

**Friends of Whitefish Dunes, Inc.**

**3275 Clark Lake Rd., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235**

**Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 2/18/21 (Approved)**

**Present:** John Swanson, Susan Cubar, Adele Douglass, Joe Jarosh, Liz Story, Rich Dirks, Don Gustafson, Jim Perry, Doug Otopalik, Dick Weidman, Sarah Stepanik, and Erin Brown Stender

**Absent:** Lynn Zawojski, Carl Scholz

**Call to Order:** The Zoom meeting was called to order by President John Swanson at 4:30.

**Announcement:** Prior to the Agenda, John mentioned that he had spoken to Carl Scholz, who would be interested in joining the Zoom meetings. Efforts will be made to work with Anna's Place to set Carl up with a device and get him connected to Zoom meeting.

**Agenda:** Susan suggested putting the new bench order under New Business. John will add under Old Business. Motion to approve agenda: Jim, second: Adele. All in favor.

**Minutes of January, 2021 meeting:** Approved with corrections. Motion to approve by Rich, second by Jim. All in favor.

**Treasurer's Report** for January, 2021: Motion to approve: Dick, second: Adele. All in favor. Susan reported total income at \$254.00, and expenditure of \$71.70. \$868.54 was transferred from Savings account (Brachiopod Fund) to Checking to cover expenses to Max Martin for Brachiopod kiosk materials. Susan will be listing all active grants at the bottom of future Treasurer's Reports. John will check with Raibrook on the status of the Brachiopod grant.

**Park Report** (Sarah)

There were 5,850 visitors in January, which is 1,600 more than last year, and above average for the month. February's attendance dropped, probably due to the cold temperatures. Self registration and kiosk still open. Nature Center, Shelter and Observation Decks still closed. Cold weather and opening of 2nd and 3rd beach accesses seemed to help people stay on trails and not wander where they shouldn't go.

DPS Updates

- New Engineer will take over some of our projects, including water heater install and 1st beach access redo. Concern that DPS estimate might not cover 1st beach repairs. Engineer wants to take a look at work area.
- Sevastopol wants to widen and resurface Schauer Road to help with bottlenecks and shoulder width, as well as cars parking on shoulder in summer. Park is in discussion with the Town with their own suggestions, including adding a designated pedestrian/bike lane to improve safety, and adding more No

Parking indicators. Also cautioned against widening road too much, which might encourage more parking on shoulder.

#### Personnel

- Brynna will return as Parks and Rec Specialist position. Will work just under full-time and will live on Park property.
- Jeanne will return to VSA position 2-3 days/week.
- John will continue as Parks and Rec Specialist, but at reduced hours.
- Opening for 1 full-time VSA and 1 Naturalist, which Friends would be funding.

#### **Trail Report (Rich):**

The thin base is slowly building and track was set this week. The trial of a split trail from Nature Center to the 2<sup>nd</sup> beach seems to be going well. The Red Pine Trail has gotten a lot of good use. It seems that locals are hiking on the ski trails, not so much visitors. Grooming machinery is working well. Doug said he hasn't noticed a lot of walking on the ski trails. Need to better communicate ski /trail conditions. The FaceBook page, Skinny Skis, and DNR sites possible options for getting the word out. Jim will update FaceBook page.

#### **Old Business**

- New memorial bench has been ordered. Sarah will work with donor and John will order the bench from the carpenter, which should be ready by spring.
- Rich contacted Rick Ostrowski's daughters about the wording on Rick's memorial bench. When he gets this information John will order the bench.
- Treasurer position: Still researching a replacement for Susan. Will possibly need to hire someone to handle some of the duties.
- Wish List Updates:
  - Waiting for amount of Knowles-Nelson Grant.
  - No information on Old Baldy handrail cost yet (Sarah).
  - Pollinator sign (Don/Sarah): Under discussion: size, placement, cost, etc.
  - Indian Village update (Joe/Sarah): Joe met with Mike Madden, and he is excited about updating the village, especially because of Sarah's archaeological background.
  - Computer/printer: John priced out computer, printer, and external hard drives. Susan suggested putting this on hold until the Treasurer's position gets resolved and let the new person have input.
  - Taxidermy (Dick): Sevastopol School has mounts that they will be getting rid of, so we can probably choose from those for putting on display in the Nature Center. Dick will follow up.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Naturalist position** (Sarah/Erin): A new Naturalist will be hired this year (Umentum will not be returning) and the pay scale can be adjusted. Proposing \$12.50/hour depending on qualifications (wage dictated by DNR). Job would be about 24 hours/week if this person works exclusively at WFD, and about 20 hours/week if splitting time between Parks. The total time for this position would be 16 weeks

total, which would amount to 384 hours (at high end). Total of \$6,144 to fund the whole work period. There is \$3,682 carry over from last year. The total when subtracted would amount to \$2,462 to cover high end of expenses, but with a buffer the thinking is \$2,490 for a donation. Susan mentioned that we have \$9,872 in the fund. Motion to spend \$2,490 for that position: Don, second: Susan. All in favor.

- **Informational Kiosk near Nature Center:** It's proposed that the Park Orientation Sign (ordered through the DNR a few years ago) be placed near the Nature Center on a kiosk that would also have information on trail conditions, beach conditions, etc. Max Martin is willing to make ~~the~~ a new, wider kiosk. Sarah will get in touch with Max. Susan said it's important to see a final proof on the Park Orientation Sign before it is created.

- **Process for grants:** Current grants will be listed on the Treasurer's report. John proposed that anyone writing grants needs to work with the Treasurer to track grant progress. Treasurer should receive a file copy of the grant applications. Susan suggested at next meeting there should be a motion to have majority of Board approve all grants.

- **Friends' Insurance:** John had local Stoneman agency review our current policy. Our policy costs more because we own our equipment, which is insured. No coverage for injuries for Friends when at Park. He recommended that we stay with current company as they are well regarded. If we wanted to make a change in our policy, Paul would become the local agent for the current company we are insured with. Volunteers do sign some kind of agreement, but maybe look into some kind of waiver.

- **Trail Ambassador Program** (Doug, Jim, Sarah, Susan): Biggest thing holding this program up is COVID. Committee will gather resources now and decide duties, park needs, member interest, community interest, training, etc.

**Other Business:** John proposed moving the next meeting time to 4:00 to accommodate Carl.

Next meeting 3/17/21 at 4:00.

Motion to adjourn meeting: Don, second: Jim. Meeting was adjourned by John at 5:46.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Story

Secretary