

Minutes
Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Committee

Unicoi State Park
Masters Hall 3/4
1788 Highway 356
Helen, GA 30545

May 24, 2017

Attending:

Committee Members

Matt Sawhill, Chairman
Brother Stewart, Vice Chairman
Nancy Addison
Mark Mobley - Via Conference Call
Miki Thomaston
Duncan Johnson, Jr., Board Chairman, Ex-Officio

Board Members

William Bagwell
Dwight Davis
Dwight Evans
Bill Jones
Ray Lambert
Aaron McWhorter
Bodine Sinyard - Via Conference Call

Guests

Megan E. Spells, Georgia Department of Defense
Richard A. Batten, Georgia Department of Defense
Bill Hodges, Hodges, Harbin, Newberry & Tribble
Randy Drummond, Georgia Department of Defense

Staff Members

Mark Williams
Walter Rabon
Kyle Pearson
Melanie Johnson
Wes Robinson
Cathy Barnette
Amber Carter
Dave Crass
Rusty Garrison
Col. Eddie Henderson
Becky Kelley
Spud Woodward
Bowers, John
Richard Dunn
Lauren Curry
Jac Capp
Jeff Cown
Karen Hayes
Chuck Mueller
Jon Ambrose
Steve Friedman – Via call-in
Mark Whitney
Thomas Barnard
Jeff Weaver
James Hamilton
John Erbele
Larry Blankenship
Bill Donohue
Brenda McMillian

The May 24, 2017 meeting of the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Committee was called to order by Chairman Duncan Johnson.

Chairman Johnson called on Matt Sawhill, Chairman of the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Committee.

Mr. Sawhill called on Becky Kelley, Director of the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division, to brief the Board on revisions to the Proposed Dock Extension Policy and Procedure, the Proposed Gun Carry Policy and Procedure, and the revised Department of Natural Resources/North Georgia Mountains Authority Master Agreement.

Ms. Kelley stated that the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division manages private property owner dock access to High Falls State Park lake via DNR Rule 391-5-12.04(b). She further stated that the current rules limit our ability to consider and authorize dock extensions of more than 25 feet, potentially creating dry-dock situations where silting or other conditions impact water access at full lake pool levels. She added that to address this matter and give residents on High Falls Lake an avenue to request a dock extension of more than 25 feet, the proposals being presented for your consideration establish amended extension criteria and procedures for application for extensions greater than 25 feet.

Ms. Kelley stated that there were no public comments received throughout the public comment process. Ms. Kelley requested favorable consideration of the proposed revision.

A motion was made by Ms. Thomaston, seconded by Mr. Sawhill and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed revision of Dock Extension Policy and Procedure at High Falls State Park, Chapter 391-5-12.04(b), as presented.

Ms. Kelley stated that the current ruling for carry of weapons in Georgia State Parks, Historic Sites and Recreational areas is in conflict with the recent changes to Georgia law (specifically the Safety and General Conditions of Use (4) Weapons). She further stated that the proposals being presented for your consideration establish an amendment that would allow persons with valid weapons-carry license to carry a handgun in all parks, historic sites and recreational areas except where carrying such handgun is prohibited by federal law.

Ms. Kelley requested favorable consideration of the proposed revision.

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, seconded by Ms. Addison and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the proposed revision of Gun Carry Policy and Procedure in State Parks, Historic Sites, and Recreation Areas, Chapter 391-5-1.05, as presented.

Ms. Kelley stated that the efforts to update the agreement between the Department of Natural Resources and the North Georgia Mountains Authority has been in process for quite some time. She further stated that the agreement was last amended in 2003 and was in need of an update to reflect

changes in the years since its last update. She added that this agreement clarifies the partnership, outlines expectations and establishes long term vision of a unified approach to management of DNR public venues and facilities.

Ms. Kelley requested favorable consideration of the updated agreement.

A motion was made by Ms. Addison, seconded by Mr. Stewart and carried unanimously that the Committee recommend that the Board adopt the Resolution to approve the updated and revised Department of Natural Resources/North Georgia Mountains Authority Master Agreement.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.