

Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park Minutes of Meeting March 16, 2015

Present: Harvey & Moe Thompson, Rhonda Walls, Marceia Holland and Amelia Hulth

Minutes of last meeting Approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of March 16, 2015 \$6,348.60

Credits		Debits	
Membership	\$20.00	VA Assoc for Parks	\$ 20.00
T-Shirts	32.00	WalMart (totes for trail guides)	28.70
Trail Guides	72.00	Garden of Blue Ridge (ferns)	73.80
Hunt Food Sales	158.00		
Donations (Hammock Forums & donation box)	274.11		
Total Credits	\$556.11	Total Debits	\$122.50

Treasurer Report Presented and Approved

Old Business

- Selecting a media player for the Visitor Center to use for the purpose of playing multi selection educational videos is now on hold until next year while waiting for a determination of the "Visitor Experience Plan."
- Crash pads for bouldering experience will cost around \$250 each. FOGH will fund the cost of two. Moe gave Marceia a check to pay for these. Waiting for communication from Aaron Parlier.
- Hammock Forums donated \$250 after their recent Winter Weekend experience at the Park.
- Options for a new Friends' tent are still being investigated.
- VAFP Spring meeting will be held April 16-18, 2015 at Fairy Stone State Park and the Fall meeting will be held September 24-26, 2015 at Oconeechee State Park. No one from the Park or Friends' group is able to attend.

Park Manager Time

Eight seasonal employees, including an interpreter will be hired. The Park may have a prescribed burn in April. Twelve horse stalls have been converted to 6 larger style stalls ("double stall" charges will be \$12 vs \$9 for the smaller size). Drink machines will be changing from Pepsi products to Coke products. There will be a new fee structure for residents and non residents. Grayson is one of the pilot parks providing "site specific" sites which will cost an additional \$3/per night. The total of Your Comments Count responses for the 2014 year was 628, placing Grayson 11th in the state for the year end. The 1985 dump truck is being converted from an automatic to a manual. The interpretive van, used for canoe trip transportation, is being painted and seats replaced. According to the VA Outdoor Survey Plan, the two most recreational use activities are 1) Hiking and 2) Camping. The AT Conservancy is putting together a "Planning Your Hike in the Mt. Rogers High Country" educational tool to be available online in an attempt to educate the public PRIOR to their leaving home. The first Run Bum race will be held at Grayson on April 18th.

New Business

- Amelia requests the FOGH provide another means of purchasing items needed for the Park events & programs. Previously, the treasurer reimbursed with a check when receipts were submitted. Due to some of the high cost events it has been suggested FOGH look into a refillable card that could be used. Moe will look into this as Donna is away.
- The Department of Game & Inland Fisheries provided a recently killed Barred Owl specimen to the Park. FOGH will pay for the cost of taxidermy for this.
- Amelia asked about protocol for FOGH offering scholarships for the JR and Adventure Ranger programs. She has distributed fliers indicating that financial assistance is available which she copied from previous years' fliers of advertising the programs. She states that she has already had inquiries about this. FOGH members present discussed and suggested a one paragraph request for the scholarship be provided by the individual indicating why they wanted to attend the program & the need for scholarship. Amelia will provide these requests to FOGH members at our next meeting for review and determination of those approved.
- The Easter Eggstravaganza will be held April 4th follow by a Wild Pony Photography program. Moe gave Amelia a check for the purchase of items needed for the Easter event.

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