FRIENDS OF THE SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK, INC.

 Meeting Minutes---October 21,2024

WEBSITE: smlspfriends.com

Attendance: 17 members 4 Park staff

President, Nancy Galvan opened the meeting and asked for any additions or corrections to the August minutes. Hearing none, they were approved as written.

V.P. Alison Baird, reminded people of back ground checks that need to be current in order to keep you able to participate in helping with the programs. Travis is currently checking his list to see if anyone needs to update.

Treasurer, Susan Eldridge, gave her report for August: Income $898.89 Expenses $867.95 Net income $30.94 Voted on and approved as read. Report for September: Income $747.06 Expenses $393.39 Net income $353.67 Voted on and approved as read. The net income for Music in the Park is $736.60

Assistant Park Manager, Jared, reported on the “Turkey Trot” that will be held in the Park on Thanksgiving Day at 9:00 am They need 5-6 more volunteers who should arrive between 8:00 and 8:30. There will be a kids run and a 5k. There will be different stations on the beach. The Friends get 10% 0f the proceeds. He then reported on the annual “Deer Hunt” which will be on Nov. 4th and 5th and also on Nov. 11th and 12th. We have, in the past, provided lunch for the hunters, and they in turn, leave tips for us in the tip jar. Food is taken to the maintenance building between 10:30 and 11:00. A sign up sheet was provided.

Park Manager, Chris, reported that this year we have had good visitation. Our attendance has been 400,000 plus so far this year. He’s hoping to meet the half million mark. They were given a great deal of money for the budget and a lot will go into the upkeep of the cabins. They will be tearing out the old carpet, adding rip rap where needed, fixing water lines, and hoping to get fiber optic internet and if not that, then regular internet service thru out the park. There will be training for the park staff and CPR as well and will be offered to the Friends who need recertification.

Park Interpreter, Jet, reported that on Public Lands Day, they worked on 5 Oaks Trail. 3 families came out to help as well as Martha and Posie. The Halloween event will be Sat. Oct. 26th from 1:30 to 4:30. Volunteers should arrive at 12:45. There will be a costume contest, games, crafts, and hay wagon rides. Decorating for the party will be Friday, the 25th at 2:00. We will also be stuffing treat bags. There will be no school groups until later in April. First Day Hike is January 1st 2025. Volunteers should bring donations of food.

Carla, Co -chair for the Osprey Race reported that they are getting things together and sponsor letters have gone out and we already have our first sponsor. She met with Chris regarding the playground project and it’s on hold for right now . The problem with our “big” playground” is long term maintenance. A lot of places are now doing “Discovery Zones” instead. It’s a natural style, having things like building blocks and a playhouse, etc. We need to look into this type of project further, because inspections will be done, impact on visitors. It will need to be maintained. So, we are moving away from playgrounds, but rather, a play area. Signage in the park needs to be updated and Martha suggested that the map that Doug Kuhn had made would be helpful.

Susan presented the budget for next year…the income, the expenses, and the net. She explained all and the changes she made and why. We will vote on the budget next month.

Martha reported that the blazes are up to date and the trails are in great shape. Some trees were down after the storm and Travis will take care of this. She would like to buy fencing for the garden so that the deer can’t eat the new plants.

Janis reported on the lecture series. She would like a co-chair and it would be nice to have someone to advertise and take pictures to get into the papers. She has some great speakers and has all four lined up. Lecturer’s series is on the first Sunday of Jan., Feb., Mar., and April. She would appreciate help with donations of refreshments.

Diana reported that the Christmas party will be held in the DC on Dec. 8th at 1:00pm. More to come

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Diana Brennan, Secretary