

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
North Georgia Technical College
Toccoa, Georgia
March 30, 2017

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, March 30, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at the North Georgia Technical College – Currahee Campus in Toccoa, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by City of Toccoa and Stephens County.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Dean Scarborough called the meeting to order and thanked the Council and guests for their attendance. Stephens County Commission Chair Debbie Whitlock welcomed everyone to Stephens County and City of Toccoa. She thanked GMRC for everything that they have done for Stephens County. She recognized County Commissioners Dean Scarborough and Michelle Ivester, County Administrator Phyllis Ayers, County Clerk Beth Rider, and Danielle Rhodes, E-911 Director. Toccoa City Commissioner David Austin recognized City Commissioner Evan Hellenga and Council Member Connie Tabor.

Chairman Scarborough thanked City of Toccoa and Stephens County for stepping up to the plate at the last minute and hosting this meeting since City of Cornelia had water damage to their meeting facility and could not host tonight.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman James Grogan recognized special guests Kathy Papa, Department of Community Affairs; Danette Smith, Department of Labor; Andrew Seaver, Sen. Perdue's Office; Paul Chamber, AT&T; and Tate O'Rourke, University of North Georgia.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

Deborah Mack gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the pledge of allegiance.

PROGRAM

Mr. Homer Bryson, Director of Georgia Emergency Management Authority/Homeland Security presented a very informative program on the services that GEMA and Homeland Security provide to the state of Georgia. Most people generally think GEMA responds when there is a disaster such as a tornado or hurricane, but they provide services also for fire, ice storms, and other types of disasters. They provide assistance while coordinating with other agencies such as DNR, DOT, DOA, USDA, and others during a time of need.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND ATTENDANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Scarborough asked for any comments regarding the minutes and attendance report for the February 23, 2017 meeting. David Austin made a motion to accept the minutes and

attendance report as presented and was seconded by Ken Schubring. Motion carried.
(Attendance report attached)

REPORTS

Chairman's Report

Chairman Scarborough stated that last March, the Council voted to hire Heather Feldman as the Deputy Interim Executive Director in order to get her trained and ready for that position when Danny retired later in the year. It has been a very busy year and the GMRC has accomplished a lot during this time. One of the accomplishments is the new location of WorkSource. Chairman Scarborough also announced the he will be finishing his two year term and that Nominating Committee will be activated to find a new slate of officers. Rex Farmer is the Nominating Committee Chairman.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Heather Feldman thanked everyone who was able to attend the GMRC Council Member Training last month. We had great turnout, great dialogue and discussions, great location, and of course, great food! Kevin Tallant discussed the statutory requirements and legislative history of the GMRC. Thank you to the City of Helen for serving as our host.

John Phillips, Daniel Martin, Patrick Larson, Meisa Pace, and Heather attended the Development District Association of Appalachia (DDAA) Conference Annual Conference in Washington, DC. The main focus of the conference was diversification and growth in Appalachia and developing a workforce to meet the demands of a changing economy.

After many months, the Regional Commission has secured a new location to house the WorkSource operations which will include the One-Stop. The new building is located at 1856 Thompson Bridge Road, Suites 2-4 and 1F. We anticipate a move-in date of June 1, 2017.

Several members of the WorkSource staff and Council Member/WIB Chairwoman, Andrea Gibby attended the Southeastern Employment & Training Association (SETA) Conference this month. The conference is designed to bring federal, state, and local partners together for excellence in workforce development. Topics included: Veteran employment, implementation of a One-Stop Center and procurement of a one-stop operator, and engaging business and industry in high performing sector strategies.

Heather and Andrea Newson recently attended RLF training provided by the Economic Development Administration. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the functions of the program and to hear best practices from other RLF lending entities.

The Spring Ramble that the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation does is travelling to the Georgia Mountains Region. This event, to be held April 28-30, 2017, will showcase historic resources in Gainesville, Toccoa, and Clarkesville that are not normally made available to the public.

Thank you to everyone who completed a survey on the services of the GMRC. Your input is extremely valuable to our strategic plan.

Congratulations to Hall County on receiving the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association.

Two of our WorkSource employees were recently promoted to new positions. Congratulations to Ginger Little, new Case Manager for the Adult/Dislocated Worker unit and Dawn Bruce, new Intake Manager.

Ms. Feldman discussed the President's Blueprint Budget. This proposed budget plans to eliminate the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and Economic Development Administration (EDA) funds. She discussed the funds that are usually budgeted for ARC, EDA, and CDBG and how the Regional Commissions use these funds to benefit our communities in our region. The President's Budget is not final at this time. The RC will be meeting with our congressional staff to emphasize the importance of these funds for our cities and counties.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

No New Business

DOOR PRIZES

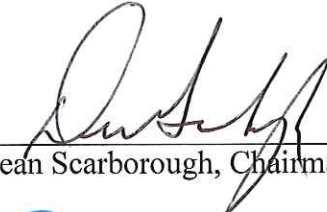
Stephens County and City of Toccoa provided door prizes which were awarded to the lucky winners.

ANNOUNCEMENTS


Next month's Council meeting will be sponsored by City of Lavonia.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.



Dean Scarborough, Chairman



George Wangemann, Secretary

GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2016-2017

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/28/16	8/25/16	9/29/16	10/27/16	11/17/16	12/2/16	1/26/17	2/23/17	3/30/17	4/27/17	5/25/17	6/29/17
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	P (R)	A	P	P (R)	P	P	A	A	P			
	Jerry Payne	A	P (R)	P	P	P	P	P (R)	P	P			
	Leslie George	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P (R)			
DAWSON	Billy Thurmond							(N) P	P	P			
	James Grogan	P	A	P	P	P	P	A	P	P			
	Charlie Auvermann	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
FORSYTH	Todd Levent							(N) P	P	A			
	Chuck Welch	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
	Robert Long	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	A			
FRANKLIN	Thomas Bridges							(N) P	P	P			
	Ralph Owens	P	P (R)	P	P	A	P	A	P	P			
	Gerald Voyles	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	P	P			
HABERSHAM	Natalie Crawford							(N) P	A	A			
	Audrey Turner	P	P	P	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)	P	P (R)			
	Ken Schubring	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
HALL	Richard Higgins							(N) P (R)	A	P (R)			
	George Wangemann***	P	P	P	P	A	A	P	P	A			
	Deborah Mack	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	P	P			
HART	Ricky Carter	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
	Tray Hicks	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	A	P (R)			
	Bill Chafin	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
LUMPKIN	Chris Dockery	P	P (R)	A	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)	P	A			
	Sam Norton*	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	A			
	J.B. Jones	P	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P			

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RABUN	Greg James	P (R)	P (R)	A	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)	A	P (R)			
	Debbie Chisholm	P	A	A	P	A	P	P	A	P			
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P			
	Dean Scarborough**	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
STEPHENS	David Austin	A	A	P	P	A	P	A	P	P			
	Connie Tabor				(N)P	A	A	E	P	P			
	Cliff Bradshaw							(N)P	A	P			
	Andrea Gibby	P	P	A	P	A	A	P	A	A			
UNION	David Stovall	A	P (R)	P	P	P (R)	P	P (R)	P	P (R)			
	Lamar Paris	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	P			
	Jim Conley	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P			
	Mitch Griggs	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P			
WHITE	Travis Turner	P (R)	A	P	P (R)	P (R)	P	P (R)	P	P (R)			
	Annie Suttton	A	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	P			
	Bill Black	P	P	A	P	A	P	A	P	P			
	Rex Farmer	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A			
GOV APPT.	Angela Whidby			(N)P	P	P	P	P	A	P			
	Will Wade	P	P	P	A	P	A	A	A	P			
	Vacant												
	Vacant												
LT. GOV. APPT.													
SPEAKER APPT.													

P = PRESENT A = ABSENT V = VACANCY E = EXCUSED N = NEW MEMBER

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary