

Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park
Minutes of Meeting August 17, 2009

Present: Bob Giesler, Marcie Holland, Kevin Kelley, Donna Niemi, Harvey & Moe Thompson, and Rhonda Walls

Minutes of last meeting Approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of August 17, 2009 \$4071.79

Credits:		Debits:	
Membership:	\$480.00	State Corporation Fee	\$ 25.00
Cookie Sales	\$ 25.00	Adventure Rangers	\$119.77
T-shirt sales:	\$149.00	Screenfreaks (46 T-shirts)	\$276.00
Aluminum cans	\$ 7.00	Staff Picnic	\$101.71
Donations	\$148.47	Walmart (Computer)	\$498.99
		Dog Show	\$ 23.30
Total Credit:	\$809.47	Total Debits:	\$1044.77

Approved as presented

Old Business

- Discussion to purchase more t-shirts tabled until next meeting. Joan Collins not present at tonight's meeting.
- Moe will send email requesting volunteers for Blue Ridge Relay race to be held September 11th. Volunteers needed beginning at 5 a.m. through 11 a.m. If not available for the entire time 5 a.m. until 7 a.m. will be greatly appreciated. There will be 105 teams with approximately 1,200 runners.
- Kevin purchased a Toshiba laptop from WalMart with funds provided from the Friends.
- The appreciation lunch for staff went well. Harvey reports several staff sent verbal thank yous to the Friends for providing this. Moe gave Donna a thank you note for Pat Tilson who provided cookies. Joann Severt and Moe also provided cookies and Rhonda Walls provided a delicious (and enormous) salad. A BIG thank you is extended to those who helped with this.
- The dog show had 5 participants. Kevin reports more people came to watch this year. A nice time was enjoyed by all.
- Moe sent a letter (on behalf of FOGH) to Governor Kaine in support of funding for VA Parks during the upcoming budget cutbacks. Rhonda Walls (as President of FOGH) sent letters to Governor Kaine, State Senators: Rosco Reynolds, William Wampler, Phillip Puckett, and State Delegates: Bill Carrico, Annie B. Crockett, and Ward Armstrong. Replies have been received from L. Preston Bryant (Sec. Of Natural Resources) on behalf of Gov. Kaine, Roscoe Reynolds and Bill Carrico.

Park Manager Time

Harvey introduced Marcie Holland, the Assistant Park Manager for Grayson Highlands. Currently 48% of the projected revenue for the year (July 1st – June 30th) has been reached. The total budget for the year will be cut by 12% due to the economic state of the Commonwealth. The last bond project from 2002 is nearing completion. A handicap restroom (one male, one female) has been placed near the group camp/camp store area. It is a 10' x 17' building.

New Business

- Bob Geisler presented information about the weather station and web cam he and John Canfield have been working on. A new web cam has been installed on the Friends web site and weather underground web site. Bob would have preferred to place it directed at the overlook, but it can not have direct sunlight hit the lens, so it has to be placed in a certain direction. Also, electric and internet access are needed, so placement at the office was necessary. A new little PC (called a fit-PC Slim - <http://www.fit-pc.com/fit-pc1/>) is now installed to replace the very unreliable NSLU2s (called "slugs") to run the weather station upload. The friends group purchased two of these for the weather station. John will attempt to get one working as a backup, the other one is completely dead. Motion made, seconded and approved for the working one to be given to the Park to use as a backup for Park related needs. The cost of the fit-PC is \$211. John has spent hours and hours attempting to get the slugs going and the weather station continues to go down. The new fit-PC should eliminate the problems experienced and the weather station should have fewer down times. Motion made, seconded and approved to reimburse John for the cost of the fit-PC. Bob says he has placed one at Chippokes State Park and it receives about 200 hits a day. Bob also mentioned the amount of time John (2 hours/month) spends on keeping the web site going and the cost (\$5/mo). Volunteers need to log their hours spent giving time to the Park.
- Fall Festival will be September 26 and 27. Donna may need help getting the recycling units out. Help at the Friends table is needed too.
- The VA Association for Parks meeting will be held September 17, 18, and 19 at James River State Park. Any members wishing to attend needs to contact Ann Lipp, at 757-566-3788 or via email at calipp@verizon.net. Nancy Heltman may be contacted to arrange lodging. Please contact her by phone at 804-786-5057 or email her at nancy.heltman@dcr.virginia.gov and tell her your arrival date and lodging needs.
- Sandy Shaguet played music at the amphitheater one evening. Money collected for his performance (\$39.00) was donated to the Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park. Moe will send a Thank You.

Next meeting September 21st, 7 p.m. at the Park Office