

Friends of Grayson Highlands State Park Minutes of Meeting September 26, 2011

Present: Evalynn Halsey, Rhonda Walls, Kelly Servick, Moe & Harvey Thompson, Shirley Sloan-Babb, Nathan Cox, Kevin Kelley, Deana Blevins, Doug & Donna Niemi, Marci Holland

Minutes of last meeting Approved

Treasurer's Report: Balance as of September 26, 2011 \$6963.45

Credits:		Debits:	
Membership	160.00	Little Caesars (Staff Picnic)	68.90
T-shirt sales	152.00	Ingles (Staff Picnic)	28.98
Pony Raffle	427.00	Wal-Mart (Dog Show)	36.83
Donations	102.88	Food City & Dollar General (YCC Graduation)	96.95
Dog Show Donations	20.00	GNB (checks)	11.25
Labor Day Refresh. Donations	121.00		
Aluminum can recycling	48.00		
Handmade Paper	76.00		
Total Credits:	\$1106.88	Total Debits:	\$242.91

Approved as presented

Old Business

- Total ticket sales for the pony raffle were \$861. The winner was the sister of Deb Harlan from Marion, Virginia. Her sister will be shipping the pony back to Florida and plans to give it to a Children's Hospital.
- Aaron Parlier not present at tonight's meeting, but Marci informed us that Aaron & Forest Atwood walked the line of a possible bouldering trail in the park, close to the park office.
- Labor Day refreshment donations brought in \$121
- Kelly's service project included 11 participants and brought in \$119 in sales (one was a \$100 donation). A framed piece of the paper/artwork was raffled during the fall festival and note cards made from the paper were also available.

Park Manager Time

The Park had two mascots during the Fall Festival (Sparkey & Smokey). Rugby sold 900 dinners on Saturday and 450 on Sunday. They did not need to give any away this year. The number of ponies and money brought in is down from past years. Brother Moore says there are no longer breeders competing in the auction. There are approximately 75 ponies on the federal & state properties. There were 63 vendors. Some left due to the weather. About 53 stayed the entire time. The homestead grounds area is a mess due to the vehicles on the wet ground. Rugby wishes to continue the festival as a two day event, allowing for one good day for sales out of the two. The time of buying a ticket to getting a meal was within 10 minutes. Compliments were given about the apple butter and molasses. All port-a-potties for the festival have been removed. The new \$1,000 pump for the picnic area restroom has already burnt up. Staff will need to work on the correct methodology for pumping in this area.

New Business

- Moe passed along contact to Doug & Donna regarding request for recycling unit information. Susan Miles from Sparta, NC is interested in starting a program in her area. The Friends group collected 81 pounds of aluminum during the festival and earned \$48.60 in recycling.
- Rhonda and Evalynn provided t-shirts for the YCC to tie dye. The cost was \$33.60. Motion was made, seconded & approved to reimburse them for the cost.
- Hunt dates will be: November 7 & 8 (Mon. & Tues.) – Early muzzle loader; November 19th (Saturday) – Youth; November 28 & 29 (Mon. & Tues.) – Open. We will not provide food for sale on November 19th. All other hunt days, those who are able will provide crocks of chili, stew, soups, or desserts. Rhonda will provide 30 sausage biscuits per day. Motion made, seconded & approved to reimburse her for the cost of the sausage.
- The 10th annual Halloween Hayride anniversary will be held on October 8th. Kevin needs volunteers for spooks & refreshments. It will be held in the picnic area this year. Tickets will be purchased at the cabin. The ride will be shorter, but games have been added. A crowd of approximately 250 people is expected (weather permitting). Another coffee maker will be helpful for providing drinks. Perhaps Rugby will have one that can be borrowed. Friends of Grayson will provide drinks with request for donations only. Kevin will appreciate as many as can volunteer.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2011 6:30 p.m. at the park office.