

Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park

Minutes of Meeting September 18, 2017

Present: Harvey & Moe Thompson, Shirley Sloan-Babb, JoAnn Severt, Rhonda Walls, Tommie Kennedy, Marla Phillips and Bud Emerson

Minutes approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of September 18, 2017	\$ 6,835.84
Total Credits	\$ 390.00
Total Debits	\$ 408.26
Balance August 21, 2017	\$ 6,854.10

Treasurer Report Presented & Approved

Old Business

- Second Battery Backup is in place with the FOGH computer. It was necessary for John to complete further trouble shooting on the computer. Corrupt files have been removed and the computer is back and working.
- Solar lights for the flagpole at the office have been installed. The visitor center flagpole solar lights continue to await placement.
- Blue Ridge Relay was held on Friday, September 8th and had 2000 runners. Moe, Rhonda, Joann & Evalyn volunteered for this.
- Barn Dance will be held October 15th from 7-9 pm at shelter #2. Motion made and approved for purchase of no more than \$25 towards for the purchase of pumpkins for carving. FOGH requested interpretive staff reach out to community members who might donate the pumpkins.

Winter projects will include possible projects and funding from FOGH including: purchase of a new "OPEN" sign at the contact station; table coverings for the tables used for park Merchandise sales during the Wayne C and Fall Festivals; labels for tools and instruments at the Visitor Center; and instrument display case for the dulcimer at the Visitor Center.

Park Manager Time

Equestrian use in the park has increased and the nutrient management plan for removal of manure has been renewed. Park staff is gearing up for the Fall Festival with good weather predicted. The Albert Hash Festival had 200 cars and 177 paying attendees. The Reservation Center corrected an error which removed campsites from the system during the Muzzle Loader and Firearms hunt. Midway through the season, 43% of the operating budget has been spent with 2/3 of this wage employee cost. There are currently 23 wage employees. Bear Aware posters continue to be posted throughout the park. Douthat State Park has had two bear attacks. Hunt dates will be: Muzzle Loader (November 6th & 7th) and Firearms (November 20th & 21st).

New Business

Motion made and approved to pay the DGIF (Dept. Of Game & Inland Fisheries) \$20 cost for renewing the wildlife habitat permit for Wilson the turtle.

Bab Bitter a photographer from Richmond spoke with Rhonda over the phone regarding a children's book she is writing. She plans to mention the Friends' of Grayson Highlands in the preface & plans to give a percentage of the sales to the Friends' group. No other information is known at this time.

Rhonda will make biscuits for the Hunt days. Others are invited to provide food items for the hunt days.

Next meeting will be held October 30, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Park Office.