

STONE MOUNTAIN MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 15, 2009

A meeting of the Finance Committee of the Stone Mountain Memorial Association was held at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, June 15, 2009, at the Evergreen Conference Center at Stone Mountain Park.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Chappell, Chairman Finance Committee
Brent Brown
Greer Johnson
Mike Pentecost

OTHER SMMA MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Baxter, SMMA Chairman
Joan Thomas

MEMBERS ABSENT

Chris Clark
Carolyn Meadows
Ray S. Smith III

OTHERS PRESENT

Curtis Branscome, C.E.O.
Bob Cowhig, Director of Planning and Construction
Gail Durham, Director of Finance and Secretary

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Finance Committee Chairman Bill Chappell.

Year-to-Date Financial Statements

Ms. Durham reviewed the year-to-date financial statements for the five month period ending May 31, 2009. Total revenues are \$4.6 million compared to the budget of \$4.5 million. Total operating expenses are \$2.3 million and the budget is \$2.5 million. The net operating profit before depreciation is \$2.5 million and after depreciation the net profit year-to-date is \$918,000. Interest income of almost \$153,000 is about 50% below budget. This is due to lower than expected interest rates and capital outlays that have reduced cash and investment holdings.

Ms. Durham said that SMMA is on target with the budget and barring unforeseen expenses should remain in good financial standing. Mr. Branscome stated that it has been several years since a complete personnel position study was completed. SMMA will implement market rate adjustments in July suggested by the recently completed study performed by The Archer Company. The police officers are the most impacted group by this study.

The statement of cash flows indicates that SMMA has generated about \$2.46 million in cash for the first five months of operation and has used about \$1.6 million for capital additions. The net increase in cash year-to-date is about \$873,000 and the cash balance at the end of May was \$20 million.

Mr. Branscome said that the net value of property, plant, and equipment has increased from about \$75 million to \$79 million from May, 2008 to May, 2009.

Mr. Baxter asked if sales tax expense paid by SMMA could be captured. Ms. Durham said she would investigate this request and discuss it with the SMMA auditors.

Old Business

Mr. Brown said that he walked the Memorial lawn area and wanted to reiterated his view that the historical aspect be emphasized. He stated that the HFEC group has done well in many areas, but he does not think their focus is on non-revenue generating projects. He said it is the SMMA Board's role to memorialize the Civil War and the historical representation of the lawn and the State terraces. The restoration project should be guided by the historical interpretation and not by HFEC's commercial plans.

Ms. Johnson said that she thought the HFEC group would welcome the Board's input and recommendations for this project. Mr. Branscome said that SMMA is funding this project but it is a part of the leased area and is an HFEC project. The SMMA Board will approve the design before any work begins.

Mr. Baxter said that he would like to see interpretive signage or a pedestal at each terrace to present facts about each State's involvement in the Civil War and links the terrace to the memorial. For example, at the Georgia terrace a pedestal that would state how many soldiers were killed and wounded. This information would provide the link between the terrace and the carving memorial for our visitors. Currently, guests on the terraces do not understand the link. The committee discussed further how best to communicate the meaning of the terraces and the memorial for the guests of Stone Mountain Park.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Notes taken by
Gail Durham, Secretary