FRIENDS OF THE SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK, INC.

Meeting Minutes…March 20, 2023

WEBSITE: smlspfriends.com

Attendance: 25 Members 4 Park Staff

CALENDAR OF EVENT: April 5th 2:00-3:00pm Stuff Easter eggs at DC April 8th Easter Program at DC May13th Mother’s Day Tea… Pontoon boat ride 8:30-11:00am at the Boat Launch Tea 11:15- 1:00 at DC … Wildflower Walk 1:00- 1:30pm at DC May 20th… Kids to Parks Day at DC Friends Meeting…April 17th at 9:30am

President, Nancy Galvan opened the meeting. She called for a motion on the previous minutes which were approved as written.

VP, Alison Baird, told us that we have 2 new members and as they couldn’t be there today, she will introduce them at the next meeting. They are Bill and Valerie Rauh…Welcome

Treasurer, Susan Eldridge, reported that our income for February was $292.73, expenses were $16.08, and net income was $276.65. The treasurer’s report was approved as read.

Chief Ranger, Travis, reported that the tractor has been finished…new running gear, new tires, new benches, new steps, was power washed …ready for action. The camera for the Osprey nest is up and needs some “tweaking.” He has talked with someone who can do CPR. It will be virtual and then in classroom 4 hours.

Wendy Lewis reported for Peter that he was a greeter at the DC starting at 9:00am and no one showed up until 10:00. Meg, Park Interpreter, will change the opening time to 10:00am. If interested in being a greeter, let her know.

Jet, Park Interpreter, said there were sign up sheets for various programs and the schedule for events is posted in Calendar of events. She has a school group on May 3rd and April 18th and 19th and will be using the pontoon boat as well as the DC. For the April 5th date we will be stuffing the eggs and she will need donations of candy…. Small and individually wrapped to fit in the Easter eggs. Tour guides for this summer are Nancy Galvan, Carla Esarey, Karen Smith, Dick Hendrix, and Diana Brennan. We need a coordinator for the PFD’s to schedule times for Friends to man the tournament shed and hand out the PFD’s and then retrieve them at the end of the tour.

Lorraine Judd, Ray Judd’s Music in the Park coordinator has gotten the 4th band. They are from Floyd and are called “Music Store Band” She also reported for Charlie Walker that he has heard from Larry Jackson (AEP) who has lots of pictures of the construction of the dam and will send to Charlie who will then pick the ones he wants and Larry will have them blown up and mount them.

Matt Doyle, Boat Captain coordinator, also mentioned the CPR class, that we could have a joint class with people from Mariner’s Landing. He has a new captain. The boat continues to stall out in neutral.

Park Manager, Brian Heft, appreciates all that the Friends do to help the Park and thanks us for the improvements to the hay wagon. He was recently interviewed on WDBJ and discussed the Park and its programs and that they are having a day to hire help for the summer. He also met with 2 of the Deputy Directors who were impressed with the Park.

Dick Hendrix, Blue bird coordinator, reported that he will have a training session on March 24th and one later on so that we can actually see the blue birds in the nest…he will announce a date later on. He also announced that the garden is ready for a clean up. He is looking for native plants to fill the empty spaces where we removed non native plants. He will try to work with Moneta Farm Store to gain knowledge on native plants.

Martha Kuon, Trails coordinator is trying to get a schedule set up for days to maintain the trails, which are, right now, in good shape.

Carla Esarey, Playground project coordinator, reported they are working on the “big picture” and Meg will get a price on borders.

Nancy reported that the Osprey Race is set for Oct. 21st. For registrations you can go to RunSignup.

Bill Pecoraro, Purple Martin coordinator, reported that the first of the Martins have arrived, but you won’t see them yet because it’s too cold. Last year 30 birds were fledged. He reported that Martins can no longer reproduce in the wild, so they need new homes such as we have at the Park…don’t buy one of those Purple Martin “hotels”. He’s also into geo caching and maintains 7 of them.

Catherine Eubank, Lecturer Series coordinator along with Janis Erickson will schedule programs for next year, running Jan., Feb., Mar., and April 2024.

Alison reported that Southern Living magazine had a wonderful article on SMLSP .

Meeting was adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Diana Brennan, Secretary

Thank you to all who brought refreshments