

Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park

Minutes of Meeting March 20, 2017

Present: Harvey & Moe Thompson, Tommie Kennedy, Shirley Sloan-Babb, & JoAnn Severt, Rhonda Walls, & Evelyn Halsey

Minutes approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of March 20, 2017 \$5902.40

Total Credits \$1440.40

Total Debits \$ 379.28

Balance October 24, 2016 \$4841.28

Treasurer Report Presented & Approved

Old Business

- Moe will check with John Canfield about purchase of a separate battery backup for the computer that keeps the Weather Station running.
- Hunt: Muzzle loader November 6 & 7, 2017 & Firearms November 20 & 21, 2017

Park Manager Time

The park is currently recruiting for 1500 hour and seasonal staff with 7-10 positions open. All must have background checks. Amelia has taken a permanent position at Kentucky State Parks. Purchasing any item for the park has become more difficult due to the EVA process now required. Annual Pass and Customer refunds will all be conducted via online process. There are now only 2 types of annual passes (Senior 1 year \$36 for all parks and Naturally Yours \$66). All previous lifetime passes will be honored. Parking is \$5 in state and \$7 out of state. Visitation at the park has increased tremendously. In February 2016 there were 2, 046 visitors compared to 4,000 in February 2017! Rescues have increased 100% also. A prescribed burn was conducted at the Sugarlands Overlook. Cutting and spraying is needed as a follow-up to this procedure. A prescribed burn at the Big Spring Bog and the field behind the Chief Ranger house are still planned. All Friends groups and interested persons are invited to the D3 Meeting to be held on April 1st at the Southwest VA Museum from 10:30 – 2:30. Currently Grayson Highlands has 9 representatives planning to attend. The Blue Ridge Relay has submitted their special use permit and would like to have the FOGH members again volunteer. Ken will be arriving at 3:30 a.m. on September 8th. The Puckett memorial has been placed at Sugarlands Overlook. The observation binocular funded by the Roundup Program has been placed. Roy Kilby will be honored at a retirement luncheon on March 29th. At the recent Wayne C meeting, it was announced that \$160,000 in scholarships have been awarded in the past 20 years. This year 23 individuals and 13 groups have applied for \$35,000 in scholarships. Wayne has played every Sunday of Memorial Day and Labor Day weekend since Harvey has been at the park.

New Business

- Roy's retirement party will be March 29th beginning at 11:00 a.m. Rhonda has reserved 8 tables and chairs to be borrowed from the rescue squad. The FOGH will purchase a bench in honor of Roy's 42 years of service. The wording for the plaque will state: In Honor of Roy B Kilby; 42 Years of Service; April 1, 2017
- YCC will be at Grayson Highlands July 23rd through August 12th. The Friends will provide a Welcome Dinner. Details to be decided at a later date.
- Moe will look into renewal of Microsoft Office for the FOGH seasonal interpreter computer. The current license expires April 1, 2017

Next meeting will be held April 24, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the office.