FRIENDS OF SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE STATE PARK, INC.

Meeting Minutes---April 18, 2022

WEBSITE: smlspfriends.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Earth Day Saturday, April23rd ...1:00-3:00pm at DC Trails: 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 9:00am Mother’s Day Program: May 7th, starting with boat tour, and then Mother’s Day tea, followed by Wildflower Walk Kids to Parks Day: May 21st

FRIENDS MEETING MONDAY MAY 16th at9:30am It is our annual membership meeting, ask a friend to join you. We will have refreshments.

President, Doug Kuhn, greeted the membership. The minutes were approved as written.

Attendance: 19 members and 3 Park staff

VP Nancy Galvan announced that the membership roster has been updated.

Treasurer, Susan Eldridge, gave her report...Income $917.53 Net income $894. \*\* Treasurer’s report was accepted as read.

Park Manager, Brian Heft, gave report: the Park is very busy, they are hiring for various jobs for 1500 hours. They had a “job fair” and the pay is $12.00/hour, up from last year. They are looking at a $20,000 bid to repair the rip rap at the boat ramp and to replace the dock at the beach area. They are preparing the water system for the season. We will have a YCC group of young ladies this summer starting June 19th-July 9th. Travis is working on the bench project.

Assistant Park Manager, Jared Vandergriff, reported that they had purchased everything to place the camera on the Osprey nest, and everything came, except the cameras. It may be too late to install the camera if the Osprey have already started to nest. He also said that lightning rods have been installed to protect the camera.

Park Interpreter, Jet Lawler, reported that she had a phone call from Mrs. Johnson, who owns the “billboard” where we put our banners for Music in the Park and the Osprey Race. Mr. Johnson is putting up a new board and said that the screws we have used in the past are too large and he doesn't want the brush cut. Jet continued by thanking all who helped with the Easter Extravaganza. They stuffed and hid 1500 eggs. Earth Day is Sat. April 21st from 1:00-3:00pm. They will be making bird feeders from recycled items. Mother’s Day Program will be May 7th, starting with a boat tour, Mother’s Day Tea, and Wildflower Walk. May 21st is Kids to Parks Day. She needs help for all events and school groups. April 26th and 27th are school groups with the tour boat and general public tours on the boat begin June 2nd

Charlie Walker announced that he and Lorraine will not be here for the 1st Music in the Park and is looking for help, especially to buy the groceries we will need for that night.

Dick Hendrix, Blue Bird and Landscape guru announced that we have eggs in 10 of the 14 houses. We will monitor thru August. He is scheduling Wednesday, April 27th to work in the “butterfly garden” from 9:00- 11:00am. Bring garden tools. He is still looking for someone who is good at picking out native plants and Jet went to a seminar and brought back some info for him.

New member, Martha Kuon, reported that she and her husband had worked 3 hours on the 5 Oaks Trail and Brian added that they are trying to get the trail opened and they are waiting on signs.

Nancy Galvan, reported that the Osprey Race is Oct. 22nd and it is live on Run Signup, so anyone can register for the race. The sponsors letters went out and our web page is being reworked as per Carla Esarey.

Sponsorship Program: Doug asked for questions or comments and following are comments from Wendy and Peter Lewis: #1 We are opposed to it #2 The Friends is for helping to enhance children's and adults' programs in the Park #3 This scholarship fund has nothing to do with what we do #4 It redirects our limited resources both financially and humanly away from our initial purpose #5 Think how much $3000 would benefit the kids program

Doug’s thoughts are that it provides an individual to advance their natural sciences and that the Friends funds have been used before for a like project. Brian has offered an internship for summer employment and Doug feels it would be a “good will” mission---promoting the Park. We would like to know from the members how they feel about this, ask questions, make comments. This is just a one-year offer. Dick Hendrix is contacting the colleges, but is waiting to have questions resolved.

Janis Erickson, coordinator of the children’s book corner at the VC reported that she has a “stack” of books from the Moneta Library to add to the corner. These are books about nature. If you have books to donate to the children’s corner, contact Janis, leave at the VC, or take to the next meeting. janis.erickson@gmail.com 757-478-8584

Our next meeting is our annual “membership” meeting. Take a friend, encourage them to join us. There will be refreshments. May 16th at 9:30am

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Brennan, Secretary