

**Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park
Minutes of Meeting March 18, 2013**

Present: Harvey & Moe Thompson, Donna Niemi, & Shirley Sloan
Minutes of last meeting Approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of March 18, 2013 \$8413.17

Credits			Debits
Memberships	10.00	Mike's Taxidermy (Opossum for VC Resource Cntr)	\$275.00
		John Canfield (Web master services)	100.00
Total Credits	\$10.00	Total Debits	\$375.00

Old Business

- ◆ A very nice article was placed in the paper about the opportunity to donate park benches. It ran March 6th and the newspaper sent free papers to all households in the area.
- Joan is working on ordering more t-shirts.
- John Canfield contacted Moe about his ideas for the home page photo banner on the website. His idea is a panorama view from an appropriate vantage point with some ponies (and the Friends logo) Photo shopped somewhere in the foreground. He has software that can 'stitch' photos together and says it is quite good. He will need a series of pictures that are taken from one position; ideally a camera on a tripod moved a couple of inches with each picture taken. The images should be saved in the camera in high resolution TIFF format (not jpeg) for best quality. He will also like some good high resolution pony pictures. We will need to work on this as the weather and conditions permit.
- Donna & Shirley have been working on the Trail guide booklet. Mikki Haas from Oak Hill Academy is assisting with the computer publishing program. Moe will send Shirley a digital copy of the Friends' Logo & digital copies of the Friends Brochure & application. Moe will also check with the printing company to check what format they are able to use. Donna & Shirley will continue to work on this and hope to have it ready for print by May.
- Marceia was not present at our meeting & we do not have any further information about FOGH providing the funds for handheld paper fans with information about Grayson Highlands State Park included.

Park Manager Time

There has been no further information regarding the request for FOGH to provide \$250 towards a matching grant with the tourism commission. Primitive camping had 10 sites utilized this past weekend. Due to the weather, participation is low. A through hiker called emergency 911 because his boots became soaked and then froze overnight. A spring break group planned to work at the park, but due to the snow, they went hiking instead. There were 68 backpackers during the month of February. This number is down from previous years. Marceia attended the Volunteer Management Worker training. Tornado training was held with staff at the park. Kevin picked up the opossum for the resource room. Blue Ridge Endurance submitted their application for the race on September 6th. Theresa plans to work the contact station for this as 1400 runners are anticipated. This past two weeks, Hannah & Shirley have been bar coding and folding the newly arrived t-shirt merchandise. The park has had two articles in the newspaper recently (memorial bench & through hiker that had frozen boots wearing plastic bags over two pair of socks with crocks!). The new Wilburn Ridge Pony signs have been installed. Harvey found many errors on the CARS report. The Procurement in Division of Administration is the source of most of these errors. Johnny Finch (VAFP) sent Harvey a thank you for following through with the newspaper article about the memorial bench program. Currently there have only been three benches donated, one at Grayson Highlands & two at Hungry Mother.

New Business

- ◆ Motion made & seconded for FOGH to donate a park bench (discount cost \$900) for the park.
Wording to read as: line 1 – Donated By; line 2 – Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park; line

3 – 2013. Moe will send out an email vote due to not all executive board members present at this meeting.

- ◆ Donna shared that Kevin would like to commission Jackson Cunningham to build a banjo for the Mountain Music area of the visitor center. The cost is estimated to be \$1500. Moe will send out an email vote due to not all executive board members present at this meeting. FOGH will verify cost & set a time deadline for completion of this project.
- ◆ Donna shared that Theresa is interested in FOGH providing funds for the purchase of a popcorn machine to be used in the visitor center. Cost is \$180. Moe will send out an email vote due to not all executive board members present at this meeting.
- ◆ A representative from Aurora that sells stuffed animals to the park gave Theresa an extra large stuffed pony. Theresa will sell raffle tickets for FOGH and use the pony as a prize. Friends members will not be responsible for selling tickets. Moe will send a thank you for this.
- ◆ The sound system equipment at the amphitheater may need some upgrading. Kevin is to report back to FOGH on this.
- ◆ The Virginia Association for Parks spring meeting will be held April 11-13th. Rhonda is registered & will be representing FOGH at this meeting.
- ◆ The annual Easter Egg hunt will be held March 30th. Kevin has ordered the eggs for this. Moe needs him to let her know the information so she can put it on the FOGH website.
- ◆ The Halloween program will need to be changed to include educational programming. Friends' members do not want to be responsible as host for this due to insurance and man power costs.
- ◆ There will be no meeting April 15, 2013 due to member scheduling conflicts.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2013, 7:00 p.m. at the park office.

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