

**Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park
Minutes of Meeting September 15, 2008**

Present: Rhonda Walls, Kevin Kelley, Joan Collins, Harvey & Moe Thompson

Minutes of last meeting approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of September 15, 2008 \$3024.46

Credits: 0.00

Total Credits: 0.00

Debits: Jerry's Typewriter \$18.97

Walmart \$27.82

Monarch Watch \$36.90

Adams Building, Lowe's, Blevins Building, Dollar Tree \$81.04

Total Debits: \$164.73

Approved as presented

Old Business

- The Friends' trailer is back at the park. Doug has completed the storage shelves and it looks really nice.
- A second fence with barbed wire has been placed by the park staff to keep the cows from reaching the butterfly garden.
 - The Friends' group received certification that the butterfly garden is designated as a "Monarch Watch." A framed certificate and sign for the garden are now on display.
- Joan Collins will make some contacts regarding the cost of Friends' T-Shirts.
- No further information regarding plant identification signs for the butterfly garden.
- Blue Ridge Relay race had extremely high attendance (700 runners). Doug and Donna were the only available Friends' members available to help. We need more volunteers to help with this.

Park Manager's Time

There will be statewide budget cuts, currently expecting 15% cut back from last year's budget. This will be \$21,000 less than last year. This will effect the 18 P-14 hourly staff. The water situation is currently now not a problem due to less campers at this time. Full service camping ends October 31, 2008. So far this year, 170 programs have been offered, and this number will probably increase to 200 by the end of the season. Reinvestment purchases will include a log splitter (cost of \$1300) and an ice cream freezer (\$1200). Forty percent of the profit from sales is returned to the park. So far, \$60,000 worth of merchandise has been sold (approximately 3 months). Last year's total merchandise for resale was \$133,000. The Friends of the Wayne C. Festival brought in \$15, 071 this year. Usually this group donates 10% to the Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park for supporting the mission of the park. Fifty six vendors are scheduled for the Fall Festival. A third pedestal for the Hobo Pie Makers has been placed. The building permit for rebuilding the Park Manager residence is effective September 15th.

New Business

Kevin needs help with the Hay Ride. October 4th will be the "Non-Scary" hayride and October 11th will be the "Scary" hayride. Time will be from 5:30 to 9:00. He needs 4-5 helpers and especially needs help with the October 4th date. Contact Deana at the park for more information.

Moe presented information from Johnny Finch regarding the Food Lion "shop and share" program. It was agreed that we will register The Friends of Grayson Highlands in this program so members and others can register their cards. Then Food Lion will write our group a quarterly check based on a percentage of the groceries purchased using all registered MVP cards. Moe will register our group using our nonprofit status. More information will be provided for members and how to register their cards at the next meeting and possibly via email. We will also consider adding a link for registering cards on the Friends web page.

Next meeting October 20, 2008, 6:30 p.m. at the Park Office **Note time changes to 6:30PM