

GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION
COUNCIL MEETING

Hiawassee River Trout Lodge Pavilion
Hiawassee, GA
July 26, 2012

MINUTES

The GMRC Council held its regular meeting on Thursday, July 26, 2012, 5:30 p.m. at the Hiawassee River Trout Lodge Pavilion in Hiawassee, Georgia. The meeting was hosted by Towns County.

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME/DINNER

Chairman David Stovall called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their attendance. He also expressed his appreciation to the Towns County for hosting this meeting in such a beautiful location.

Chairman Stovall recognized Towns County Sole Commissioner Bill Kendall for local introductions. Mr. Kendall thanked everyone for attending and recognized Mayor Barbara Mathis, City of Hiawassee; Hilda Thomason, Georgia Mountain Fair's Director; Reid Dyer, Young Harris City Councilman; and Senator John Wilkinson. Ms. Thomason introduced the Georgia Mountain Fair Board Members that were in attendance, Mike Annast, Gene Jackson, Myers Banister, and Doug Canup.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Vice-Chairman Sam Norton recognized other special guests Kathy Papa, DCA; Cheryl Smith, DEcD, and Rep. Emory Dunahoo.

INVOCATION/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/DINNER

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

PROGRAM

Frank Norton, Jr. with The Norton Agency, Inc. presented a program on the "Mid-Year Native Intelligence Report". Mr. Norton presents his initial Native Intelligence Report in January of each year. He spoke on the employment market, major job announcements, and the job growth for our region. He also talked about the housing market with information on home sales, inventory, and foreclosures and how each has affected our region.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Stovall asked for any comments regarding the minutes of the June 28, 2012 meeting. Doug Wayne made a motion to accept the minutes as written and was seconded by Bill Chafin. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Danny Lewis referred to his report in the Council Packet. He stated that due to time he would only highlight a couple of items, but encouraged the Council to read his report.

Mr. Lewis serves as the President of the DDAA Board which is made of up of representatives from 13 ARC states that starts in New York and ends in Georgia. He proudly stated that this year we were fortunate to host the DDAA/ARC Board of Directors for their Summer Meeting in our region. They will be staying at Brasstown Valley Resort and traveling to Union County to tour some ARC projects. He thanked Lamar Paris for hosting this group on Monday night for "An Appalachian Dinner" at the Union County Community Center, along with the help of Sam Norton.

On July 20th, Faith Jones and Mr. Lewis attended the official opening of the CarFit project. It was held at the Lakewood Baptist Church in Gainesville and was attended by Governor Nathan Deal and his wife Sandra, Senator Butch Miller, Rep. Carl Rogers, Rep. Doug Collins, and other local officials. The Georgia Mountains Region is the only region selected to have this program, primarily because we have the largest senior population.

Mr. Lewis announced that Matt Chase would be leaving NADO and taking the position as the new Executive Director of NACo. Mr. Chase has been a great supporter of this region.

On August 30th, our next Council Meeting will be held at the newly opened Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center located in Lavonia. This is a state-of-the-art facility and will really benefit Franklin County and the neighboring counties. Heather Feldman and Chip Wright have worked closely on this project.

Financial Report

The Financial Report was given by GMRC Director of Finance, Becky Sievers. The Cash Position as of June 30, 2012 showed a bank balance of \$505,669, receivables of \$53,130 and payables of \$81,608, with an uncommitted cash balance of \$477,191. The Income-Expense Report for the period of July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012 indicated income of \$1,111,958, expenses of \$1,144,214, accounts receivable of \$32,256, with 84 percent of the budget being expended for the fiscal year. Sam Norton made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Angela Whidby. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

2012 Annual Meeting

Angela Whidby reminded the Council that the Annual Meeting would be held at the Dillard House Conference Center and it would be limited to 300 people this year. "Save the Date" announcements would go out in August and meeting information/ticket order form to be sent out in October. The deadline for tickets would be November 19th. The entertainment has been booked.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee Appointments

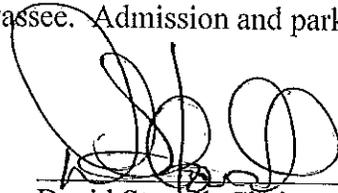
Chairman Stovall referred to a list of GMRC Committee Appointments for the 2012-2013 that had previously been emailed out to the Council Members for their review. On this list are the names of the firms that the RC have been for the Audit, Legal Counsel, and the RLF Attorney. The RC have used these firms for a number of years. It was recommended that the Regional Commission retain their services. Bill Chafin made a motion to approve the auditing firm of Clifton, Lipford, Hardison, and Parker; the Council's Attorney firm of Miles, Patterson, Hansford, Tallant, LLC; and the RLF Attorney firm of Hulsey, Oliver, and Mahar, LLC. Motion was seconded by Angela Whidby and motion carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Stovall reminded the Council that the next meeting would be held on August 30th at the Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center in Lavonia, Georgia.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm in order for Council Members and their families to attend the Georgia Mountain Fair in Hiawassee. Admission and parking tickets were compliments of Towns County.



David Stovall, Chairman



L.J. Harrison, Secretary