



NORTH CAROLINA YOUTH OUTDOOR ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION

July 26, 2023, 10:00 AM

Electronic Meeting VIA Zoom

1) Call To Order – Chairman Dell Murphy

2) Roll Call – Megan Law, Communications Manager

3) Mandatory Ethics Inquiry - North Carolina General Statute 138A-15(e)

mandates that the Commission Chair shall remind all Commissioners of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict under this Chapter, and that the chair also inquire as to whether there is any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Commission at this time. It is the duty of each Commissioner who is aware of such personal conflict of interest or of an appearance of a conflict, to notify the Chair of the same. – Chairman Dell Murphy

4) Approval Of Minutes – Take action on the May 3, 2023 Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council meeting minutes as written in the exhibit and distributed to members (May 3, 2023 - **EXHIBIT A**)

5) Welcome New Staff Member – Justin Burr, Executive Director

Megan Wendt, Grants Coordinator

6) 2023 Legislative Update – Justin Burr, Executive Director

7) Trailblazers Club Report – Alan Pomeroy, Program Director, and Noel

Griffin, Outreach and Engagement Manager

8) GO Grants Program Report – Alan Pomeroy, Program Director, and

Megan Wendt, Grants Coordinator

9) Communications Report – Megan Law, Communications Manager

10) Outreach Report – Noel Griffin, Outreach and Engagement Manager

11) Trust Fund Report – Layne Randolph, Fundraising and Finance Manager

12) Commission Discussion/Other New Business – Chairman Dell Murphy

13) Next Meeting: November 15, 2023 (Raleigh) – Chairman Dell Murphy

14) Closing Remarks – Chairman Dell Murphy

15) Adjourn



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EXHIBIT A Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council Meeting May 3rd, 2023, 9:30 AM Raleigh, NC MINUTES

Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council Chairman Dell Murphy called the meeting of the OHAC to order at 9:38 am.

COUNCIL ATTENDANCE

Dell Murphy – in person
Jim Harrell – in person
Austin Barnhill – in person
Aaron Thomas – in person
Owen Andrews – in person
Gordon Myers – in person
Mitch St. Clair – in person
Brick Brown – remote
Mikey Fulk – remote
Kevin Howell – remote

STAFF ATTENDANCE

Justin Burr, OHAC Executive Director
Alan Pomeroy, OHAC Program Director
Megan Law, OHAC Communications Manager
Layne Randolph, OHAC Fundraising and Finance Manager
Natalia Almeida, OHAC Grants Manager
Noel Griffin, OHAC Outreach and Engagement Manager

STAFF ATTENDANCE

Reid Wilson, Secretary of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
Lisa Hocutt, N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission Deputy Director; Constituent Support and Engagement
Margo Minkler, N.C. Wildlife Resources Executive Assistant to the Director

MANDATORY ETHICS INQUIRY – At the request of Chairman Murphy, Megan Law read the mandatory ethics inquiry as stated in GS 138A-15(e).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Councilmember Gordon Myers made a motion to approve the March 16, 2023 minutes as written and Councilmember Mitchell St. Clair seconded the motion. The Council unanimously approved the minutes.

N.C. DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES PRESENTATION –

Secretary Reid Wilson presented to the Council. The presentation focused on future collaboration efforts between State Parks and OHAC, including promotion of GO-Grant-funded trips to N.C. State Parks and Historical Sites. The Council was informed of DNCR's interactive map on their website, along with other new initiatives and implementations.

2023 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Executive Director Justin Burr updated the Council on progress with the organization's name change request, as well as any budget updates for the upcoming fiscal year.

BRANDING – Program Director Alan Pomeroy and Communications Manager Megan Law presented the Council with some of the new branding materials that had been received. These branding materials, such as tshirts and keychains, include the new name and logo.

TRAILBLAZERS CLUB – Program Director Alan Pomeroy and Outreach and Engagement Manager Noel Griffin presented a summary of the applications received for the N.C. Trailblazers Outdoor Clubs, how the clubs were advertised, and the scoring system used to review applications and interviews. Alan then discussed each individual well-qualified high school that was selected to receive a club in the inaugural year. The original number of clubs was set at 25 by the Council in May. A motion was proposed to increase this number from 25 to 34 clubs, allowing for additional high schools to receive clubs in the inaugural year. This motion was prompted by the high number of well-qualified applications from each region of the state. Along with the additional schools accepted, the motion also calls for \$90,000 in funding to be allocated to the clubs funding for the inaugural year. This additional funding, paired with the original \$250,000, would provide a total of \$340,000 in funding to the 34 schools selected and approved by the Council. The 1st motion to approve these requests was made by Councilman Gordon Myers and seconded by Council Member Owen Andrews before being unanimously approved by the remaining members of the Council.

GO GRANTS PROGRAM – Grants Manager Natalia Almeida and Program Director Alan Pomeroy presented a PowerPoint with an update on the GO Grants program. The presentation provided updated data on the impacts that have been made over the past 4 years of the GO Grants Program, including the number of students impacted in total and the number of North Carolina counties impacted so far. Natalia, Alan, and Executive Director Justin Burr made the Council aware of a Beaufort County GO Grant conflict. The GO Grant, which had already been awarded by OHAC, was declined by Beaufort County's Board of Education citing issues with future upkeep of the structure, a greenhouse. Staff elaborated on the communications between the teacher who had applied, the Beaufort County Board



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of Education staff, and the OHAC staff itself. Several Council Members, including Chairman Murphy and Mitchell St. Clair spoke their intentions to continue to work toward making an impact in Beaufort County despite this roadblock. Director Burr then introduced to the Council another recent roadblock that had interfered with a GO Grant awarded in Cherokee County. The grant was ultimately amended to exclude any water activities. WRC's Lisa Hocutt brought up their Agency's recent battles surrounding prohibited field trips to locations with water-related activities, such as the Pechmann Fishing Center. Discussion surrounding these obstacles and how to resolve them followed. Natalia informed the Council of the grants application and proposals that have already been received for the upcoming 2023-2024 school year. Director Burr reminded the Council that staff may, at a later date, introduce a request to increase the funding limits of GO Grants such as overnight trips and structures. This will be a future discussion once more information has been gathered.

PATCH PROGRAM – Noel Griffin, Outreach and Engagement Manager, thanked NC Wildlife Resources Commission for welcoming our organization at their Youth Hunter Education Skills Tournament (YHEST). Noel reminded the Council of upcoming events, such as NC Trail Days.

TRUST FUND REPORT – Fundraising and Finance Manager Layne Randolph presented a PowerPoint with updates on the trust fund and donations and reminded Council members of the new donation system (Go Outdoors North Carolina) being implemented by WRC. Layne also revealed the sponsorship page that has been added to the website.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION/OTHER NEW BUSINESS – Council members were reminded to make attempts to work with contacts in counties yet to be impacted in order to promote the GO Grants Program and encourage teachers to apply for grants. The remaining six counties are Anson, Beaufort, Camden, Caswell, Polk, and Richmond.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING – Chairman Dell Murphy announced that the next meeting will take place virtually on Wednesday July 26th, 2023.

CLOSING REMARKS – Council members thanked staff for their time and effort.

ADJOURN – There being no further business, Chairman Murphy adjourned the meeting at 11:11 am.