

**Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park
Minutes of Meeting April 13, 2015**

Present: Harvey & Moe Thompson, Rhonda Walls, Donna & Doug Niemi, Shirley Sloan-Babb, JoAnn Severt, Marceia Holland and Amelia Hulth

Minutes of last meeting Approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of April 13, 2015 \$7358.32

Credits		Debits	
Membership	\$ 25.00	Wal-Mart (Visa Card for interpretive programs)	\$504.94
NEEF Grant	2000.00	USPS, Wal-Mart (office supplies)	15.71
		John Canfield (Web Master, domain name)	100.00
deposit slips)	37.61	Grayson National Bank (checks &	
		Wal-Mart (Easter event supplies)	66.19
		Lowes (Bat Box supplies)	172.15
		Lotoons, Salesfreak (milkweed balls)	118.68
Total Credits	\$2025.00	Total Debits	\$1015.28

Treasurer Report Presented and Approved

Old Business

- Crash pads for bouldering experience have been ordered & will cost around \$250 each. FOGH will fund the cost of two. Marceia has a FOGH check to pay for these.
- FOGH will postpone purchase of a Friend's tent as it may no longer be needed.
- The JR & Adventure Ranger requests for financial assistance will be available at our May meeting. Currently, the JR ranger program is filled.
- The sleeping bags have been ordered and paid with funds from the NEEF grant, sponsored by Public Lands Every Day Grant and Toyota, USA. Amelia requested additional gift cards in the amount of \$750 to continue with online purchases for the special grant sponsored events.
- Twenty persons participated in the Pony Photography Hike.
- The Barred Owl specimen is not ready at this time. FOGH will provide payment once it is completed.

Park Manager Time

The last seasonal employees have been hired. The Spring Park Manager meeting will be held April 20-22; Assistants will also attend. The Run Bum Race will be held this weekend with 120 currently registered. Merchandise for resale is at \$126,000 with a year-end estimate of \$153,000. Parking, camping & merchandise income for March is \$22,529 with \$850 in sales this weekend. The park is a little behind with the average person spending \$3.53 per visit. There have been extreme swings in temperatures this past month. In the ladies shower of the Chestnut Ridge restroom facility a broken water pipe was discovered in a very difficult access area. Park employees were able to make the repair.

New Business

- The park is receiving calls about the horse trails being closed. This is not the trails at Grayson; it is the non-designated pony created trails in the Mt. Rogers Recreational Area that are being closed.
- FOGH received notification that we are in compliance of the VA Solicitation of Contribution Law (57-49). Registration is through November 15, 2015. Moe will call to learn more about process of renewal.
- Moe will order Friends Stationary & 300 Membership brochures.
- Shirley will compose an announcement about the FOGH group, laminate & post in various locations in town, West Jefferson & Independence as an attempt to gain new members.
- Amelia will attend the Naturalist Rally hosted by the Blue Ridge Discovery Group. FOGH members stated this is not the place for membership recruitment as this event is sponsored by another organization and not meant for others to overshadow their efforts.
- Moe has been approved up to \$150 for gift purchase for membership renewals celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Park. She will watch for specials to be offered with the goal of purchasing something that is flat & easily mailed.
- Moe will contact NEEF to advise of changes in events. She will also compose an announcement from the FOGH group about the grant award.
- Donna will be stepping down as Treasurer & will assist with the transition phase. Shirley, Kenny & Rhonda have offered to assist with this.
- Donna has ordered milkweed seed balls for establishment of additional Monarch Butterfly habitat near the current wildflower garden. Cost is \$1/each. She will make a second order for planting in the open field on the Rock House Ridge trail. It will take several years to determine successful creation of the habitat.

- The Board of Directors will need at least three persons listed on the September renewal with the SCC. Suggested names are: Donna, Don, Rhonda, Gail & Gerald.

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