

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center
Lavonia, GA
August 30, 2012

MINUTES

The GMRC Executive Committee met on Thursday, August 30, 2012, 5:30 p.m. at Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center in Lavonia, Georgia. The meeting was sponsored by Franklin County and Cities of Canon, Carnesville, Franklin Springs, Lavonia, and Royston.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman David Stovall called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending. The following members were present:

Executive Committee Present

David Stovall, Chairman
L.J. Harrison, Secretary
Mike Berg
Bill Chafin
Rex Farmer
Leslie George
J.B. Jones
Paul Kreager
Dean Scarborough

GMRC Staff Present

W. Danny Lewis, Executive Director
Peggy Lovell, Executive Assistant

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Stovall asked for consideration of the minutes of the June 28, 2012 Executive Committee Meeting. Motion for approval of the minutes was made by Bill Chafin, seconded by J.B. Jones, and motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Chairman's Comments

Chairman Stovall informed the Committee Members that due to the primary election results, the GMRC have seven new seats to be filled on the Council by 2013. Two new members that have been appointed and would be introduced are Sonny James, Habersham County Commissioner and James Grogan, City of Dawsonville Mayor. One other Council Member

has been appointed for Banks County but would not be present tonight. The Chairman discussed other vacancies that are on the Council or will be by the end of the year.

Chairman referred to an email that the Council received announcing that GMRC has received for the 5th consecutive year, one of the NADO (National Association of Development Organization) awards. This award was for the Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center project. He congratulated Danny and the staff on this award.

Executive Director's Comments

Danny Lewis, Executive Director congratulated all the election candidates that were successful in their race. He thanked all that serve as elected officials. Mike Berg stated that ACCG did an evaluation of the election and 55% of the commissioners that ran, lost and 17 out of 23 were in a run off and lost. The average win was by 55%.

Chairman Stovall and Mr. Lewis attended the dedication and open house of the new Hartwell City Hall prior to this meeting. They encouraged everyone to visit and tour their beautiful new facility.

Mr. Lewis asked the Committee to notify him or the Chairman of anyone that would be changing on the Council due to the election results. Mr. Lewis and Chairman Stovall had lunch with the newly elected Hall County Commission Chairman, Dick Mecum and explained to him what the RC does and what the RC could do for Hall County. They also explained what is expected of someone who serves on the RC Council. They have set a goal to meet with all the new Council Members.

Mr. Lewis expressed kudos to John Phillips and his staff. They lost another fellow employee this week. Heather Smith died suddenly yesterday. This makes two employees that Workforce Development has lost since the RC took them over in October. Keep Heather's family in your thoughts and prayers.

John Phillips, Mr. Lewis, Becky Sievers, and Nona Turk went to the Governor's Office of Workforce Development and met with Tricia Pridemore. She is 100% behind our Workforce Development department. She called this week inquiring if GMRC would be interested in helping with three counties in Northwest Georgia with their workforce departments. Mr. Lewis informed her that the Council would have to make that decision. He stated he didn't know if it would be worth bringing them on board for just Workforce Development.

DCA contacted Mr. Lewis inquiring about office space for one of DCA's employees to use. Holly Hunt needed an office for a couple of days a week to keep her from driving into the Atlanta office every day. Ms. Hunt handles the SSBCI program for DCA. Mr. Lewis feels this would be to our advantage and it could help us with our RLF program. Since we cannot sublease our office space, the RC would bill DCA for services rendered (phone, copier, computer, etc). DCA has agreed to \$250 per month. Bill Chafin made a motion for Mr. Lewis to work this out with DCA. Motion was seconded by Mike Berg and carried unanimously.

Vehicle damage

Recently a driver drove off the hill near the rear of the RC offices and crashed into two of the five fleet vehicles parked there. This happened at approximately 4:40 a.m., so no one from the office was injured. Both vehicles are in the process of being repaired and put back into the fleet operations.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Meeting

Leslie George reported that everything is set for the Annual Meeting on December 7th at the Dillard House Conference Center. The Save-the-Date Cards have gone out and the ticket information would go out in October. The deadline to purchase tickets is Nov. 19th. Tickets are on a first-come first-serve basis, since we are limited to 300 seats. The entertainment is a class act and is a young lady that has signed with Nashville. The next step is to begin to secure sponsors for this year. Leslie plans to challenge all Council Members to bring in at least one sponsor.

50th Anniversary

This is the 50th year that this organization has been in existence. We will tie this in with our Annual Meeting this year. The Friends of Georgia Mountains will be giving something to commemorate this event.

NEW BUSINESS

CEDS Review Process

The GMRC is required to do an annual CEDS Report and every five years a complete re-write of the document. This year is the date for the complete re-write. Mr. Lewis thanked Bill Chafin for serving as CEDS Committee Vice-Chair, CEDS Committee members, staff, and all others that have worked on this year's report. This document is a requirement of EDA to be eligible for their funding and to be eligible for grants. The program for this meeting is the complete CEDS process. This document would be presented to the Council for a 30 day review of the CEDS Report. It has been emailed to Council Members for their review and also it has been placed on the RC website.

GARC Annual Conference

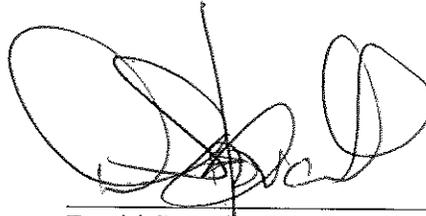
The Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC) Annual Meeting will be held at the King and Prince Resort on St. Simons Island on November 7-9, 2012. Committee members were asked to mark their calendars for this meeting. There will be great speakers and this would a good time to network with other city/county and state officials. GMRC has a block of rooms reserved. If you plan to attend, please let Peggy know to reserve your room.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Stovall announced that the September GMRC Council Meeting would be held at The Currahee Club in Toccoa. This meeting will be sponsored by Stephens County and City of Toccoa.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was recessed to the Council Meeting at 5:55 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Stovall', written over a horizontal line.

David Stovall, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L.J. Harrison', written over a horizontal line.

L.J. Harrison, Secretary