

Black Bear Project Advisory Committee Charter

MISSION STATEMENT: The Big Canoe Black Bear Project (BBP) Advisory Committee is dedicated to promoting responsible coexistence between the Big Canoe community and the black bears that inhabit and travel through our mountain environment. Members are expected to take an active role in wildlife education and stewardship while working within the guidelines and direction provided by POA leadership.

PURPOSE: The Black Bear Project Advisory Committee is an educational and advisory body responsible for promoting community awareness, safety, and best practices related to black bears and other wildlife within Big Canoe. While the committee operates independently in its day-to-day activities, it maintains ongoing coordination with the General Manager and Big Canoe Public Safety to ensure alignment with POA policies and community safety priorities.

Key responsibilities include:

- Representing community interests and concerns related to black bear activity.
- Developing and promoting educational materials and wildlife awareness initiatives.
- Informally discussing proposed initiatives with the General Manager as needed, subject to approval.
- Supporting communication efforts that reinforce wildlife safety policies.
- Encouraging responsible behavior by residents, guests, and visitors.

MEMBERSHIP: The BBP Advisory Committee is composed of Big Canoe Property Owners in Good Standing who demonstrate a commitment to the committee's mission. The number of committee members shall be determined by the committee. New members are approved by the Committee Chair(s) and confirmed by the POA Board of Directors. Membership is a privilege, not a right, and is reserved for those who actively support the mission and objectives of the BBP.

QUALIFICATIONS: Committee members must:

- Be Big Canoe property owners in good standing with the POA.
- Exhibit a proactive, cooperative, and constructive attitude when working within the committee and with POA leadership.
- Be willing and able to commit time and effort to actively participate in committee initiatives.
- Work effectively as part of a team, recognizing that the committee functions under the direction of the General Manager and Board of Directors.

- Toxic behavior, disruptive attitudes, or a lack of teamwork will not be tolerated. The Chair(s) have the authority to revoke membership if a member is determined to be a poor fit for the committee or fails to fulfill their responsibilities.

TERMS AND EXPECTATIONS: Members and officers serve two-year terms and may serve consecutive terms unless otherwise determined by the POA Board. Active participation is expected. Members who do not contribute meaningfully to committee initiatives or fail to participate without prior communication may be removed at the discretion of the Chair(s), subject to Board confirmation. Members who are unable to fulfill their responsibilities are expected to notify the Chair(s) to maintain continuity.

REPORTING AUTHORITY: The Black Bear Project Advisory Committee serves as an advisory body and does not have authority to incur expenses or enter into financial commitments on behalf of the POA. Committee members report to the Chair(s), who in turn report to the General Manager.

Operational decisions regarding wildlife management, enforcement, or emergency response remain under the authority of the General Manager, Big Canoe Public Safety, and, when applicable, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

MEETING FREQUENCY AND RESPONSIBILITIES: The committee will meet quarterly, or more frequently at the discretion of the Chair(s), to discuss wildlife activity, review initiatives, and coordinate educational efforts. Minutes will be recorded and shared with committee members and the General Manager. Updates may be published on the POA website as appropriate.

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION:

- Members are expected to actively support educational and outreach efforts.
- Initiatives requiring POA approval must be coordinated with the General Manager.
- Failure to fulfill responsibilities without communication may result in dismissal from the committee.
- The Chair(s) reserve the right to recommend removal of members who negatively impact the effectiveness or integrity of the committee, subject to Board confirmation.

LIAISON AND REPORTING STRUCTURE: The Black Bear Project Advisory Committee reports to the Big Canoe Property Owners Association (POA) Board of Directors through the General Manager.

SELECTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHAIRS

- The Chairs are responsible for upholding the integrity and reputation of the committee through teamwork, active engagement, and a commitment to high standards.

- The (BBP) Advisory Committee shall have a Chair or two Co-Chairs to ensure shared leadership and continuity.
- Chair(s) are selected by committee members to identify suitable successors.
- Chair(s) serve at the discretion of the GM and the POA Board, both of whom have the authority to make leadership adjustments if necessary.
- The Chair(s) are responsible for the overall coordination of the committee
- If concerns arise about a Chair's leadership, committee members may bring their concerns to the GM. The GM, along with the POA Board, has the authority to remove and replace a Chair if necessary.