

Minutes of the

VIRGINIA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, June 26, 2002 – 10:00 a.m.

203 Governor Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219

Virginia State Parks Foundation Members Present

Joseph H. Maroon
Joe D. Meade

Kenneth G. Fannon

Virginia State Parks Foundation Members Not Present

Susan Lowry Byrd
W. Scott Smith

Matthew J. Kelly

Staff Present

Leon E. App
David C. Dowling
Michael R. Fletcher

Timothy J. Bishton
Joe Elton
Nancy Heltman

Call to Order

Mr. Maroon called the meeting to order and noted there was no quorum present. He noted that the passing of Dr. Stark left a vacancy in the chairmanship. He also noted that Ms. Byrd, who serves as vice chair, was unable to attend the meeting.

DCR Director Update

Mr. Maroon told members that the Department had a very successful event with Governor Warner at Raymond R. “Andy” Guest Shenandoah River State Park on June 6th. The event was part of the Governor’s promotion of the \$119 million General Obligation Bond package. Delegate Clifford Athey, Jr. also attended the event.

Resolution Honoring Dr. Carl Stark

Mr. Elton informed members that he had attended the memorial service for Dr. Stark in Wytheville. He provided for inclusion in the minutes, the following remarks delivered at the service:

Remarks About Dr. Carl E. Stark
Written and delivered by Pastor Joe Shumate
June 8, 2002
at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Wytheville, Virginia

I have been asked to say a few words about Carl. Where to start?

He lived an exceedingly full life.

Born in New York State, he lived in Europe, The Orient and South America – yet Carl chose to start a family medical practice in Wytheville, Virginia.

For Dr. Stark, his patients always came first. Recently someone from Rural Retreat, which is about 12 miles from Wytheville, suddenly became very ill – too ill to even ride to a doctor's office. After calling several doctors, she called Dr. Stark. He simply said, "I will come to your house."

Carl served his community in so many different ways. He was on numerous boards, authorities, organizations and civic clubs. His influence made its way to the state and national level. He was Mayor of Wytheville for nearly 30 years.

About 20 years ago I was asked to conduct the wedding for Carl and Annie Bea. Doc was a little late but Annie said that was to be expected. When he arrived he had his stethoscope hanging out of his coat pocket and was wearing western boots and a ten gallon hat. Not to be outdone, Annie Bea carried a toy stethoscope and I wore my western boots. The wedding proceeded without a hitch and they both grew in 20 years of marriage.

Carl was also a churchman. He was not an observer but an active participant. In fact, his depth has left a vacancy on the Congregation Council at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. In the early 1980's, Carl was one of the first people recruited and trained as a layperson to serve as worship leader. Dr. Stark sought to improve his preaching skills so on his own he drove to a seminary one day each week in Columbia, South Carolina where he took a course in homiletics.

Over the past 20 years, he took Sunday assignments and led worship in congregations without a regular pastor.

On Sunday, June 2nd, Carl was a the worship leader at Red Oak Church in Bland County. Then on Tuesday he played in a Senior Golf Tournament in Wytheville. That evening he attended a Lions Club meeting. He died in his sleep that night – our loss but his gain for those who believe in the resurrection.

May his life be for us an example in that the only way we can share the love of Christ is in our service to others with the time we have been given on this good earth.

Mr. Meade said that in the opportunities he had to travel and work with Dr. Stark that he was impressed with his devotion and his dedication as a volunteer.

Mr. Maroon referenced a draft resolution honoring Dr. Stark. He noted that the Board could not officially vote at this meeting because there was not a quorum. But he noted that Ms. Byrd and Mr. Smith had expressed their support of the motion.

MOTION: Mr. Meade moved that the Board members present express their support of the resolution honoring Dr. Stark.

SECOND: Mr. Fannon

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

The resolution reads as follows:

RESOLUTION

Commending Dr. Carl E. Stark for His Years of Service to the Virginia State Parks Foundation Board of Trustees.

WHEREAS, Dr. Carl E. Stark of Wytheville, Virginia was appointed in 1998 by Governor Jim Gilmore to serve as a member of the Virginia State Parks Foundation Board of Trustees, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stark was elected Chairman of the Virginia State Parks Foundation Board of Trustees in April, 2001, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stark served as the Mayor of Wytheville for 28 years, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stark dedicated his life to medicine and delivered more than 3,000 babies in the Wytheville area, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stark served as a lay minister in the Lutheran Church, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stark was named as the Chamber of Commerce's citizen of the year in 1997, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stark was named the Rotary Club Paul Harris Fellow in 1991, and

WHEREAS, in 2002 Dr. Stark received the Patrick Henry Award for service and fidelity from Governor Jim Gilmore, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Stark landed with the Allied Troops on the beaches of Normandy in 1942, and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carl E. Stark, passed away on June 5, 2002 at the age of 80 years old,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Virginia State Parks Foundation recognizes and applauds the life of Dr. Carl E. Stark for his commitment to the recreational and natural resources of the Commonwealth, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on this date, June 26, 2002 the Virginia State Parks Foundation establishes as public record their deep appreciation for Dr. Stark's years of service, and directs that a copy of this resolution be sent to Dr. Stark's family with great regret at the loss of his talents, service, friendship and leadership.

Parks Update

Mr. Elton noted that thus far, attendance in the parks has been high. He noted that the weather has been a major contributing factor to this.

New River Trail State Park has been designated a National Recreation Area by the National Park Service. Only about 25 other locations in the country share this designation.

Virginia is experiencing the worst drought since the 1930s. The lake at Twin Lakes State Parks has been closed to swimming. However the park is considering pumping water from the second lake at Cedar Crest Conference Center.

Mr. Elton noted that a morning radio host had criticized the department and Pocahontas State Park for the closing of the pool for the summer. Mr. Elton had the opportunity to appear on the radio show and explain the circumstances. He also invited the host to broadcast live from the pool when the pool is reopened.

The re-building of Martin's Fort at Wilderness Road State Park is progressing. The History Channel will cover the building of the fort. The fort is being built with 18th century technology and tools.

Mr. Meade expressed concern regarding signage for Natural Tunnel State Park. Mr. Elton said that part of the problem with the signage is that the roads in question fall under the federal highway act and that there are certain guidelines.

Mr. Maroon noted that the department continues to investigate the opening of Natural Tunnel for the building of a walkway into the tunnel. Norfolk Southern Corporation has concerns about the safety and liability issues, however the department will continue to pursue this.

Approval of Minutes from March 13, 2002

There being no quorum, this item was delayed until the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Bishton provided the Treasurer's Report. (Copy attached as attachment #1)

General Obligation Bond Update

Mr. Maroon noted that the Board could not official express support of the Bond referendum without a quorum. He noted that this may be a primary reason to hold the next meeting sooner than originally planned.

He provided materials regarding the [General Obligation Bond](#). These materials are available on the Internet.

Mr. Maroon noted that the Virginia Land Conservation Foundation passed a resolution in support of the Bond.

Status Report on Parks Projects

Mr. Fletcher presented the Status Report on Park Projects. Staff recommended the following actions:

- | | |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 98-10 | SWVA Museum – painting restoration – completed. Recommended close with zero balance. |
| 99-33 | New River Trail – amphitheater – completed. Recommended close with zero balance. |
| 01-02 | Hungry Mother – Music in the Park – completed. Recommended close with zero balance. |
| 01-03 | Caledon Natural Area – taxidermy – completed. Recommended close with zero balance. |

02-07 SWVA Museum – 2001 Festival of Trees – completed. Recommended close with zero balance.

Because there was no quorum, no action was taken on the recommendations.

State Parks Funding Requests

Mr. Fletcher presented the following requests that staff recommend for approval:

02-13 Sky Meadows – purchase of historical housewares for interpretive program.
\$850.00 from park unallocated funds.

02-23 Douthat – Douthat Discovery Center
Opening of project to expend funds as raised.

02-24 Douthat – Footbridge across Wilson Creek
Opening of project to expend funds as raised.

Because there was no quorum, no action was taken on these items.

Youth Conservation Corps Update

Ms. Heltman provided an update for the Youth Conservation Corps.

She noted that the program will operate at six parks this summer. Most are residential programs where students have applied. The once exception is at Pocahontas State Park. The program there will work with graduates of the Beaumont Juvenile Detention Center program. This will be called the “Youth Service Corps.”

Currently, a total of 46 youth, ages 14-16, will participate in the program.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting

Due to the lack of a quorum and pending appointments to the Board, Mr. Maroon suggested that the scheduling of the next meeting be delayed until a later date. Staff will contact members regarding the next meeting date.

Adjourn

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lowry Byrd
Vice Chair

Joseph H. Maroon
Recording Secretary