

**Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park  
Minutes of Meeting May 21, 2012**

Present: Rhonda Walls, Harvey & Moe Thompson, Donna Niemi, and Marecia Holland

**Minutes of last meeting** Approved

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance as of May 21, 2012

<u>Credits</u>			<u>Debits</u>
	\$0.00	Lowe's (Fountain for VC)	\$219.00
		Wal-Mart (Paint for VC)	11.01
		Graphic Traffic (Signs)	160.00
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>\$309.01</b>

Approved as presented

**Old Business**

- Kids in Parks Track Trail dedication was held Saturday, May 19th with approximately 30 participants. Representatives from Blue Ridge Pkwy, Nat'l Park Service and BCBS of NC attended. Finger foods and drinks were provided by the Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park. Rhonda and Moe assisted with the refreshments.
- The rain barrels have been reinstalled for the season.
- In honor of Earth Day, Donna, Kevin & boy scouts put trail markers back up that had loosened on Rhododendron Trail.
- Roy Stanley went into the high country and displaced illegal fire rings and cleaned up the surrounding area.
- Rehabilitation Trail signs from Graphic Traffic in Galax were placed along the border of the AT trail to discourage hikers from walking off trail.
- FOGH voted to assist GHSP through Richmond office in acquisition of a grant toward horse trail maintenance/improvements. FOGH will be the go between for this grant, but does not wish to be the actual grant writer. Current active FOGH members do not have the time to invest in the actual requisition of the grant.
- Donna will look into purchasing a submersible booster pump for the rain barrel at the Visitor Center.

**Park Manager Time**

- Harvey gave Donna \$212 and some change for recycled metal from shop (\$152), thank you donation to Harvey for returning a misplaced item by a park guest(\$30) , and Friends Donation box (\$30 and change).
- Troop 990 from Winston Salem cleaned leaves out of the picnic area roadway. The group consisted of 18 youth and 5 adults.
- There are 15 consignment vendors with merchandise placed at the Visitor Center.
- The park is receiving many positive comments about the newly renovated "resource room."

- Kaye Henderson was mentioned on the VA Outdoors blog as being a “resident artist” at the park.
- Trail Dynamics will begin \$57,900 of horse trail improvements on June 20<sup>th</sup>.
- The Country Store now has a water source established for staff use in making coffee, etc.
- Harvey has recertified his waterworks license.
- All park water samples are acceptable.
- The maintenance crew has worked hard to have the grounds looking great.
- Scott Jackson-Ricketts with the Blue Ridge Discovery Center lead a group of 18 persons in a program titled AT Quest designed for environmental education and teacher recertification credits.
- Hickory Ridge Campground is staying full, however Chestnut Hollow has been empty/slow (possibly due to cost of gas & hauling horses).
- Jordan assisted with a prescribed burn of 90 acres at Natural Tunnel.
- Electric upgrade at Host site in Chestnut Hollow campground is completed.
- Nineteen seasonal staff have been hired.
- All staff attended a “Dispute Resolution” meeting at Hungry Mother State Park.
- Konnarock Crew of 24 volunteers placed 31 locust poles and rock steps along Quebec Branch near the AT.
- Wayne C and Jordan have a scheduled time spot for June 11<sup>th</sup> at noon on WCYB TV station to highlight the upcoming Guitar Competition and Music Festival.
- The educational sign for the Ponies is still in the planning stages.
- Nathan created a brochure for the “Wild Pony Club” for ages 3-12.
- The Fall Festival will have a Post Office vendor selling a collector’s stamp this year. Kayla Delp was the design winner from a contest held at the local schools.

### **New Business**

- The Friends of Grayson Highlands has a satisfactory inventory of FOGH t-shirts, so we will hold off on any further orders at this time.
- All FOGH volunteers are asked to please be sure to post volunteer hours.
- Virginia Association For Parks (VAFP) announced procedures for purchasing a memorial bench at the Spring Annual meeting. Since that time, the details are being reconsidered by VAFP and the VSP director. Rhonda Walls is interested in donating the funds for a memorial bench at Grayson when the details are finalized.
- FOGH volunteers will provide refreshments on Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup> during Wayne C’s musical entertainment. Those who are able to serve are asked to arrive by 7:30. Music starts at 8:00.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2012 7:00 p.m. at the park office. \*\*\*Note date changed from June 20<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>.