

STONE MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

August 16, 2016

A meeting of the Stone Mountain Memorial Association was held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 16, 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
Naomi Thompson, Environmental Education Supervisor
Amber Carter, Assistant to the Director of Public and Governmental Affairs
Martha Morris, Georgia Native Plant Society

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. Thomas, and unanimously approved to waive the reading of the minutes of the March 15, 2016 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 told the Board that it has been a challenging year for SDC but they have some exciting new business. He said that Georgia is becoming the Hollywood of the south and there are several movies and TV shows being filmed at the Park. Georgia is now the third largest in the industry behind California and New York. Stone Mountain Park is an ideal location for various reasons. Filming companies like to film in the natural district and Historic Square. The park has many unique landscapes for filming. SDC has had 22 shoots this year and the business is growing.

Yellow Daisy is set for September 8th thru September 11th. There are over 400 vendors coming to the festival. This year SDC is selling tickets to get in 2 hours early at 8am. The early bird tickets are \$5. Some vendors have specials or discounts during this time. The official start time is still 10am.

FINANCE REPORT – YEAR TO DATE

Ms. Zimmerman reported that year-to-date revenues through July 31, 2016 were \$6,756,494 compared to a budgeted amount of \$6,160,380. Total operating expenses year to date were \$3,854,376 compared to the budgeted amount of \$4,439,169. The net operating profit before depreciation was \$2,921,816 compared to a budgeted amount of \$1,729,849. The year to date deficiency of revenue over expenses was \$628,555 compared to a budgeted loss of \$1,819,151.

The statement of cash flows reflects net cash provided by operating activities of \$2,178,457 year to date. The net increase in cash year to date was \$1,447,420. The cash and investment balance at the end of the period was \$11,556,683.

There are two capital projects. The Playground Project that is still remaining from 2015 and the Computer Upgrades from 2016. The Playground Project is now completed. The Computer Upgrades has a remaining estimated cost of \$16,534 and has an estimated completion date of August 31, 2016.

CONSIDERATION OF SMMA ORDINANCE ON Fireworks and Inflatable Watercraft

Chief Kelley explained a proposal for a new Fireworks Ordinance. Chief Kelley explained that the State Law concerning fireworks had changed and SMMA would like for the parks ordinance to mirror State Law. The State Law change was that local jurisdictions could prohibit fireworks. The new ordinance bans consumer fireworks unless they are given permission from the CEO of SMMA.

SMMA is also asking for a change in the inflatable watercraft. SMMA has never allowed any inflatable water craft that did not meet the International Standard – ISO 6185. The change is that the Chief of Police as well as the CEO can approve exceptions to the ordinance.

A motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Thomas, and unanimously approved to amend the Ordinance.

UPDATE ON EDUCATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

Ms. Thompson informed the Board about what they try to do with some of their programs. She had honey they had harvested from bee hives on the property. Ms. Thompson introduced Martha Morris from the Georgia Native Plant Society. She has had a partnership with Environmental Education for 8 or 9 years. They work out of the Old Wild Life Trails by planting plants native to Georgia and promoting the conservation of these plants and their habitats.

Ms. Morris thanked the Board for allowing them to use the Park to preserve plants native to Georgia. They sell some of the plants they raise from seeds at a fall plant sale. Ms. Morris also thanked the Board for the updates in the cabin they use for their planting. They have donated plants to the natural trail and the parking lot area at Confederate Hall.

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