

Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park Minutes of Meeting July 18, 2011

Present: Evalynn Halsey, Rhonda Walls, Deana Blevins, Kevin Kelley, Aaron Parlier, Kelly Servick, Doug & Donna Neimi, Moe & Harvey Thompson

Minutes of last meeting Approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of July 18, 2011 \$5646.08

<u>Credits:</u>		<u>Debits:</u>	
Membership	915.00	Wal-Mart (Adventure Rangers)	170.80
T-shirt sales	68.00	Treasurer of VA (Adventure Ranger Scholarships)	200.00
Donations	167.29	Wal-Mart (Jr. Rangers)	47.86
Pony Raffle	260.00		
Wayne Festival	1000.00		
Total Credits:	\$2410.29	Total Debits:	\$418.66

Approved as presented

Annual Budget Report for 2010-2011 presented & approved

Budget for fiscal year July 2011-June 2012 presented & approved

Old Business

- Tickets for the life size pony continue to sell. Approximately 325 have been sold to date.
- Heritage Day to be held August 14th in the Homestead area
- The date for the employee & volunteer recognition will be August 3rd at 12:00. Pizza and watermelon will be served.
- The Youth Conservation Corps graduation celebration will be held August 13th. Moe will order fruit, vegetable, and cheese/meat trays for this event. A cake will also be provided by the Friends' group.
- Adventure Rangers and Junior Rangers programs were held. Next year programs might be expanded to 2 days instead of 3 for the Junior Rangers. Some participants did not attend all the days offered. Friends of Grayson contributed by paying 1/2 the fee.
- Aaron Parlier presented information about his request to the American Alpine Club, Cornerstone Conservation Grant. He would like to develop a bouldering trail with interpretive signs. There was much discussion regarding the true cost of developing a trail from permits, construction, costs, and maintenance. It was decided that Moe would write a resolution on behalf of the Friends of Grayson for Aaron in support of funding towards a feasibility study to this effort. Deana Blevins, who has submitted other grants, will look over the resolution for any suggestions. Moe will send to President Rhonda Walls for signature. The deadline for the grant submission is in three weeks.

Park Manager Time

Merchandise is 13% ahead at \$146,000. Horse camping has picked up. Water table is holding. Park Manager will be attending the Virginia Association for Parks meeting at Natural Tunnel to be held October 25th – 28th. All Friends members are invited to participate. More information will be available closer to this date.

New Business

- Doug presented information from Blue Ridge Endurance Race (BRER) to be held September 9th from 5:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help with this. In the past, BRER provides a donation to the Friends group for assisting with the race. Anyone interested in helping may contact Doug by August 31st.
- Donna presented the slate of corporate board members for Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park. They will remain the same as last year. President Rhonda Walls, Vice Chairman Gail Josey, Chairman of the Board Don Ballenger, Director Gerald Anderson, and Director Al Lehmann.
- A letter addressed to the President of Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park was given to Rhonda. The authors of the letter were upset about the horrible food served during the Wayne C. Festival. Their disappointment stemmed from hotdogs & chicken sold out by 11:30 a.m., a 45 minute wait in line for food, another 40 minute wait for a cup of coffee, and a general feeling of indifference and lack of common sense. Rhonda will respond with a letter stating we agree with the comments shared, and that the Friends of Grayson Highlands and the Park were not the entity who arranged for the food vendors. She will also provide a copy of the letter to the Wayne C Festival committee. It is agreed that the food vendors need to be attuned to the needs of the large crowd.
- Ken & Phyllis Weber will be the first name engraved on the Outstanding Contributors Plaque. They contributed \$500. Moe will bring the plaque to D&D Trophies for engraving. Individual gifts of \$500 and over will be recognized by placing the benefactor's name on the plaque.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2011 7:00 p.m. at the park office.