FRIENDS OF THE SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK, INC.

Meeting Minutes---April 17, 2023

WEBSITE: smlspfriends.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: April 22nd Earth Day 1:00pm May 13th Mother’s Day Tea…Pontoon boat ride 8:30-11:00am at the boat launch Tea 11:15-1:00 at the DC…Wildflower walk 1:00-1:30pm May 20th…Kids to Parks Day at DC

Trails: 2nd & 4th Tuesday at 9:30am Meet at the Visitors Center

Friends Meeting...May 15th at 5:30 pm Picnic…hot dogs, hamburgers, and water supplied. Members bring a covered dish and dessert. $5.00 per person charge to cover supplies. May is Membership month…bring a friend

Attendance: 23 members and 3 Park staff

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

VP, Alison Baird, introduced new members Fred Picini and Valerie Rauh

Treasurer, Susan Eldridge, gave her report: Income…$939.57 Expenses…$3044.81 Net…Minus $2105.24 We received a check for $4629.from the Ruritan Club. Treasurer’s report was accepted as read.

Park Interpreter, Jet Lawler, reported that the Easter Extravaganza had 195 in attendance and thanked everyone who helped make it a success. She has signup sheets for volunteers for Earth Day, and Mother’s Day programs. She has 2 school groups scheduled and is looking for volunteers. She is looking for volunteers to be greeters at the DC for Fridays and Saturdays.

Diana reported for Lorraine. Lorraine has 14 sponsors for Ray Judd’s Music in the Park and if anyone else has a donation before the end of the month, let her know. Diana also reported for Charlie that he met with Larry Jackson, AEP, and selected 10 photos to be mounted for the DC and he will pick them up when they are ready. She also reported for Park Manager, Brian Heft, that there will be a Triathlon on May 6th and that the group was looking for extra help from the Friends.

Matt Doyle, Boat Captain coordinator, reported that we have anew boat captain, Fred Picini, and that the boat has been cleaned is ready to go.

Dick Hendrix, blue bird and landscape coordinator, reported that we already have 36 eggs and look like it will be a really good year. The garden has been cleaned up and looks good. We now have to get some native plants for the garden and he appreciates all the help he has received.

Martha Kuon, Trails, reported that they cleaned up the 5 Oaks Trail. The trails are in good shape. She invited all to come help or just come enjoy walking and thanked everyone who are helping with this project. She has chosen the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays to work on the trails at 9:30am and to meet at the Visitors Center. She will send email reminders.

Park Interpreter, Meagan Preston, reported that they will need lots of mulch on the playground to start this year.

Bill Pecoraro, Purple Martin coordinator, reported that the Martins are here. They travel 5,000 miles from Brazil to get here. Many are the same birds that were here last year. Bill asked that we remember Gene Chianelli as this was his dream. Bill also urged everyone to take precautions against ticks as there will be a big tick problem this year.

Park Manager, Brian Heft, reported on the Triathlon, that Diana mentioned previously. He said they are getting things set up for summer.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Diana Brennan, Secretary

Thanks to all who brought refreshments