

**Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park
Minutes of Meeting May 16, 2011**

Present: Rhonda Walls, Harvey & Moe Thompson, Marceia Holland, & Joan Collins

Minutes of last meeting Approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of May 16, 2011 \$4900.55

Credits:

Membership \$0.00

Total Credits: \$0.00

Approved as presented

Debits:

State Corporation Commission (Filing Fee) \$ 30.00

Oriental Trading Company (300 Easter Eggs) 110.86

Albano & Associates (990 Return Summary,
Form 990EZ Tax Exempt Tax Return, Schedule
A-Public Charity Status) 250.00

Albano & Associates (Preparation Form 990 &
Attachments for 2009, Preparation Form SCC888
for exempt non profit Status) 150.00

Total Debits: \$540.86

Old Business

- Friends will provide refreshments (snacks & lemonade) during the Music entertainment on Sunday, May 29th. Moe will send an email request to Friends' members for help providing snacks & serving. Music starts at 8:00.
- Rhonda continues to work with the IRS. The word "Conservation" had to be removed from our articles of incorporation per requirement of the State Corporation Commission. We are now waiting for processing of the tax exempt status.
- The life size stuffed pony has arrived. Shipping cost was almost \$150 and the cost of pony was \$499, with total cost being \$648.37. The tickets have arrived, but are not numbered. Moe numbered the books. Anyone wishing to sell books of tickets will sign them out and be responsible for \$25 per book of tickets.
- Rhonda has checked on the 75th anniversary cakes. Each one will cost \$47.95 and feeds 60 people. Rhonda has learned we can possibly get a \$25 donation with the order. We plan to cut smaller slices to increase the number of pieces per cake.

Park Manager Time

Staff orientation is underway, with group training to be held this Saturday. Twelve American Hiking Society volunteers will be working on rerouting the Rhododendron Trail where erosion has occurred. They will also be working on the backpackers' lot to Massie Gap & Appalachian trail areas. Breaks Interstate State Park suffered damage from the recent storms & Jordan Blevins will be helping with cutting trees there for 3 days. The park now has new credit card processing machines and staff has just learned how to upload and batch. The recent power outages and surges make this a difficult process. Water supply is great. We currently have plenty and the samples are good. There are plans to screen in the country store to prevent bird droppings and give more room for merchandise. David Johnson, Director of DCR, visited Thursday afternoon. Phase 3 master planning process includes plans for 10-12 years in the future. Several plans discussed include, cabins in 3rd. phase, additional picnic shelter in picnic area or visitor center, rock wall and chestnut rail fencing, connecting trails, mountain bike trails, and upgrading regular campground with 50 amp boxes. Richmond office has approved the horse campground may be used as overflow camping for the regular campground. The economy & increase of gas costs has probably caused a lower use of the horse campground by persons with horses. The empty sites may now be utilized by regular campers if there are no more sites available in the regular campground. Many persons have given positive compliments about the horse trail improvements. District 7 was notified of \$270,000 in savings for positions not filled. Our park was permitted \$50,000 to make purchases of needed items including, an ATV, John Deere Lawn Mower, Gutter Brush, gravel, 3 Bear-proof trash cans, 12 quick dry hand dryers, handheld radios with all the needed channels, telescope, 2 canoes, digital camera, replacement breakers, & 2 portable generators. The park learned of the funding available on May 4th or 5th and was required to make all purchases by May 15th. Everyone worked very hard to make this happen. Grindstone campground in the National Forest was hit by the recent tornado. They will be closed for 3 months, so our park may see an increase in visitors from this.

New Business

- Two hose reel hangers for the wildflower gardens were made by Wilson Creek Welding. Moe has a thank you for everyone to sign.
- Joan is working with Tim on the t-shirts. She is having trouble getting in contact with him.
- Rhonda extended an invitation (through Marceia) to our Youth Ambassador to attend our meetings. Marceia explained that Bronwyn Jackson felt overwhelmed by the position and will be leaving for college in the Fall. She said Aaron Parlier has been asked to serve in this position. He attends Virginia Tech and frequently visits the park.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2011 7:00 p.m. at the park office.