

**Minutes**  
**State Parks and Historic Sites Committee**  
**A. W. Jones Heritage Center**  
**610 Beachview Drive**  
**St. Simons Island, GA 31522**

**Friday, January 27, 2023**  
**9:00 a.m.**

**Committee Members**

Randy Dellinger, Chair  
Joe Hatfield, Vice Chair  
Nancy Addison  
Nick Ayers  
Ray Lambert  
Tim Lowe  
Paul Shailendra  
Miki Thomaston  
Gary Vowell  
Bill Jones, Board Chair, Ex-officio

**Board Members**

Dwight Davis  
Patrick Denney  
Charles DePriest  
Dan Garcia  
Penn Hodge  
Kevin Jackson  
Bodine Sinyard  
Dee Yancey

**Guests**

Alice Keyes, One Hundred Miles  
Beth Vowell  
Bill Clark, Okefenokee Swamp Park  
Charles McMillan, Georgia Conservancy  
Deborah Y. Reed, Okefenokee Swamp – Reeds Grocery  
Ebony Garard, Sowing Seeds  
George Penniman, Concerned Young Citizen  
Henrietta Bailey, Sowing Seeds  
Kim Bednarek, Okefenokee Swamp Park  
Kim Thayer

**Staff Members**

Mark Williams, Commissioner  
Walter Rabon  
Cathy Barnette  
Kate Iannuzzi  
Donald Kirkland  
Artica Gaston  
Thomas Barnard  
Jeff Cown  
Steve Friedman  
Ted Will  
Doug Haymans  
Karl Burgess  
Tyler Jones  
Jill Andrews  
Carolyn Belcher  
Kathy Knowlton  
Paul Medders  
Jared Flowers  
Julie Califf  
Ellis Johnson  
Bill Donohue  
James Hamilton

Richard Dunn, Director  
John Eunice

Lakesha Nixon, Sowing Seeds  
Lee Weeks, Coral Hospitality  
Mark Osterhaus, Coral Hospitality  
Mary Floyd Ayers  
Rena Peck, Georgia River Network  
Reverend Antwon Nixon, Sowing Seeds  
Spud Woodward  
Susan Inman, One Hundred Miles  
Sylvia Everett, Sowing Seeds  
Wade Herring, Concerned Citizen

The January 27, 2023 meeting of the State Parks and Historic Sites Committee was called to order by Bill Jones, Chairman of the Board of Natural Resources.

Chairman Jones called on Mr. Randy Dellinger, Chairman of the State Parks and Historic Sites Committee.

Mr. Dellinger called on Jeff Cown, Director of the State Parks and Historic Sites Division, for a briefing.

Director Cown stated Senate Bill 319, “Georgia Constitutional Carry Act of 2021” which was approved in the 2022 Georgia legislative session and signed by the Governor, revised certain laws concerning the carrying of firearms contained in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-125.1. He further stated this briefing is being conducted to recommend revisions to Rule 391-5-1-.05 (4), for safety issues at parks, which would update the rule to be in concert with the revised state law.

Director Cown stated the change strikes the requirement for a valid weapons carry license, which makes it consistent with the law, in all parks, historic sites, and recreational areas, except for those that are under federal jurisdiction.

Director Cown stated the timeline is a briefing to the board today and public notice will be posted this afternoon. He further stated the deadline for submitting comments will be February 28, and the proposal will be presented to the board for action at the board meeting on March 28, 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.