

**Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park  
Minutes of Meeting February 21, 2011**

Present: Rhonda Walls, Evalyn Halsey, Doug & Donna Niemi , and Harvey & Moe Thompson  
**Minutes of last meeting** Approved

**Treasurer's Report:** Balance as of February 21, 2011 \$6,084.21

<b>Credits:</b>	Membership	185.00	<b>Debits:</b>	US Treasury	400.00
	Donations	11.25		(Form1023, User Fee)	
	T-shirts	60.00		D&D Trophies	200.00
	Hunt Sales	105.00		(Recognition Plaque)	
				VA Association For Parks	20.00
	<b>Total Debits:</b>	<b>361.25</b>		<b>Total Credits:</b>	<b>620.00</b>

Approved as presented

**Old Business**

- Moe sent a third membership mailing for those who had not responded at the end of December.
- Moe will send a Thank You to Blue Ridge Relay for their generous contribution supporting the Friends initiatives.
- Engraving on the Recognition Plaque will read:  
Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park  
Outstanding Contributors  
Minimum amount for recognition will be \$500. Name and amount will be engraved on the name plate (room permitting).
- Rhonda Walls brought two dozen sausage and one dozen jelly biscuits for the Lottery Hunt. Harvey brought a beef stew. Evalyn Halsey provided brownies. Joan Kilby sent two crock pots of potato soup. Donations collected for this effort was \$105 to FOGH.

**Park Manager Time**

- The black bear that was poached in the park is being taxidermied. Perpetrator still unknown at this time. Members are asked to be alert to any discussion they might hear about this in the community and report back to park officials if needed.
- Visitation has been slow.
- Virginia State Parks will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 18<sup>th</sup>. This is the same day as the Wayne C. Festival. Parking at all parks will be free the entire week, including June 18<sup>th</sup>. Harvey is requesting the FOGH provide 1-2 cakes (similar to the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration) to distribute to the crowd on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Each park is also requested to supply a 90 second "Happy Birthday Celebration" video before Memorial Day weekend. Harvey encourages the FOGH group to participate in this, perhaps with a snow in the background.
- The park budget for the coming year is being prepared. The fencing project "task 60" has been completed
- Merchandise has reached 83% of goal, and Harvey expects to collect \$24,000 in the month of June.
- Primitive camping will begin March 1<sup>st</sup> in the stable area only. Cost is \$15.75/night. Port a John available, no running water. Full service camping begins May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Next year's hunt is planned to be 5 total days (Early muzzle loader – October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup>; Youth firearms – 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in November; and Firearms – Monday & Tuesday after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in November)
- There are 8 open positions for seasonal staff. Applications due by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Training begins mid-May. Wage is \$7.25/hour. Returning employees are Tom Walls, Shirley Loan Babb, Juanita Sharpe, Kay Henderson, Rick Spencer, Jim Davis, Sarah, Hannah , and possibly Joey Sharpe.
- Blue Ridge Relay has submitted a special use request for the Blue Ridge Relay in September.
- The Spring Park Managers' meeting will be March 22, 23, & 24 at First Landing State Park.
- Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup> which is also Good Friday.

**New Business**

- Donna ordered plant identification stakes for \$5-6 each
- Donna would like to update pictures on the Friend's webpage. She needs pictures sent, but not in great quantity.
- Moe has updated the Friends' Park calendar on the webpage with activities for the coming year. Kevin needs to be sure to let Moe know when he has the activities scheduled so the Friends can post these on our site. Donna noticed the 1 mile Appalachian Trail is not listed on the Web page. Moe will add this to our list.

- Hungry Mother is interested in a video cam like the one our Friends' group has done for the park. Dave Collett plans to make a visit to see what we have set up.
- The VA Association for Parks Spring meeting will be April 7, 8, and 9 at Claytor Lake State Park. Rhonda plans to attend.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 21, 2011 6:30 p.m. at the park office