

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING
U.S. Ranger Camp Merrill
Dahlonega, Georgia
October 26, 2017

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, October 26, 2017, 6:00 p.m. at the U.S. Ranger Camp Merrill in Dahlonega, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by City of Dahlonega and Lumpkin County.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Dean Scarborough called the meeting to order and thanked the Council and guests for their attendance. Mayor Pro Tem Bruce Hoffman for the City of Dahlonega welcomed everyone to Dahlonega and recognized City Councilman Ron Larson, City Manager Bill Schmid, and former Councilman Sam Norton. Mr. Norton is currently running for Mayor of Dahlonega. Lumpkin County Commission Chairman Chris Dockery stated he was proud of the County and the City and for being the home of the Frank D. Merrill Training Camp. He recognized County Manager Stan Kelley; County Commissioners Bob Pullen, David Miller, Rhett Stringer, and Bobby Mayfield; David Whimpy, Fire Chief; Public Works Director Larry Reiter; Charles Trammell, Public Works Technician; Alisha Davis, Finance Director; and Kate Maine, University of North Georgia.

Camp Merrill Ranger Camp was named after the famous Ranger General of World War II in the Burma Campaign. Camp Merrill is the home of the U.S. Army's 5th Ranger Training Battalion, where Ranger candidates receive mountain warfare training. Command Sargent Major Michael Hack briefed the audience on the rigorous training regimen ranger candidates undergo in order to accomplish their mission of providing logistical support training mobilization, deployment, supporting, sustaining and reconstituting forces.

Chairman Scarborough thanked City of Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, and Camp Merrill for hosting tonight's meeting.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Chairman Scarborough recognized other special guests Cheryl Smith, Georgia Department of Economic Development; Joel Katz, Congressman Collins' Office; Andrew Seaver, Senator Perdue's Office, and Bill Johnson with Fetch Your News newspaper.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

Deborah Mack gave our devotion, invocation, and followed with the Pledge of Allegiance. Dinner was catered by The Smith House in Dahlonega.

PROGRAM

Ms. Rosann Kent, Director of the Appalachian Studies Center at the University of North Georgia presented a very informative program to the Council. She explained how the center provided students with a unique opportunity to discover the arts, history, music and nature of Southern Appalachia through community engagement, service learning, undergraduate research and creative activities. The center is located on the Dahlonega campus in the Historic Vickery House. The College is the first university in the state to offer a minor in Appalachian Studies. This minor provides students with an understanding of the culture, economy, history, natural resources, and politics of Appalachia and how these concepts impact and influence contemporary Appalachian communities.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES AND ATTENDANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Scarborough asked for any comments regarding the minutes and attendance report for the September 28, 2017 meeting. Ken Schubring made a motion to accept the minutes and attendance report as presented and was seconded by Doug Wayne. Motion carried. (Attendance report attached)

REPORTS

Chairman's Report

Chairman Scarborough congratulated GMRC Council Member Will Wade for being selected by Georgia Trend magazine as one of the Top 40 Under 40.

Joel Katz, representative from Congressman Doug Collins' office made a presentation to Sam Norton, owner of Picnic Café in Dahlonega. Congressman Collins gave Picnic Café special recognition recently during Small Business Week. Picnic Café was opened on the Dahlonega Square in 2001.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Heather Feldman also congratulated Will Wade. She thanked Mr. Wade for his leadership and involvement on the Council and also the Workforce Development Board.

Hart County recently held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Hart College and Career Academy (HCCA). HCCA is the product of the leadership of the County Elected Officials, Hart County Board of Education, Chamber of Commerce, and the Industrial Development Authority and is designed to help provide a pipeline of prepared worker for future jobs in Hart County and surrounding area. This will help to increase the number of students to stay in school and ensure that Hart County has a highly skilled workforce to meet the growing need of industries.

Laurin Yoder, Meisa Pace, Daniel Martin, and Patrick Larson recently attended the DCA Fall Conference held in Savannah. At this conference, the "big checks" were presented to grant award winning communities for CDBG, ARC, OneGeorgia, and CDBG-EIP projects. Congrats to all communities which were awarded these funds.

On October 10th, WorkSource Georgia Mountains hosted an Open House and Partner Resource Roundtable at the new Comprehensive One-Stop location at 1856 Thompson Bridge Road, Suite

3, in Gainesville. Thanks to John Phillips, Director of WorkSource Georgia Mountains; Andrea Gibby, Workforce Development Board Chair; Thomas Bridges, Local Elected Officials Chair; and Dean Scarborough, GMRC Council Chairman for helping with the event. GMRC serves as the fiscal agent for the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds. The purpose of the One-Stop is to provide a full array of employment and training related services for adult workers, youth, and businesses. Special thanks to the partnering agencies: Georgia Department of Labor, North Georgia Technical College, Lanier Technical College Athens Technical College, Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, and Legacy Link.

The Fall Edition of the Georgia County Government magazine (ACCG) did a cover story focusing on regionalism and featured the work of regional commissions and how they assist Georgia counties. The article featured Faith Bryan's Aerial Photography and LiDAR acquisition project.

GMRC Senior Management has been working on a Strategic Plan and will be conducting Focus Groups throughout the region by the end of the year. All communities were encouraged to attend one of these sessions.

Good luck to all the constituents that are running for election.

Quarterly Financial Report

Andrea Newsom, Director of Finance presented the quarterly Financial Report. This report was previously emailed to the Council for review. The Revenue Expenditure Report for the period of July 1, 2017 – September 30, 2017 indicated the Actual Revenue Income of \$860,264, Expenditures of \$1,104,690, with 18 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Natalie Crawford made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Sam Norton. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Meeting Report

Chairman Scarborough reminded everyone that the deadline to order tickets for the GMRC Annual Meeting is November 13th and also to get their sponsorships in as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS

RLF Loan Balance Write-Off

Jim Conley, Revolving Loan Fund Committee Chairman reported to the Council that in 2014 a loan was made for a restaurant in Dahlongega in the amount of \$150,000. About two years ago, the loan began struggling and over time loan late payment penalties were applied. After default, the RLF's legal counsel negotiated with the restaurant's attorney and was able to settle and recover \$140,000 of the \$141,399.17 principal balance. The RLF Committee and Executive Committee recommended writing off the \$1,399.17 loan balance. Jim Conley made a motion to write off the balance of the loan. Bill Chafin seconded the motion and motion carried unanimously.

Review of FY17 GMRC Audit

Bill Chafin, Finance/Audit Committee Chairman stated that the FY17 GMRC Audit will be emailed to the Council for their review. The Auditors will present the Audit at the November Council Meeting. There was one finding and GMRC is going through the steps to correct this. If anyone has any questions regarding the Audit, please contact Andrea Newsom.

DOOR PRIZES

City of Dahlonega and Lumpkin County provided door prizes which were awarded to the lucky winners.

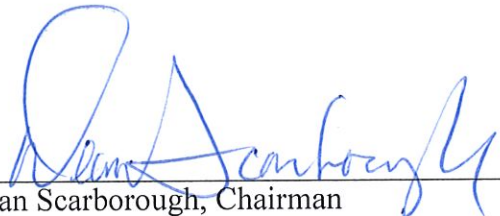
ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) Annual Conference will be held on November 8-10 at the King and Prince Resort on St. Simons Island. Several Council Members and staff will be attending this meeting.

Next month's Council meeting will be sponsored by City of Dawsonville at the City Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.



Dean Scarborough, Chairman



George Wangemann, Secretary

**GMRC COUNCIL
ATTENDANCE SHEET
2017-2018**

COUNTY	COUNCIL MEMBER	7/27/17	8/31/17	9/28/17	10/26/17	11/16/17	12/11/17	1/25/18	2/22/18	3/29/18	4/26/18	5/31/18	6/28/18
RABUN	Greg James	P	A	P (R)	P (R)								
	Debbie Chisholm	P	A	P	A								
	Douglas Wayne	P	P	P	P								
STEPHENS	Dean Scarborough**	P	P	P	P								
	David Austin	P	P	P	A								
	Connie Tabor	P	P	P	A								
TOWNS	Cliff Bradshaw	P	P	A	P								
	Andrea Gibby	A	P	A	P								
	David Stovall	A	P	P (R)	P								
UNION	Lamar Paris	P	A	P	P								
	Jim Conley	P	P	P (R)	P								
	Mitch Griggs	A	P	P	P								
WHITE	Travis Turner	P	P (R)	P	P (R)								
	Annie Sutron	A	P	P	P								
	Bill Black	P	P	P	A								
GOV APPT.	Rex Farmer	P	P	P	P								
	Angela Whidby	P	P	P	A								
	Will Wade	A	A	P	P								
SPEAKER APPT.	Vacant												
	Vacant												

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

* Chairman
** Vice Chairman
*** Secretary