

Friends of Whitefish Dunes, Inc.
3275 Clark Lake Rd., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235

Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 7-19-23

Present: John Swanson, Dick Weidman, Julia Stoneman, Susan Cubar, Liz Story, Jim Perry, Doug Otopalik, Lynn Zawojski, Don Gustafson, Max Martin, Corey Meyer, Sarah Stepanik, Erin Brown Stender

Absent: Adele Douglas, Rich Dirks

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Agenda: Motion to approve the Agenda with correction: Susan; second, Don. All in favor.

Minutes: Motion to approve the Minutes of 6-21-23 with correction: Jim; second, Max. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report (Julia):

Income: \$16,610.75

- Sales during summer months are strong, with clothing and books doing especially well.
- Dues are in for the year.
- \$120 in donations received.

Expenses: \$21,358.48

- Brachiopod Trail expenses, including signage, benches, and Talking Trail.
- = Mike Orthober for animal mounts

Motion to approve June Treasurer's Report: Don; second, Susan. All in favor.

Park Report (Sarah):

- June saw 27,997 visitors, which was 377 more than average and 571 more than 2022.
- 4th of July (7/1 - 7/4): 9,429 visitors, which is 3,493 more than 2022. \$11,000 in sales at Contact Station.

Park Manager Projects:

- Native American Village: New lodge will be constructed on July 27. Waiting to hear from Split Rock Studios on indoor and outdoor interpretive displays.
- First Beach Access: Engineer was out in June to assess the ramp for ADA use. The current plan is to install a semi-permanent wooden ramp that will sit on top of the sand. This structure is a temporary solution for ADA access until funding can be obtained for a permanent ramp, which will be expensive.
- Indoor Bathrooms: There are now touch-free appliances and hands-free door pulls. Vent fan has been fixed.

Knowles-Nelson Projects:

- Brachiopod Trail: All signs, science stations, tactile elements, and benches have been installed. We are waiting on signage from Talking Trails, along with some smaller instructional signs. Project should be completed by mid-August.
- Old Baldy: Stantec has agreed to let Mike Laaksonen use a new type of footing for posts. If the manufacturer confirms they fit the required weight ratings, Mike will move forward with an estimate and schedule a date.
- Picnic Shelter: Door County Masonry needs to be scheduled. Windows should arrive in July. Mike Laaksonen will schedule a work date to complete this project after windows are here.

2023 Enhancement Grant:

- Our grant was approved. This money will be used to purchase a new entrance gate as well as updated trail signs.

Beach Warning Flag Pilot Program:

- The DNR has approved of some type of beach safety/warning system at all state parks. Finding a universal solution has been difficult due to the varied situations at each park. We have gotten the okay to do a pilot program here, but that would require the Friends sponsoring the program and purchasing the necessary equipment. Sarah got estimates for both a 2 and 3 flag/pole system. The preference would be for a 3 flag/pole system, which would put a flag at both 2nd

and 3rd beach, as well as a flag/pole at the entrance. Sarah would also like to post a beach safety sign near the entrance flag. The cost for a 3-flag system would be about \$765, and the sign would cost about \$200. Motion to approve up to \$1,000 for beach warning system: Dick; second, Susan. All in favor.

Trail Ambassadors (Doug):

- We have 4 new Ambassadors.
- A secure site has been created for registration.

Membership (Susan):

- Dues are still trickling in
- Email sent about upcoming events
- 100 more baseball caps ordered as they are selling well. We also have a new supply of Old Baldy t-shirts and hoodies.
- We've sold \$2,500 in merchandise in the last 2 weeks.

Pollinator Garden (Don):

Don has added White Wild Indigo plants.

Events:

- World Sound Explorations - July 27. Ryan Meisel will perform from 7-8:30, then there will be a drum circle from 8:30-9.
- Candlelight Summer Walk - August 19.

Grants:

- After a meeting with the DCCF, we found out that we qualify for two separate grants. The first is the Destination Door County Parks Initiative Grant, which is a \$50,000 grant. The second component of this grant is a \$50,000 matching grant. We have the opportunity to set up a fund through DCCF, where donations can be made to WFD to help with our match. DCCF would also help us with fundraising.
- The second grant opportunity is The Community Investment Fund. This would be a quarterly application process where we could apply for varying amounts of grant money. There would likely be some type of matching required of us, although not necessarily a 50/50 match.

Old Business:

- Allen Dewey Miller Memorial Auditorium Renaming: We will need written approval from Allen's family before we can move forward with this. Once we receive that, the Friends will proceed with the renaming process.
- Nature Center WiFi feasibility: Corey presented some possible choices for WiFi within the Nature Center, with Starlink seeming to be our best option. After reviewing the overall cost, we've decided to keep it on our wishlist for now.
- Flail Mower: We decided this is not worth a grant application. If Friends opt to purchase, the cost would be about \$3,500. We will discuss again next month.

New Business:

- FaceBook revamp: We will look at updating our FaceBook guidelines. Jim will work with Julia to determine what guidelines are used with Friends groups at other parks.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Don; second, Doug. The meeting was adjourned by at 5:20. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 16 at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Story
Secretary