

Friends of Whitefish Dunes State Park

Minutes, 17 October, 2019

Present: Susan Cubar, Carl Scholz, Jim Perry, Don Gustafson, Rich Dirks, Lynn Zawojski, Adele Douglass, Erin Brown-Sender, Erin Dembski, Mary Goodner

The agenda was approved (Susan/Don).

The minutes from 18 July were approved (Jim/Susan). No meeting in August, no quorum in September.

The Treasurer's reports for August and September were presented by Susan. In August the income was \$4,737.61; expenses were \$2,098.33. The August statement was approved (Rich/Susan). September income was \$3,881.71; expenses were \$4,419.71. The September statement was approved (Carl/Susan). On 30 September the checking account balance was \$37,856.00. The savings account, which includes money for several restricted projects, was \$55,610.70.

Park Report: Erin (BS) reported that Jaclyn Moeri is no longer working at the park and has taken another job after about seven years at Whitefish Park. Her departure means there will be limited Nature Center staffing for the immediate future. Erin is hopeful that a new manager could be on site soon, but felt doubtful that a replacement for Jaclyn would be assigned. Erin (D) will begin a new assignment at Pot Park soon.

Erin D. explained that she has begun the process of preparing the park for winter. This has included shutting off outside drinking fountains; she'll soon be closing down the staff houses. Peil Construction has begun preparing some of the board walk sections for the Brachiopod Trail; some of these have been delivered to the fourth parking lot. There is optimism that the project can be completed before the end of 2019.

Old Business: (1) Rich Dirks went over the agreement between and DNR and the Friends of Whitefish Dunes, Inc. The new text clarifies the relationship between the two bodies and clearly states that Friends members and officers can engage in lobbying or other engagement with legislators in order to promote the park. The

agreement will need to be signed by officers of the Friends group. (2) The fall work day will be Saturday 19 October starting at 9am. (3) Carl reminded the board members that the Dunes Park ought to be eligible to receive some of the monies received by the Town of Sevastopol tourism room tax. The funds are collected from motels and B&B facilities in the township and are intended to promote tourism. Carl suggested that the best method to acquire some of this money is to attend the annual town meeting where citizens can present proposals. This meeting is typically held on the third Thursday of April. This item will need further attention so that the Friends group can make a presentation to the town meeting in spring 2020. (4) Chuck Birringer continues to update our website. It was approved (Susan/Don) to allocate up to \$385 for three years of continued website support.

New Business: (1) The required (by the DNR) Incentive Grant Close Out report was prepared by Susan. Steve Umentum's document was the basis for the report. (2) The search needs to continue for new board members. Workday participants will be questioned about their interest in serving. (3) Dale Goodner has prepared a sample letter to be sent to the DNR and state legislators requesting that staffing be restored at WF Dunes Park and for tax support to be reestablished for all Wisconsin state parks. Adele will work to shorten/refine the letter for board approval.

Next meeting will be 21 November. Agenda items should be submitted to Lynn.