

GRADY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS/GRADY COUNTY LAKE AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

August 3, 2020 Joint Meeting

The Grady County Board of Commissioners and Grady County Lake Authority met on August 3, 2020 at 8:30 am for the joint meeting. Commissioners Keith Moye, June Knight, Ray Prince, Phillip Drew, and LaFaye Copeland, County Administrator Buddy Johnson, and County Clerk John White were present. Present for the Grady County Lake Authority were Bob Ponder, Ray Prince, Steven Childs, Chip Wells, Eric Cohen, and Laura Register. Others in attendance were Trey Gainous with Grady Growth Committee and Will Butler, Tired Creek Lake Consultant.

Mr. Moye called the meeting to order.

Motion by Mrs. Knight, second by Mr. Drew to approve the agenda for the Board of Commissioners. The motion was approved. Motion by Mr. Wells, second by Mr. Prince to approve the agenda for the Grady County Lake Authority. The motion was approved.

Public Comments

None

FORMAL ACTIONS

FA 0050-20 Motion by Mrs. Copeland, second by Mr. Prince to approve the Programmatic Agreement Among The Savannah District, US Army Corps of Engineers, The Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer, Participating Tribes, and the Grady County Board of Commissioners Regarding The Section 106 Process For The Grady County Public Fishing Lake Project Department Of The Army Permit (DOA) Application Number SAS-2005-00967 HP-060915-001 Grady County, Georgia. The motion was approved.

PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Trey Gainous presented the findings from the Grady Growth Marketing and Development Committee. The three main objectives of the committee were Who are we and what is our Mantra, what are our Assets, and Develop a Plan of Action.

The mantra is "Opportunity Awaits".

Your Opportunity to spend the weekend at the lake.

Your opportunity to make Grady County your home.

Your opportunity to get out and enjoy "Pandemic Safe" activities.

Your opportunity to see just why living in Whigham is easy and why Cairo is the Hospitality City.

Whatever opportunity you're looking for, it awaits you in Grady County.

The committee identified over 40 Attractions, Activities, and Events in Grady County.

The committee addressed the "How" with Our Plan of Action.

Generate a feasibility study on assets, activities, and events surrounding Tired Creek Lake. Tired Creek Lake being the largest and most developable asset in Grady County. This "starting point" was determined as top priority by the Grady Growth Marketing and Development Committee (GGMDC). This study should include but is not limited to:

RV Park development

Trail Systems (Land and Water)

Primitive Camping

Infrastructure elements that are a MUST (water, waste, energy, etc.)

The committee recommend, all governing bodies in Grady County collectively create, advise, and fund a Tourism Board of Directors. A Director must be obtained and charged with the Board's wishes.

Determine and promote "Pandemic Safe" assets in and around Grady County. Quickly get these items and their information out to Red Hills and other tourism entities as soon as possible.

The committee believe that these recommendations support this committee's works for a starting point in the strategic plan to "grow" Grady County. Now having created our mantra and overall theme for our

county. "Opportunity Awaits" should be the undertone in which these, and future actions be built upon. Informing those who want to know that their Opportunity Awaits them in Grady County, whatever that may be. From a short weekend getaway for family camping at Tired Creek Lake to finding new opportunities as a resident training their children in the ever-growing sport of motocross. Promoting and marketing Grady County's 40+ assets and their opportunities should be the intension, ambition, and destination of our newly formed Tourism Department.

Additionally, the committee suggest charging the new tourism board with developing a program that includes annual events both existing and new (4th of July on the lake, ½ triathlon, etc.). We feel this may help attract new visitors and ultimately, new residences to Grady Count. A social media campaign to be incorporated into existing local and regional websites as well as other social media outlets like Facebook and Twitter.

Mr. Gainous feels as if the RV Park is the cheapest and fastest way to get things moving at the lake.

Mr. Butler stated this was a great step for the community and recommended starting with the feasibility study.

CONSENT ITEMS

Motion from Mr. Wells, second by Mr. Ponder to approve the following consent items:

Minutes from the June 9, 2020 Lake Authority meeting.

The motion was approved.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Lake Authority discussed and acted on the following New/Unfinished Business:

The Tire Creek Lake Master Plan was discussed

Motion by Mrs. Register, second by Mr. Cohen to name Will Butler head of the Tired Creek Lake Master Plan re-write. The motion was approved.

The recommendation of an RV Park was discussed.

Motion by Mr. Ponder, second by Mr. Cohen for the county to move forward with a feasibility study for a RV Park at Tired Creek Lake. The motion was approved.

It was stated that we have got to get to work on grants for sewer and water. Discussion was had about needing a test well in the area to determine the quality of water and the cost associated with a test well.

Mr. Childs wanted to know how the Lake Authority felt about duck hunting once again.

Motion by Mr. Wells, second by Mrs. Register to approve duck hunting for 2020 contingent on whether the Tax Commissioner would be willing to process the request once again. The motion was approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Drew and second by Mr. Prince. The motion was approved.

KEITH MOYE, CHAIR

PHILLIP DREW, VICE-CHAIR

ATTEST:

RAY PRINCE, COMMISSIONER

JOHN WHITE, COUNTY CLERK

JUNE KNIGHT, COMMISSIONER

LAFAYE COPELAND, COMMISSIONER