

Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park Minutes of Meeting July 15, 2013

Present: Harvey & Moe Thompson, Donna & Doug Niemi, Rhonda Walls, Shirley Sloan-Babb, Aaron Parlier, Julie Slater, Adam Daniel & JoAnn Severt

Minutes of last meeting Approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of July 20, 2013 \$5750.26

Credits		Debits	
Membership	505.00	Ingles, WalMart (Junior & Adventure Ranger Program)	\$180.91
Donations	115.79	Lowes, WalMart (Children's Programs)	102.02
T-shirt sales	80.00	Jackson Cunningham (Handmade Banjo for Resource Room)	1500.00
		Family Tees & Sweats (36 hoodies for park staff)	806.20
		Lowes, WalMart, Shooting Star Nursery, High Meadow Nursery (flowers, garden supplies)	91.46
		Grayson National Bank (deposit slips)	12.50
		WalMart (office supplies)	7.91
Total Credits	\$700.79	Total Debits	\$2701.00

Treasurer Report Presented and Approved

Old Business

- Julie took the photos for the web site and sent John Canfield. He still needs some good high resolution pony pictures. Once he has all the photos, he can then begin his work.
- Donna took the Trail Guide to A&B printing. They will make adjustment to the current format of the Friends' logo to be used in Publisher. Five hundred copies of the trail guide will be made at a cost of \$2.26 per guide. It is suggested the guide be sold for one dollar to help recoup some of the cost & prevent persons from taking one if they really do not intend to use it. Several copies of the cover page will be laminated for use as display for "trail guides for sale."
- Marceia ordered 1000 fans due to the cost was \$100 more for 500 additional fans. The fans were used to promote Grayson Highlands State Park and given as freebies during the "Christmas in July." The weather was not as hot as previously anticipated so there are plenty of fans to perhaps use again next year. The wording on the fans is generic & allows them to be used year after year.
- Jackson Cunningham completed construction of the commissioned banjo for the resource room. It is beautiful. Donna has sent the payment of \$1500 and Moe will send a thank you for his work.
- Blue Ridge Relay (BRR) will be held September 6, 2013. BRR would like a total of four volunteers from the Friends' group to assist in addition to a staff member in the contact station. Volunteers are needed beginning at 5:00 a.m. Rhonda, Moe & Joann will help with this. Rhonda will ask Sue Weaver if she can help too. Shirley Sloan-Babb will be a back up for help if one of the four is not able to make it. She has to open the Visitor Center at 10:00 and most of the volunteer work should be completed by then.
- 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 have been invited to attend (Rhonda sent a letter & included the letter from Aaron). This will take place rain or shine. The Friends' will provide drinks and 3 cakes to those who attend (Leftover cake can be frozen for use during the staff & volunteer appreciation luncheon). Aaron has also invited bouldering groups and sent out information on Facebook. Aaron will supply the "ribbon" for the ribbon cutting – a worn bouldering rope (well frayed to assist the cutting). Additional books have been ordered for his book signing.
- Moe will resend the letter inquiring if the WCHMF will be willing to increase their donation amount to the Friends' group due to the increase of income that the Wayne C Festival brings. It was sent to an old address and returned. Moe will send directly to Wayne C and request he present to the committee.

- The Friends will host the staff & volunteer appreciation lunch on Wednesday, August 7, 2013. The Friends will provide BBQ, Cole slaw, buns, beans and lemonade for the drinks. Donna will look into purchasing recycle cups. Approximately 45 persons are expected to attend.
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Park Manager Time

The gospel sing had 30 paying attendees with a cost of \$5 for admission. The cost to rent a port a potty was \$180 so the event was not very successful. Scott Buchanan organized the gospel singing and the Lansing Fire Department provided the food vending. Grayson National Bank participated as a supporter. The park has experienced more rain than normal (about 13 inches more). Lightening hit in the campground and 47 campers were without power due to this. The procurement officer in Richmond will be resigning July 24th and there is much turn over in the Richmond office. There is no approved budget yet. The park has had its challenges, including acquiring wood shavings for the Horse campground. The park is using a source in Sugar Grove for this due to Independence Lumber had a fire. Harvey takes 12 water samples each quarter at a cost of \$427.

New Business

- Julie requested permission to purchase a MP3 player for use with the bird programs.
- Motion made and approved to give Shirley Sloan-Babb \$50 to pay for the purchase of sugar for the hummingbird feeders at the Visitor Center.
- Motion made and approved for Aaron to purchase a super soaker to assist in cleaning the accumulated bouldering chalk off the bouldering rocks.
- The Albert Hash Memorial will be held the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. The Friends group will decide later if we want to have our Friends' tent set up during this time. Estimated attendance is 500 persons.
- Teresa has the raffle tickets for the stuffed pony available for sale. Not many have been sold yet.
- There will be a fundraising for Tom Walls on Saturday, July 27th at 5:00 at the Rugby Rescue Squad. Shirley will type up a flyer about this and display on the cake table during the trail dedication.
- The staff hooded sweatshirts arrived at the office several weeks ago and the Friends group were not aware of this. There seems to be some communication breakdown about how they were to be distributed. Rhonda would like to have them given during the staff appreciation lunch. Teresa is out of town and Moe will try to contact her to learn more once she is back to work.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2013, 7:00 p.m. at the park office.

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