

## Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park Minutes of Meeting May 20, 2013

Present: Harvey & Moe Thompson, Doug & Donna Niemi, Rhonda Walls, Marceia Holland, Shirley Sloan-Babb, & Joann Severt  
Minutes of last meeting Approved

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance as of May 20, 2013 \$6808.47

Credits		Debits
Donations	32.72	VA Association for Parks (Memorial Bench) 900.00
		Oriental Trading Co. (Easter Egg Hunt) 113.50
		Amazon (Popcorn popper & supplies) 237.25
		Screen Freaks (Friends' T-Shirts) 132.00
		Lowe' & Tractor Supply (soil for raised flower beds) 119.18
		Gardens of the Blue Ridge, Indoor Farms, Wal Mart (Flower plants) 135.49
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>\$32.72</b>	<b>Total Debits</b> \$1637.42

### Old Business

- ◆ Joan Collins ordered 12 additional t-shirts for the Friends group to sell
- ◆ John Canfield would like to update the home page of the website. He needs a series of three photos in high resolution format TIFF format (not jpeg) for best quality. He will also like some good high resolution pony pictures. Julie will work on this as the weather and conditions permit. Once we send the photos, John can then begin his work.
- ◆ The Trail Guide is still a work in progress. Donna & Shirley think it may cost more than originally expected, possibly \$2.60 per booklet. Shirley went to West Jefferson, NC and was quoted \$2100. Once the digital file is complete, we will then look into quotes for the work.
- ◆ Marceia has not ordered the fan with Grayson Highlands State Park advertising to be given as a promotional item to visitors attending the "Christmas In July." She will provide the invoice to the Friends group once this has been addressed. Friends' group approved up to \$250 for this project.
- ◆ The park bench that FOGH donated through the VA Association of Parks has been installed at the office area near the Friends' wildflower garden. Visitors have been seen enjoying it already.
- ◆ The popcorn popper has arrived.
- ◆ The Friends' group has commissioned Jackson Cunningham to build a banjo for the Mountain Music area of the visitor center. The cost is estimated to be \$1500 & the Friends' group has a deadline for completion by the Fall Festival of 2013.
- ◆ Rhonda attended the VAFP (VA Association for Parks) meeting held at Douthat State Park in April. She shared the Pamplin research on private versus public campground competition. She also met with Senator Carrico and requested his support for parks.
- ◆ Joan Collins has offered that she can help with the Friends table during the Wayne C Festival. Doug will also be available.
- ◆ Directives from Richmond require all park programs include educational aspects. This includes the Halloween Hayride program held in October.

### Park Manager Time

Jordan Blevins is now at Hungry Mother and Joe Walls is now at Grayson Highlands. Kevin Kelley resigned May 9<sup>th</sup>, and has a new baby "Zoe." The new wall is up in the park office. A bell is now needed for the entrance door to alert staff working in the back that a visitor has entered. Marceia and Harvey are switching shifts to cover the park due to now short of staff. The High Pointers Club is interested in purchasing a VAFP bench. There are not many YCC (Your Comments Count) cards in. The interior of the water tank in the campground has been repainted. The park has had 6.63 inches of rain and May has been a very rainy month. It is hoped that Memorial Day weekend will have good weather. Harvey's goal for merchandise for resale is \$156,000 ending June 30<sup>th</sup>. As of May 20<sup>th</sup> the park is currently at \$101,850. The Spencer cabin is in need of stabilization and is estimated to cost \$25,000. Staff orientation was held May 4<sup>th</sup>. Union workers in the state of Virginia are being encouraged to volunteer their services at Virginia State Parks. The two new park signs about the ponies on the

mountain have been installed. Aaron is working on the trail interpretive signs for the new bouldering trail named "Split Rock - Haw Flats Trail."

### **New Business**

- ◆ Master Naturalist project (maybe on Wilson Creek Trail) is being considered.
- ◆ The Friends' group will not provide food or drinks during the Wayne C Memorial Day music program being held at the amphitheater. Donations for offering this have been down recently and the Friends' members currently do not have the time resources to offer this to the public.
- ◆ The Friends' group informed Julie, park interpreter, that our group is available to support park programs. She is interested in purchasing nets and water survey kits for a program to be held this summer. She has been advised that \$1,000 has been earmarked for programs and thus far \$113 has been used (Easter Egg hunt).
- ◆ The Friends' purchase of solar lights that can be pulled up after use has been suggested for use during the Halloween program if this program continues.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2013, 7:00 p.m. at the park office.

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