

**Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park
Minutes of Meeting February 25, 2013**

Present: Harvey & Moe Thompson, Donna & Doug Niemi, Marceia Holland, Shirley Sloan, & Joann Severt

Minutes of last meeting Approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of February 25, 2013 \$8778.17

<u>Credits</u>		<u>Debits</u>	
Memberships	100.00	Food City	17.20
Hunt Food Sales	170.00	(Sausage for Hunt Sales)	
HammockForums.net	800.00	Jerry's Typewriter	60.00
		(300 brochures)	
Recycle aluminum	55.00	Wal Mart (recycled paper)	4.43
		VA Association for Parks	20.00
Total Credits	\$1125.00	Total Debits	\$101.63

Old Business

- Harvey is coordinating an article to be placed in the paper about the opportunity to donate park benches. It is planned to run March 6th and the newspaper will be sent free to all households in the area.
- Donna will check with Joan about ordering more t-shirts in the following colors & sizes: Cream color medium size and Turquoise 3 medium & 3 large size.
- Moe will contact John Canfield about his ideas for the home page photo banner on the website.

Park Manager Time

- A request has been made to FOGH to provide \$250 towards a matching grant with the tourism commission. A card stock informational brochure will be produced highlighting all the district VI parks. Each park in the district has been requested to appeal to their Friends groups to provide this funding. The deer hunt in November was a success. Marceia completed her law enforcement in service training. On April 10th, Jordan Blevins will be transferring to Hungry Mother State Park as Chief Ranger and Joe Walls (currently at Hungry Mother) will be replacing him as Ranger at Grayson Highlands. Due to the Governor's response to the new federal healthcare initiative, all 1500 employees have been reduced to 29 hours per week. This ensures that the state will not be responsible to provide healthcare to these employees. This has created complications with the current 1500 hour employees' number of work hours. Grayson is currently recruiting for seasonal positions (maintenance & contact ranger). Screening for vendors for the Visitor Center has begun. The facing to the office desk area has been renovated. The country store needs a new Dejavoo due to the last one had an electrical surge during a storm rendering it inoperable. The park has experienced about 2½ feet of snow and Harvey hopes the wet season will provide enough water to last through the month of August. The trade show will be held in early March at the Wytheville meeting center. Sixty to eighty vendors are anticipated to participate with a district leadership meeting included. The cost for bulk order gas has increased and there is no provision to increase this in the park's budget. Marceia placed a blog on animal snow tracks found in the park. Grayson Highlands State Park is now a member of the Ashe County Chamber of Commerce.

New Business

- Marceia and Amy Atwood plan to have a VA State Parks informational booth at the "Christmas in July" Festival held in Jefferson, NC. Marceia requested the FOGH provide funds for handheld paper fans with information about Grayson Highlands State Park included. The fans will be distributed to festival participants free of charge as a means to promote Grayson Highlands State Park. The cost per fan is about 24 cents. FOGH board members voted in favor to provide up to \$250 (about 1000 fans) to support this effort. Any remaining fans will be made available for visitors at the Park. The fans will specifically advertise activities and information about Grayson Highlands State Park.
- Kevin sent a message that the Resource room planning has been placed on the back burner. Donna says he has a check for the taxidermy for the possum and has not received a receipt for this yet.
- The Trail Guide Booklet is still in the planning stages. Better photos are needed for this.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2013, 6:30 p.m. at the park office.

*****All FOGH volunteers are asked to please be sure to post volunteer hours. *****