

**Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park
Minutes of Meeting February 16, 2009**

Present: Doug & Donna Niemi, Rhonda Walls, Harvey & Moe Thompson and Kevin Kelley

Minutes of last meeting approved

Treasurer's Report: (December and February Reports)

Balance as of December 15, 2008 \$3284.47

Credits:

Hunt Sales: \$141.58

Total Credits: \$141.58

Debits \$00.00

Total Debits: \$ 00.00

Wal Mart Gift Card Balance \$3.06

Balance as of February 16, 2009 \$4324.28

Credits:

Wayne C. Henderson Festival \$898.23

Total Credits: \$898.23

Debits: \$00.00

Total Debits: \$ 00.00

Photo Album to display Friends Projects purchased with Wal Mart Gift Card \$3.06, Balance \$00.00

Old Business

- Joan Collins still waiting on T-Shirts to be finished
- Kevin and Donna will continue work on the plant ID sign style for the butterfly garden. The hope is to have it be white lettering on brown aluminum, in a 4X6 or smaller size.
- The check from the Wayne C. Festival committee was received on January 15th. There was discussion regarding the delay in receiving the check and the amount contributed this year.
- The alternate heat source for Chief Ranger residence was taken care of by other means.
- The Friends encourage Bob Giesler to pursue the web cam purchase and installation. This will probably take place when he is here this summer as a camp host.

Park Manager Time

Daniel White has been promoted and moved to Chippokes Plantation State Park in Surry, VA. His baby, Emma was born prior to their move. Kevin and Harvey will be re-qualifying for Conservation Officer March 2nd. The budget for July 2008 – June 2009 year has not yet been approved (Yes, 2008-2009). One section of the split rail fencing has been completed. Bids are going out for the country store restroom and renovation of the lower loop bathroom campground is in progress. The park manager house is not yet finished. The fire marshal will be inspecting the building on February 19th and then BCOM (buildings of the commonwealth) must give the certificate of occupancy. Site preparation and seeding will have to wait until the weather improves. There is a possibility of reworking the horse trail if federal aid becomes available from the stimulus package. The cost will be approximately \$55,000 to \$60,000. Harvey hopes that with the snowfall (approximately 18" so far) limited water due to drought will not be a problem this year. Merchandise for resale is \$83,000 for the year. Harvey predicts 20% less visitation. Last year (\$133,000) was the best year yet for merchandise for resale. Harvey had predicted \$125,000 for the year. Kevin reports that revenue generating programs will be the priority due to limits on the budget. Core programs will be smaller. Children in Nature will continue to be the theme. Junior Ranger and Adventure Ranger programs will be the 2nd and 3rd week of July.

New Business

- Virginia State Parks now has a "Blog" (<http://blog.virginiaparks.org>) and a "Facebook" (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Virginia-State-Parks/38187983347>) page. We will check with John Canfield (our website manager) and see if he can add the link on our Friends web page.
- Blue Ridge Relay will have their "Blue Ridge Endurance" race (approximately 800 participants) September 11th and 12th and their Black and Blue "Double Century Relay" (approximately 100 participants) on July 18th. Friends of Grayson have assisted with the race in the past and Blue Ridge Relay has made a donation to our group for these efforts. Donna & Doug have been the primary help for this and would like to have more help, especially due to the increasing number of participants. Moe will send out an email in May or April requesting friends help with this.

Next meeting March 16th, 6:30 p.m. at the Park Office.