

**Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park
Minutes of Meeting August 20, 2018**

Attendees

Rhonda Walls, Joann Severt, Evalynn Halsey, Marla Phillips, Tommie Kennedy, Andrew Stern, John Allison, Shirley Sloan-Babb and Lee Blankenship

Minutes approved

Balance as of August 20, 2018	\$ 6,269.65
Total Credits	\$ 1,333.92
Total Debits	\$ 900.57
Balance as of July 16, 2018	\$ 5,836.30

Treasurer's report presented and approved

Old Business

- The request for a water filtration/water bottle refilling station was approved. The estimated cost is \$974.
- The remaining sports equipment has been purchased to include 2 volleyballs and 1 football. These will be kept at the camp host site and loaned out to visitors.
- The first door counter for the Visitor Center has been tested and the second one will be ordered.
- Larry Thomson has received the lumber and continues working on the construction of the dulcimer instrument display case.
- Signs for exhibits at Visitor Center to identify tools and other items are to be produced by the sign shop.

Park Update

The YCC graduation went well with 72 attendees that included parents, park staff, and FOGH members. The girls were very cooperative and helpful. They had a great attitude and were very hard working..

The yurts have been completed and ideally will go online for the Labor Day weekend. The site for the 4th yurt has been selected.

Harvey Thompson, Park Manager, has announced his retirement effective November 1st. He will be around for 6 weeks. Andrew Stern will contact Sharon Ewing about an event to be scheduled sometime in November. A possible location will be the Rescue Squad building and The Friends group is invited. .

The park staff is down by three employees in the maintenance department and we will soon lose Beth Kirk and Nikea Grubb in customer service.

New Business

- Ongoing discussion about increasing membership. Some additional ideas are through social media, having a booth at local festivals/farmers markets, kids bringing grandparents to programs, conducting monthly meeting(s) at Corner Market and Café with a meal beforehand and inviting the public, and producing a flyer for bulk mailing to the local community. Members to work on ideas over the winter and the group to discuss and implement them at the spring meeting.
- Funding will be needed for a few more AED's, possibly four, to include the maintenance shop, Visitor Center, and Country Store.
- A memorial bench is to be purchased for Harvey. It was voted on and approved.
- A meeting for Virginia Association For Parks is scheduled for Sept 26th-29th at Hungry Mother State Park. The agenda has not yet been released but Andrew will advise.
- It was suggested at an earlier meeting that new table covers for the festivals be purchased for the event tent. This purchase was voted on and approved.
- The Blue Ridge Relay is scheduled for Friday, September 7th. Volunteers to help with the event at the starting line are Maureen Thompson, Rhonda Walls, Evalynn Halsey, Tommie Kennedy, Joann Severt, and Marla Phillips. The volunteers will need to come in around 5AM and will be done by noon.
- Hunt dates – November 5th and 6th, and November 19th and 20th. We will provide food at the hunts and have the Friends donation boxes available at the maintenance shop.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 17th

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