

None

### SILVER DOLLAR CITY/STONE MOUNTAIN PARK REPORT

Mr. Dombrowski wanted to update the board on some new things HFEC has planned for the park. He said they have an exciting 2016 planned and he hoped to come and tell the Board about something new each month. They wanted to highlight two new things this month, one is a new attraction starting spring break called the jump. It will be in the Sky Hike attraction. There is an observation deck where guest will be jumping into stunt bags. There will be a 14 foot jump and a 20 foot jump. The jump has the same height requirement as Sky Hike. For the younger kids, they will have a 5 foot jump at the end of camp highland. They are excited to have something new going in Sky Hike.

In the shops they have a loved brand that is a few years old. They want to elevate the shopping experience and are partnering with all the most popular vendors from Yellow Daisy and focusing on the vendors from the southern region. They will have a Yellow Daisy store and each vendor will have their section in the store with information about them and display their merchandise which is for sale. Then outside the store they will have different vendors come in on the weekends and do demonstrations.

### FINANCE REPORT

Ms. Zimmerman reported that because we are in the process of going through our year-end audit we did not review the financial statements the way we typically review them. Instead we reviewed portions of the balance sheet so that we could discuss what is on the balance sheet, what the balance sheet tells us and what is included.

### CONSIDERATION OF SMMA ORDINANCE ON PUBLIC SPEECHES AND ASSEMBLY

Ms. Meadows asked Mr. Stephens to discuss the proposed changes to the Ordinance on Public Speeches and Public Assembly. Mr. Stephens made a request of the Board to delete a couple of old ordinances and replace those with a single permitting ordinance that gives SMMA the power to handle the Public Assemblies in a more disciplined way.

SMMA researched what the National parks and the Georgia State Parks have done with Public Speech ordinances. SMMA researched what the World Congress Center and other State entities that have protests occasionally had in place. The Attorney General's office has reviewed the ordinance three times to make sure the ordinance is complying with the civil rights laws. SMMA wanted to make sure the ordinance was legal and workable.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Thomas, and unanimously approved to adopt the Permitting Ordinance and its replacement of the old ordinances.

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Meadows wanted Chief Kelley to discuss the employees who received awards at his annual banquet. Mr. Kelly stated that they have three awards. One is for years of service, one for outstanding performance and then they have employees of the year in each division that is voted on by the employees. Chief Kelley had as many of the recipients at the meeting as was possible. There are 24 full time employees of the department. The remaining 47 employees are part-time and many have other jobs.

For years of service Mr. Kelly started with Michael Lee who is the Assistant Chief of Police. Mr. Lee has been employed at the Park for 40 years. Next was Jerry Spicer who retired as the Director of Public safety and Administration and has been working part-time. Mr. Spicer has 30 years of service. Ryan Thurmond who was not able to be at the board meeting has 20 years of service. Then there were three who could not attend today (Tim Baggett, David Cook and Ryan Wheeler) who all had 15 years of service. Next were the outstanding service awards, Mr. Kelley choses 3 employees who go above and beyond the call of duty for the year. These awards went to Garland Howard, Johnny Huff and Captain Ray Elliott.

Next are the employees of the year which are voted on by all the employees in the department. Brian Faith was the supervisor of the year. Phil Keanum was the Police Officer of the year. Ted Baily was the part-time police officer of the year. Chris Wells was the fire fighter of the year. Al Huff was the Park Ranger of the year. Linda Keeling is the communications operator of the year. Captain Mike Barnett is the overall employee of the year.

Diane Warbington is retiring at the end of the month with 38 years of service.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Stephens gave the Board a handout from Ms. Thompson who could not be at the Board meeting but wanted them to know that SMMA was hosting the National Association for Interpretation at the Park.

## 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

