

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

Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 10-25-23

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

Absent: Rich Dirks, Max Martin

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm

Agenda: Motion to approve the Agenda with additions: Jim; second, Susan. All in favor.

Minutes: Motion to approve the Minutes of 9-27-23: Dick; second, Susan. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report September 2023 (Julia):

Income: \$2,306

- Book, clothing, and miscellaneous sales still doing well.
- Picnic Shelter donations. We now have a dedicated box for Picnic Shelter donations in the Nature Center.

Expenses: \$10,288.79

- Picnic Shelter repairs and supplies, and other general expenses.

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

DC Adventure Center:

- Sarah, John, and Susan met with Tim from DC Adventure Center. He said they had a good summer overall, and are still happy with our arrangement.
- We received a check from them in the amount of \$6,325.00.
- We have 2 concessionaire agreements: one is with the DNR. The other is with the DCAC, which is a 3 year agreement that expires in December. We would add a clause regarding eBikes in a new contract with DCAC, and offer another 3 year contract to them with the option to renew.

Motion to renew contract with DCAC: Dick; second, Adele. All in favor.

Park Report (Sarah):

- September saw 24,203 visitors, which is about average for the month.

Park Manager Projects:

- Native Village/Indoor Museum Renovations: Sarah sent an email out to the tribal members she had spoken with earlier to get their input on how to proceed with these renovations. She has not heard back from everyone at this point, and will wait to hear to get consensus on the options that were talked about.
- First Beach Access: Projected for Spring 2024.
- Ski Trail Prep: Mulching and trimming of trails will continue until snowfall.
- Orientation sign has been installed in kiosk.

Knowles-Nelson Projects:

- Brachiopod Trail Signs: Sarah is working with John and Julia to complete the exit paperwork for this grant.
- Old Baldy: Final plans have been received from Stantec. DNR needs more details from them, and we are waiting on those.
- Picnic Shelter Repairs: Mike Laaksonen will be in the first week of November to complete the necessary repairs on north side of building. Sarah has not heard back from Door County Masonry on chimney repairs. This may end up happening in Spring 2024.

- Cave Point Trail: Sarah had archaeologist back to look at the proposed area. Because of the small amount of soil involved, he will revise his recommendation regarding ground disturbance. In this case, Sarah thinks we might be able to do the work ourselves, and has gotten some suggestions for materials to use. In the event we are not able to do this work, she has reached out to some contractors for estimates. We would still need approval from the County Park before starting any work.

2023 Enhancement Grant: Sarah is working on purchasing new entrance gate and trail signs.

Beach Flag Warning System: Sarah will continue to work with DNR to get a pilot/official system in place for 2024 season.

Seasonal Updates:

- Drinking fountains scheduled to be shut down October 26.
- Housing scheduled to close November 2.

Trail Ambassadors (Doug):

- Not much to report. Doug will send letter to Ambassadors to request their volunteer hours.

Membership (Susan):

- Susan ordered more sweatshirts and hoodies, which should hold us through the off season.
- She will send out a newsletter before Thanksgiving with upcoming event dates.

Legislative Report (Adele):

- No updates at this time. Adele encouraged the group to let her know if there is anything we would like brought to the attention of Representative Kitchens.

Pollinator Garden (Don):

- Don gave an end of year report. He has planted a number of new plants and grasses. He will leave the vegetation as is over the winter to support the pollinators, and will cut back old growth in spring.

Events:

- Fall Work Day is Saturday, October 28 from 9-noon.
- Meeting of Friends of Wisconsin State Parks will be held November 4 in Appleton. John, Julia, and Corey will attend.
- Annual Meeting will be Friday, December 8. Annual meeting begins at 11:00 am, and Charlotte Lukes will speak.
- 1st Day Hike will be January 1 from 10:00 - noon.
- Candlelight Ski, Saturday January 27.

Old Business:

- We will need a group to put together a report for Nature Center renaming.

- Revisions to By-Laws (Susan):

- Revision to Article 1, Section 2c
- Revision to Article 2, Section 1a
- Revision to Article 2, Section 1d
- Revision to Article 2, Section 1e
- Revision to Article 3, Section 3
- Revision to Article 3, Section 4
- Revision to Article 3, Section 6
- Revision to Article 3, Section 7
- Revision to Article 3, Section 9
- Revision to Article 4
- Revision to Article 4, Section 2
- Revision to Article 5, Section 1

- Revision to Article 5, Section 2
- Proposing a new Article 9

All revisions and proposals were passed by unanimous vote.

- Snowmobile can't be taken in until after 12/1. Rich is moving forward on estimates.
- Picnic Shelter Repairs: Cost for additional repairs on north side is \$7,500. DNR will fund \$4,999, and Friends will cover the balance.
- Donation to Library for Park Passes: John will get more information about this at the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks meeting, and we will discuss at a future meeting.

New Business:

- Julia has requested implementing a new type of expense report to get more timely submissions for any purchases made.
- A grant committee of John, Susan, Doug, and Sarah met to discuss applying for a Wisconsin Coastal Grant. They decided they were not ready to submit an application at this point. They will work on some ideas over the winter and will apply for this grant next year.
- John will apply for a Knowles-Nelson grant to help with the Cave Point Trail project.
- We talked about purchasing a tractor grader blade, which would facilitate trail maintenance. Dick will look into pricing and give us information at our next meeting.
- Ryan Meisel (World Sound Explorations) called John to propose a Sunday afternoon engagement next summer. We will ask about his availability for the Summer Candlelight Event as an option.
- Friends of Wisconsin State Parks has a \$25 registration fee. John suggested that we could reimburse board members who attend an event with this group. Motion to approve \$25 reimbursement: Don; second, Susan. All in favor.
- John proposed not having a November meeting due to conflict with Thanksgiving and our upcoming annual meeting in early December. This was seconded by Dick. All in favor.
- Hunting in Park begins 11/15.
- 2024 stickers go on sale November 24.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Don; second, Susan. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:20.

The next meeting is our Annual Meeting, Friday December 8. Our January meeting will be January 17 at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Story
Secretary