FRIENDS OF THE SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK,INC.

Meeting Minutes---June 18, 2024

WEBSITE: smlspfriends

ATTENDANCE: 26 members 3 Park staff

The meeting opened with VP Alison Baird introducing Leonard Galvan as our newest member and presented him with his official badge.

The minutes of the previous minutes were approved.

Treasurer, Susan Eldridge gave reports for the last two months. April Income: $438.29 Expenses: $315.76 Net income: $122.53

May Income: $1918.97 Expenses: $325.44 Net income: $1613.53 Treasurer’s report was accepted as read.

Park Manager, Chris, reported on many things going on in the Park. He has hired a new Park Ranger, Breanna Robertson. No budget has been set for the Park yet. May get a new vehicle. Attendance in the Park has been very good…up 21%. We have had 195,137 visitors to the Park so far this year. We may be using Elon Musks “Star Link” internet system in the Park soon. We are on a stand by list.

Park Interpreter, Jet, reported that we are done with major events right now, but on September 28th is National Public Lands Day from 1:00pm—3:00pm. They will be cleaning up 5 Oaks Trail.

She has 3 new assistants, Julia Poth, Mel Terry, and Katie Burk who is an Americore Volunteer.

She has a list sign up for greeters in the DC and if you’d like to be a tour boat guide, let her know.

Chief Ranger, Travis, reported that the pontoon boat stalled out twice yesterday and they are working on it and will let Jet know if it’s fixed so they can have their tour tomorrow. He is also doing tractor training today after the meeting. Our new tractor drivers will be Brent Hisey and Leonard Galvan.

Martha reported that they did some new plantings, but as soon as they were planted, the deer pulled them out. She asked Travis to please mow the area around 5 Oaks. Her committee meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday. She’s always looking for new helpers.

Janis reported she is accepting books on nature for children. Drop off at the VC. Also, if you know of anyone who would be a good speaker for the Lecturer’s Series, let Janis know.

Debi, ,Adopt-a-Highway coordinator said they would be doing trash pick up after July 4th

Carla, is still in touch with Meg about the playground. Carla is a tour guide on the boat and recently had a wheel chair person. So she and the Captain finally got her fastened in . After the tour, the father took her to his car and showed her a new device that makes it much easier to get the wheel chair fastened down. It’s made by “Q-Straight”. She suggested to Jet that the DC should be opened on Tuesday and Thursday, because she always sends them there after her tour.

Alison reported for Dick ,about the blue birds. This past week there were 24 eggs and 9 babies.

Diana reported on the Aspiring Anglers program and had a list of all that Doud did. We’re asking for a new coordinator, but if we don’t get one, this program will go on the back burner. Diana also reminded everyone that just because you’re the coordinator, doesn’t mean you do it all. You get a committee to help.

Someone brought up the idea that Travis had a couple of weeks ago about a dog day…things to consider…a parade, a costume contest, food trucks, different organizations having to do with dogs that he has already been in touch with. A veterinary on site. The dogs will get bandanas, we will give metals for different categories Lots of people in attendance were interested in this project and Travis will check with Sarah for a date and then check with his organizations to see if that is a good date for them. We will call it “ Bark in the Park”.

The Osprey Race is on hold until the Spring of 2025 because that’s when the Osprey come back to the Lake. We will hold an Osprey Race meeting following our regular meeting in July …July16th. This is our biggest fund raiser and we’re looking for help and suggestions.

We need a publicity chairman to take pictures of our events and a little line or two about the event to go to the paper.

Elections were next on the agenda. Nancy told everyone that this current Board had all agreed to stay on for the next two years, but are there any nominations? No nominations. Nominations closed. Peggy Bland made motion to accept the current Board and Nancy Hughes seconded the motion,

Martha suggested that each member of the Board give an idea of what each one does.

Janis and a few others will check into revamping the stools in the “wet lab” because they are too high to go under the tables.

As there was no more business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Diana Brennan, Secretary