

**Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park  
Minutes of Meeting June 17, 2013**

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance as of June 17, 2013 \$7750.47

Credits		Debits	
Wayne Henderson Festival	\$1000.00	USPS Box Rental	\$58.00
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>\$1000.00</b>	<b>Total Debits</b>	<b>\$58.00</b>

Budget & Treasurer Report Presented and Approved

**Old Business**

- Joan Collins & Doug Niemi helped with the Friends table during the Wayne C Festival. Two t-shirts were sold and a previous member gave a sponsor donation.
- Julie has not completed the photos to provide John Canfield for the web site 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. Once we send the photos, John can then begin his work.
- Work on the Trail Guide continues. Once the digital file is complete, we will then look into quotes for the work.
- Marceia has ordered the fans promoting Grayson Highlands State Park to be given as freebies during the "Christmas in July." She does not have an invoice yet, but will get it to Donna for payment once it arrives. Friends' group approved up to \$250 for this project.
- The Friends' group requested that Marceia, as new contact with Jackson Cunningham, remind him the deadline for completion of the commissioned banjo is no later than the Friday prior to the Fall Festival (September 27, 2013).

**Park Manager Time**

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Wayne C Henderson Music Festival (WCHMF) was an overall success with a high visitor count of 2,162 at the event including all the volunteers (100 on the WCHMF committee). There were approximately 1,740 paying the \$15.00 admission fee. The park had 709 vehicles resulting in \$2,127 in parking revenue. Two vendors served food (hot dogs, spiral potatoes, hamburgers and pork BBQ). There was also a vendor serving hand dipped ice cream. The food vending continues to be a problem with some visitors standing in line for more than 2 hours. A Henderson guitar was raffled, producing \$13,200 to be used for future scholarships. Total attendance in the park for the day was 4,003. The weather was beautiful. Dave Collett, District Manager and HM Chief Ranger Jordon Blevins assisted with law enforcement support. Harvey received many compliments about the diverse music groups and the overall condition of the park. Harvey estimates the one day event grossed at least \$45,000.

The YCC (your comments count) responses seem to be low again this month. The park continues to have a difficult time getting the wood shavings for the horse stalls. Harvey had to assist two other maintenance staff with mucking 26 stalls on the Sunday after the Wayne C Festival. Long time Friends' member, Bill Shearer, stopped by the office and contributed a \$100 check to the group.

**New Business**

- Doug reported the Blue Ridge Relay (BRR) will be held September 6, 2013. BRR would like a total of four volunteers from the Friends' group to assist. Volunteers are needed beginning at 5:00 a.m. Doug & Donna will be unable to help this year. Rhonda, Moe & Joann will help with this. Rhonda will ask Sue Weaver if she can help too.
- Evalynn Halsey has some paintings she would like to donate for a raffle to help raise money for the Friends group. They are two different sizes and she is interested in two separate raffles for this during the Fall Festival. Due the complexities of the raffle, the Friends group is not ready to commit to this at this time.

- Moe will send a letter requesting that future WCHMF donation checks be made payable to “The Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park.” Due to the increase of income that the Wayne C Festival brings, it has been requested that Moe also inquire if the WCHMF will be willing to increase their donation amount to the Friends’ group.
- The Friends group will host a ribbon cutting & book signing to dedicate the new hiking and bouldering trail (Split Rock – Haw Flats Trail) on July 27, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. Community leaders and politicians will be invited to attend. Aaron will compose a letter about the trail and event so the Friends can send invitations. It is hoped that trail signs can be ordered and in place prior to the event. This will take place rain or shine. The Friends’ will provide drinks and cake to those who attend.
- The Friends will host the staff & volunteer appreciation lunch on Wednesday, August 7, 2013. Rhonda will be available to assist with this. Details of location and food will be completed at our next Friends meeting in July.
- Doug mentioned that while hiking, he noticed the Listening Rock Trail & Cabin Creek Trail needed more blazing.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2013, 7:00 p.m. at the park office.

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