

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING

Byron Herbert Reese Farm
Blairsville, GA
July 31, 2014

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, July 31, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at Byron Herbert Reese Farm Pavilion in Blairsville, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by Union County and City of Blairsville.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Sam Norton called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. Union County Sole Commissioner Lamar Paris welcomed everyone to Union County and the Bryon Herbert Reese Farm. Mr. Paris recognized Larry Garrett, County Manager; Peggy Deyton, Administrative Assistant; Jennifer Queen, Accounts Payable Executive; Robin Gazaway, Finance Director; Kimberly Smith, Receptionist; Pam Worden, SPLOST Director; and Mitch Griggs, Economic Development Director.

Commissioner Paris stated that the dinner was catered by Jim's Smoking Que which is located in Blairsville and was voted number six in the United States for the Best Bar-B-Q. Also, Union County has two new wineries, Odum Springs and Paradise Hills, which have opened in the last year.

Mayor Jim Conley, City of Blairsville, also welcomed everyone to Blairsville. He recognized two city councilmembers, Rhonda Mahan and Betty Easter.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman Dean Scarborough recognized special guests Kathy Papa, DCA; Frank Riley, Chestatee Chattahoochee RC&D; Jane O'Gorman, University of North Georgia; Lyn Allen and Frank Ginn, Franklin County Economic Development Authority; and Bill Kokaly, Aide for Congressman Doug Collins' Office.

Mr. Kokaly informed the audience of three Town Hall Meetings that Congressman Doug Collins would be holding during the month of August. One will be held in our region at the Lavonia Depot on August 28th and the other two will be held in Jackson and Fannin Counties. He encouraged everyone that could to attend.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

L.J. Harrison, GMRC Chaplain, gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the pledge of allegiance.

PROGRAM

Executive Director Danny Lewis introduced our speaker Mr. Mike Beatty. Mr. Beatty is the President and CEO of The Great Promise Partnership. Mr. Beatty spoke about the Partnership which was developed by DCA to help at-risk students complete their high school education while gaining real-world job skills, thus gaining the ability to build successful lives. By forming public/private partnerships through business, cities/counties, and school systems it gives these kids hope for a future. Mr. Beatty is presently working with Habersham and Union Counties in our region on this project. He would like to reach 100,000 kids through this program. State agencies such as USDA, DCA, GEFA, and others have agreed to give incentives to all the communities that will be working with this project. He encouraged each city/county to get involved.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Norton asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the June 26, 2014 meeting. Jim Conley made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Doug Wayne. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Chairman's Report

Chairman Norton stated that this was his 12th Council Meeting of his two year term as Chairman. He felt honored, humbled, and privileged to be able to serve as Chairman of this group.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis reported that GMRC had won three NADO Innovation Awards this year. It is very uncommon for an agency to win three awards. The three award winning projects are Project SEARCH submitted by Jessica Williams (Workforce Development), City of Cornelia's Community Revitalization by Heather Feldman (Economic Development), and City of Dahlonega's Design Guidelines by Joe Rothwell (Planning). These awards will be presented at the NADO Conference in Denver, CO in August. Congratulations to the staff on these awards.

The RC is in the process of building a covered parking area for our two MTUs. The shelter will be located directly behind the Ridge Road Office building. The City of Gainesville is working with the RC on this project and will be supplying the labor for the grading and pouring of the concrete and the RC will be supplying all the materials.

Mr. Lewis congratulated Commissioner Lamar Paris on the new wing addition to the Union County Farmers Market. The use of the Farmers Market is growing tremendously.

Financial Report

Becky Sievers, Director of Finance, presented the Financial Reports for June. The Cash Position as of June 30, 2014 showed a bank balance of \$726,142, receivables of \$173,452 and payables of \$441,645, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$457,949. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$6,309,767, Expenditures of \$6,263,102, with 100 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year.

J.B. Jones made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Doug Wayne. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Sievers also reported that the Finance Department is currently involved in year-end close-out and getting ready for Auditors to come in August. After the Audit is finished, the Finance Department will be installing and training on the new accounting software.

OLD BUSINESS

2014 GMRC Annual Work Program

Adam Hazell, Planning Director informed the Council that the 2014 GMRC Annual Work Program had previously been sent to DCA for their review and approval. DCA has approved it with no changes. The document now needs to be adopted by the Council. Bill Chafin made a motion to adopt the 2014 GMRC Annual Work Program that was submitted and approved by DCA. Motion was seconded by Jim Conley and carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Project SEARCH

John Phillips, Director of Workforce Development introduced Jessica Williams, Youth Case Manager Supervisor for Workforce Development. Ms. Williams spoke to the Council about Project SEARCH, which she submitted to NADO. This project won one of the Innovation Awards for the partnership of the Georgia Mountains Workforce Development Youth Department and the Hall County Project SEARCH. Project SEARCH also partners with the Northeast Georgia Medical System, the Hall County School System and Vocational Rehabilitation Services. This program is a business led school-to-work program, which allows students to have total workplace immersion with the combination of classroom instruction, career exploration and hands-on training through worksite rotations. The program provides real life work experience and helps youth with disabilities transition from school to adult life.

The GMWD youth department plays a vital role in developing the skills that aide youth in this transition for the students. Youth attend weekly workshops, which teach skills in character building, independent living and work ethics, interviewing, resume building and budgeting that compliments the instruction presented by the Project SEARCH instructor. GMWD also works with local businesses alongside the Northeast Georgia Medical System to assist with subsidized work experience for youth in training to be hired. Through the partnership, GMWD also provides required uniforms, including scrubs and skid proof shoes for rotations in the hospitals, and some equipment needed in the classroom setting. The youth are also provided transportation reimbursement, up to \$10 each day they are in class, as transportation is not provided for them.

The goal is to allow sufficient resources for this group in preparing them for self-sufficiency in work place and society.

Bid for MTU Shelter

Mr. Lewis informed the Council that the two Mobile Training Units (MTUs) are sitting outside in the weather and need to be under shelter to help protect the satellite units that are mounted on top of the MTUs. RFPs were sent out and only one bid was received. Handi House of

Gainesville quoted a bid of \$5,897.12. GMRC has been working with the City of Gainesville on this due to the fact that the City owns the land and building which GMRC occupies in Airport Industrial Park. The City has agreed to provide the labor for installing the concrete pad as long as the RC provides the materials.

A motion was made by Bill Black and seconded by J.B. Jones to accept the bid of \$5,897.12 for the metal shelter. Motion was unanimously approved.

Attorney Kevin Tallant stated that the City of Gainesville had asked for a Waiver of Liability for the MTU shelter since they were providing the labor on this construction. The GMRC agrees to maintain the concrete pad and shelter as long as they lease the premises. This comes as a recommendation from the Executive Committee. L.J. Harrison made a motion to adopt this document and was seconded by David Strickland. Motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUCEMENTS

The July meeting will be sponsored by Forsyth County Commission and will be held at the Forsyth Conference Center – Lanier Technical College Campus.

DOOR PRIZES

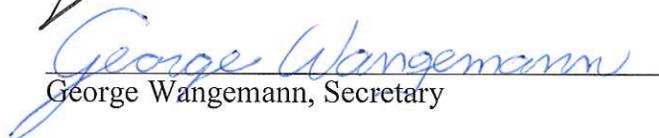
Union County and City of Blairsville provided a number of door prizes that were given away to the lucky winners.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



Sam Norton, Chairman



George Wangemann, Secretary

**GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2014-2015**

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/31/14	8/28/14	9/25/14	10/30/14	11/20/14	12/5/14*	1/29/15	2/26/15	3/26/15	4/30/15	5/28/15	6/25/15
BANKS	Danny Maxwell	A											
	Jerry Payne	P											
	Leslie George	P											
DAWSON	Mike Berg	P											
	James Grogan	P											
	Charlie Auvermann	P (R)											
FORSYTH	Brian Tam	P											
	Ralph Perry	P											
	Randall Toussaint	A											
FRANKLIN	David Strickland	P											
	Ralph Owens	P (R)											
	Gerald Voyles	P											
HABERSHAM	Sonny James	A											
	Audrey Turner	P											
	Ken Schubring	P											
HALL	Dick Mecum	P (R)											
	George Wangemann***	P											
	Deborah Mack	P											
HART	Bill Myers	A											
	Tray Hicks	P											
	Bill Chafin	P											
LUMPKIN	Chris Dockery	P											
	Sam Norton*	P											
	J.B. Jones	P											

December is not an official business meeting - Attendance is not counted

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RABUN	Greg James	P (R)											
	Debbie Chisholm	P											
	Douglas Wayne	P											
STEPHENS	Dean Scarborough**	P											
	Jeanette Jamieson	A											
	L.J. Harrison	P											
TOWNS	Bill Kendall	P											
	Joan Crothers	P											
	David Stovall	A											
UNION	Lamar Paris	P											
	Jim Conley	P											
	Mitch Griggs	P											
WHITE	Travis Turner	P											
	Annie Sutton	P											
	Bill Black	P											
GOV APPT.	Rex Farmer	P											
	Vacant												
	Will Wade	A											
SPEAKER APPT.	Larry Miller	P											
	Peter Hill	P											

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

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary