FRIENDS OF THE SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK, INC.

Meeting Minutes---January 15, 2024

WEBSITE: smlspfriends.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Next Lecture Series event February 4 “Viola Ruffner & B.T. Washington

Trails: The 2nd and 4th Tuesdays .. Martha will contact in the event of inclement weather

Next Friends meeting: 3rd Monday, February 19 at 9:30 am

ATTENDANCE: 15 members, 2 Park staff

President, Nancy Galvan, opened the meeting and asked for a vote on November’s minutes. The minutes were approved as written.

Alison mentioned we have new members: Bill & Betty McMillian and Posey McGrun (They were not present)

Susan gave the Treasurer’s reports from November and December 2023

Nov. Income: $469.30 Expenses: $365.51 Net Income: $103.79

Dec. Income: $663.00 Expenses: $0.00 Net Income: $663.00

Net Income for 2023: $7,639.95 Treasurer’s reports were accepted as read.

Chief Ranger, Travis reported many upgrade jobs are underway: cabin doors replaced, fishing pier redecked, docks being redecked by contractors and new trail blazers are being installed. Brian’s last day is Feb. 1st and they are interviewing for his position.

Master Naturalists built two bat houses for the park and he will have them installed somewhere along the batty wagon route. Hopes to also put an interpreter sign near the houses.

The park is hoping to hire a part-time Volunteer Coordinator to handle many of the jobs that he currently handles for the Friends, such as event planning/set-ups, assisting volunteers with hours, etc. but of course he will always be available to us.

Interpreter, Jet reported on the First Lecture series event. It was well attended by approximately 50 attendees. The first event volunteers are requested for will be Easter the end of March.

Martha reported that the trails are in good shape. Thanked the park workers for cleaning up for the Frist Day Hike, everything looked good. Plans to do the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays except in inclement weather.

Carla is still researching the playground and is looking for a grant writer

Janis reported that the first Lecture Series went well. Approximately 50 attendees including 6 or 7 Master Naturalists. The sound system needs to be worked on, wasn’t working well. Ther American Chestnut Society is still interested in doing a presentation, so she is going to try to schedule an additional Sunday in March or April for them. This would be free to the public. Flyers were available.

Lorraine inquired if we were planning to continue Music in the Park in 2024. It was agreed we would. She gave Nancy a list of dates to be confirmed availability with the park and she needs to book the bands. soon.

Nancy mentioned the Osprey Race and questioned whether we should continue to do it and if so not holding it in October 2024, but have it in Spring 2025, when it originally used to be. There didn’t seem to be any objections, but we are going to need more Friends to help with set-up and course monitors as several people can no longer do it.

Dick, Martha and Janice volunteered for the Audit committee and met immediately after the meeting.

Nominating committee – need 3 volunteers

Website, social media, publicity – need volunteer

Adopt-a-Highway – need coordinator

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted, Beverly Pickering for: Diana Brennan, Secretary