

**Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park
Minutes of Meeting October 15, 2012**

Present: Harvey & Moe Thompson, Donna & Doug Niemi, & Marceia Holland

Minutes of last meeting Approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of October 15, 2012 \$7058.89

<u>Credits</u>			<u>Debits</u>
Memberships	100.00	Shirley Sloan-Babb (hummingbird feeder supplies)	50.00
Donations	69.31	Wal-Mart (Halloween Hayride)	255.84
T-Shirts sales	56.00	Greenline Paper (paper products)	112.20
Blue Ridge Relay	514.65	Wal-Mart (dog show)	42.23
Labor Day Refreshment		Mike's Taxidermy (skunk for VC)	325.00
Donations	30.00		
Wayne C Labor Day Donation	57.00		
Total Credits	\$826.96	Total Debits	\$785.27

Old Business

- The bench donated by Rhonda Walls was installed in front of the office. It is the first bench in the state to be donated via the VAFP (VA Assoc For Parks).
- A minimal number of FOGH information brochures are available. Moe continues to work on the update with current information (services/projects) and will have 300 copies made.
- The Albert Hash Memorial Festival will continue to be held the Saturday before Labor Day each year.
- The hayride had 15 runs utilizing 2 trailers from 6:30 to 9:30. There were 200 participants. The charge was \$5 for adults & \$3 for children. Income was \$1,151. The drinks and cookies were sold for \$1 each. Donna will have exact figures for this at the next meeting.
- Moe, Donna & Doug assisted with the Blue Ridge Relay on Sept. 7th. We received a donation check for \$514.65 for our help.

Park Manager Time

- 16 Your Comments Count cards were recently received and all were positive responses. The park needs 288 responses to reach the goal set. Currently number is 286, so we are very close to reaching this goal. All water samples tested coliform absent. Campground will close October 31st and winterization will then take place to prevent freezing pipes. Grayson is ranked in the top 10 for merchandise for resale. We are in second place, behind Claytor who sells gas (for boaters). Currently we are at \$94,000 with \$4,500 being paid to consignment vendors. This is \$500 ahead of last year's figures. Fencing will be placed around Sullivan Swamp to keep ponies out of the Appalachian mountain bog. Trail work on Mill Creek and Upchurch removed 12 trees. Marceia is getting the park radios narrow banded. Closed to hunting signs have been reposted. Hunting dates are as follows: Youth Day/Muzzle loader – Nov. 3rd; Adult Muzzle loader – Nov. 5th & 6th; Firearms – Nov. 19th & 20th. Grayson Highlands is listed in CNN's Top Fall Hiking Destinations. Grayson Highlands has been selected to be the photo shot for fall colors for VA tourism brochures. Nov. 11th all visitors will have entrance fees waived in honor of Veteran's Day. Fall Festival had over 3,000 people attend. Ten ponies sold at an average of \$200 each. There were 400 chicken half dinners that did not get sold and 1201 Hobo pies were sold on Saturday.

New Business

- We will check with Rhonda about making sausage biscuits for the Nov. 5th, 6th, 19th & 20th. Others can bring crocks of food as they are able.
- Donna will check on the inventory of Friends' t-shirts. We may need to order some medium size shirts after the first of the year. We might check into the cost of the Under Armor moisture wicking type.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2012 6:30 p.m. at the park office.

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