

Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park Minutes of Meeting June 25, 2012

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

Minutes of last meeting Approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of June 25, 2012 \$8088.00

<u>Credits</u>		<u>Debits</u>	
Scrap metal recycled	\$ 152.00	WalMart, Wildseed Farms, Lowes,	\$195.86
Donations	84.88	Southern States, Indoor Farms Gardens	
Refreshment Donations	70.95	of the Blue Ridge (seeds, soil, plants,	
Plant sales	5.00	hose hangar)	
Wayne Festival	1,000.00	US Postal Service	56.00
T-shirt sales	72.00	(PO Box rental)	
		WalMart (Refreshments for Nat'l	37.26
		Kids to Parks Day)	
		Treasurer of VA	180.70
		(electrical wire)	
Total Credits	\$1384.83	Total Debits	\$469.82

Annual Budget Report & proposed Budget for 2012-2013 presented
Approved all reports as presented

Old Business

- FOGH confirmed that Moe is the designated contact person to assist GHSP through Richmond office in acquisition of a grant toward horse trail maintenance/improvements. The exact project is yet to be decided. Rhonda has offered to provide an educational program about horse trail etiquette and safety for community involvement. This will be in addition to actual trail maintenance & improvements.
- The decision to purchase a submersible booster pump for the rain barrel at the Visitor Center has been reconsidered. Another water source will be available so the pump is no longer necessary.
- A new faucet is needed at the wildflower garden near the office.
- Donations of \$70 were collected during the Wayne C, May 27th musical entertainment. It was noticed that several of those enjoying the refreshments did not offer a donation.
- All FOGH volunteers are asked to please be sure to post volunteer hours.
- Virginia Association For Parks (VAFP) has not confirmed details for purchasing memorial benches or making other large donations. Rhonda Walls is still interested in donating the funds for a memorial bench at Grayson when the details are determined.
- Due to budget cutbacks, a retired post office employee may be needed to provide the special cancellation stamp during the Fall Festival.
- \$2,000 of the FOGH balance is earmarked for purchases for the resource room in the Visitor Center.

Park Manager Time

- Trail Dynamics is 60 – 70% complete on horse trail improvements.
- Water volume at Hickory Ridge Campground is running low. Moe has alert on FOGH website. Persons making reservations are to be notified of this also and alert is to be placed on the Grayson Highlands DCR website. It is estimated that 10 gallons of water per day/per visitor are used.
- The hydro pneumatic tanks have passed inspection.

- There were 18 participants on the most recent canoe trip. One of those gave a \$30 donation in recognition of Aaron and Nathan. The registration process needs to be more organized. They were running behind schedule and payment method did not run smoothly.
- A metal bar has been placed on the dumpster in the campground as a bear deterrent. The trap is still in place, but there have not been any sightings since Memorial Day weekend.
- There is a 7% increase in backpackers since last year.
- The sewage lift pump at the picnic area has been installed. There were no problems with this during the Wayne C festival.
- Jordan started basic training June 18th.
- Merchandise for resale is 3% higher than predicted. Total budget is overspent by 6-8%, but will be recouped with sales in the next fiscal year.
- There were 3,981 visitors the day of the Wayne C festival. A total of \$6,513 in merchandise was sold that day.
- The Wayne C group brought in \$30,000. A guitar made by Jane Henderson was raffled that day also.
- The Rugby Rescue squad sold chicken dinners as requested by Wayne; however the advertisements suggested those coming “bring a picnic lunch.” The squad ended up \$200 in the red and with a very large amount of chicken dinners unsold.
- Wayne C and Jordan appeared June 11th at noon on WCYB TV station. They did not play, but did highlight the Guitar Competition and Music Festival.
- RFD TV visited the park this week to film horse trail riders for their “Best of America by Horseback” program. RFD TV is a network station with rural America in mind and exclusive programs dedicated to the horse owner and horse lover. The program “Best of America by Horseback” featuring Grayson Highlands State Park will be aired August 24. Show times are Fridays, at 12:30 pm and 10:30 pm and Sundays at midnight.

New Business

- An engraving will be purchased recognizing Kaye Henderson as the artist of the mural paintings in the Visitor Center. FOGH will present this to her during the staff volunteer appreciation luncheon. It will be placed on the wall by the mural. Moe is to order the engraving and have it ready for presentation.
- Staff and volunteer appreciation lunch will be held Wednesday, August 1st, from 11:30 -12:30 in the picnic area, shelter #1. Rhonda will look into purchasing BBQ from the rescue squad. Lunch will include BBQ, buns, slaw, chips and lemonade. Members will supply desserts. Approximately 30 persons will be served.
- Doug mentioned Aaron Parlier’s Bouldering book is very impressive and lists many sites within Grayson Highlands State Park.
- A committee of Shirley, Kevin & Marceia was established to investigate cost of equipment to provide a video program in the resource room. One video might include a power point on poisonous plants that Aaron has put together. Options might include a continuous feed and eventual touch screen capability.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2012 7:00 p.m. at the park office