

**Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park
Minutes of Meeting June 19, 2017**

Present: Harvey & Moe Thompson, Tommie Kennedy, Shirley Sloan-Babb, JoAnn Severt, Rhonda Walls, Evelyn Halsey, Andrew Stern, June Barnes, Olivia Smith, & Ashleigh Hillen

Minutes approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of June 19, 2017 \$6,323.47

Total Credits \$ 1,843.67

Total Debits \$ 285.10

Balance May 15, 2017 \$ 4,764.90

Treasurer Report Presented & Approved

Old Business

- Moe has discussed the purchase of a battery backup with John Canfield & it has been determined that a battery backup, also known as an uninterruptible power supply (or UPS) of 1500VA power capacity will be the best size due to the numerous and lengthy power outages experienced at the park. FOGH approved Moe make arrangements to purchase one of this capacity.
- YCC male group will be at Grayson Highlands July 23rd through August 12th. The Friends will provide a Welcome Dinner to include BBQ, buns, Cole slaw, chips, drinks & cake (Rhonda will pick up). Time of event will be confirmed later. The date will be Sunday, July 23rd.
- The Blue Ridge Relay will be held September 8, 2017. The Friends of Grayson have been asked to assist with the event. Rhonda, JoAnn, Evelyn & Moe will assist with this.
- Purchase of solar lights for the flagpoles at the office and visitor center were approved with approximate cost of \$300 plus shipping. Ordering has not taken place yet.
- Employee and volunteer appreciation lunch is scheduled for July 14th from 11:30 – 1:00. Invitation flyers have been posted. Lunch will include Pizza (4 plain & 8 pepperoni – Moe will pick up); Veggie Tray, Drinks & cupcakes (Rhonda will pick up).
- JR Ranger (ages 5-7) July 3-5 & July 10-12; (ages 8-10) June 26-28 & July 17-19 and Adventure Ranger (ages 11 & up) July 24-27. The July 31-Aug 3 program has been cancelled due to only one attendee signing up & this person has rescheduled to the earlier date.

Park Manager Time

Although there was much rain, the Wayne C Festival was a success & the crowd stayed. There were 309 paid vehicles and 759 persons paid the \$20 festival fee. The Wayne C Foundation provided \$38,000 in scholarships and raised \$21,900 with the guitar raffle. There are ruts and turf damage in the picnic area due to the wet ground and continued rain. The park continues to have record attendance on weekends. Merchandise for resale is approximately \$205,000. Olivia's last day will be August 11th. Construction of Yurts will begin June 23rd. Due to increased bear activity, there are to be no galvanized cans left out. Bear proof cans have been requisitioned with each one costing approximately \$700. Due to the heavy rains and runoff, Harvey predicts the water supply will be low by the 3rd week of July causing water cutbacks in the campground. Matt's last day will be Wednesday, July 5th.

New Business

- FOGH approved funds of \$30 requested by Ashleigh for a project to expand and improve on the herb garden project. Moe will donate Echinacea plants from her garden. Ashleigh plans to seed save with the herbs that will not reseed and survive through the winter.
- A Barn Dance is planned for July 9th from 7-9 pm. FOGH approved \$20 towards lemonade & cookies. Olivia will purchase these items.
- The Great American Campout will be held June 24th. Participants will utilize the camping equipment donated via the FOGH. Numerous interpretive events will take place including a cooking workshop. FOGH approved the cost of \$55 towards this event.

Next meeting will be held July 14, 2017 directly after the Employee/Volunteer luncheon in the Picnic Area

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