

**Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park
Minutes of Meeting October 20, 2008**

Present: Joan Collins, Kevin Kelley, Doug & Donna Niemi, Harvey & Moe Thompson and Ken & Phyllis Weber

Minutes of last meeting approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of October 20, 2008 \$3200.97

Credits:

Blue Ridge Relay Donation	\$190.36	
Fall Festival Donations	\$ 4.00	
Aluminum Can Recycling	\$ 20.90	

Total Credits: \$235.26

Debits:

Food City (Haunted Hayride) \$ 58.75

Total Debits: \$ 58.75

Wal-Mart Gift Card Balance \$3.06

Treasurer's Report Approved as Presented

Old Business

- Joan Collins presented information regarding T-shirt vendors. Motion made and seconded to go with Tim Lewis. He will not charge a set up fee; cost will be \$5.50 each per order of a dozen. The group will begin with an order of 2 small, 5 medium and 5 large.
- Kevin and Donna will continue work on the plant ID signs for the butterfly garden.
- There were 85 participants for the "non-scary" hayride. The second weekend, there were 120 participants (about 6 trips). Some additional games were added this year and refreshments were available at the amphitheater. Kevin suggests that due to limited manpower, it may be better to schedule future programs for just one weekend, instead of two.
- Food Lion has sent information for the Lionshop and share program. We need at least 25 registered cards. Moe will send out an email to members and all are encouraged to register their cards.
- Johnny Finch sent correspondence regarding Dominion awarding a grant application to the VAFP in the amount of \$350,000 to take the information kiosk project to the next a phase. He also provided information regarding state budget cuts and impact on the park system.

Park Manager's Time

The staff is re-fencing along Route 58 due to cattle getting out. It will be the same design, but more durable. As of October 24th, two hourly staff will be lost. Six thousand gallons of gas have been purchased for the park. Harvey hopes the cost will be lower than the last time he purchased. Merchandise for resale is 5% less sales as this time last year. Campground attendance is still high. The manager's house is progressing. The roof, wiring and H-Vac system are completed. Twenty six ponies were sold during the pony auction. They sold for \$15 to \$250, averaging \$126. The weather was very rainy during the Fall Festival. Saturday there were approximately 600 cars and Sunday 350. This is about 1/3 of what we normally have. The state budget is still being negotiated.

New Business

- Adult Lottery Hunt will be Monday and Tuesday, November 17th & 18th. Any member wishing to supply food for at the hunt is welcome to do so.
- Ken and Phyllis Weber will provide an appreciation meal for staff on Friday, October 24th.
- Ken encouraged increasing membership by 10% a year. T-Shirts with Friends Logo are good exposure. He suggests we update the current brochure; and perhaps include projects the Friends group has accomplished, and the park's financial impact on the local economy. He also suggests a plaque for recognizing those who contribute generously either financially or in service. Suggestion for the plaque would be "Lifetime Friend" or "Founding Friend" (\$1000.00), Benefactor (\$500), and Service Award (how many hours of service).
- A donation box placed at the butterfly garden with access to Friends brochures was also discussed.
- Contributing articles to the local newspaper about park activities and Friends Projects was also discussed.

Next meeting November 17, 2008, 6:30 p.m. at the Park Office.

