

Friends of Whitefish Dunes State Park

Minutes 15 February, 2023

Present: John Swanson, Julia Stoneman, Rich Dirks, Jim Perry, Dick Weidman, Erin Brown Stender, Sarah Stepanik, Lynn Zawojski, Max Martin, Don Gustafson, Adele Douglass.

Absent: Doug Otopalik, Liz Story

Meeting called to order by John at 3:56 pm.

The agenda was approved, with corrections. (Dick/Rick).

Minutes from January were approved (Rich/Dick).

Treasurer's Report. Sales have been slow, but quite a few donations have been received (\$10,657), including a generous gift honoring Bill Gross. The Carl Scholz Memorial Fund has a balance of \$7,169. Expenses were \$1,410.40. Balance in the savings account on 1/31/23 was \$68,835.02. The treasurer's report was approved (Jim/Dick).

Park Report: Visitors during January numbered 4,725, above previous numbers for the same month. The beach has widened. Sara and staff have been sorting through the north garage as well as the naturalist office, discarding damaged or obsolete objects. Many books can be donated, perhaps to the Sturgeon Bay Library. A few items will be recycled. WI-DNR's Park and Recreational Management has agreed to implement a beach warning flag system at state park beaches on the Great Lakes, more information and details to follow. Sarah asked whether Friends should consider putting safety equipment at the 2nd and 3rd beach access points.

Grooming report (Rich) We may be headed for a new low in number of hours of grooming, a bummer of a winter, indeed, due to lack of snow.

Trail Ambassadors: Doug proposes sending a gift to volunteers, John will clarify.

Membership: no report.

Spring work day has been scheduled for 22 April, 2023, which coincides nicely with Earth Day.

1st Peoples Weekend: July 27-30: John, Doug, and Susan will do some planning for this.

Project List (Active)

Picnic Shelter Project: A preliminary K/N grant (\$7,500) has been approved plus a donation of \$5,000). Proposed repairs include replacing sliding doors with windows, replacing rotten boards (and restaining), updating electric receptacles with GFI, fixing (or removing) stone steps outside sliding doors, fireplace inserts, and repair of chimney cracks. Our contribution for the project will be in the range of \$6,386. The project was approved (Dick/Julia).

Native American Village: The wording on signage is OK, but illustrations need to be upgraded. John will apply to the David and Joyce Weizenscker Fund for State Parks for potential assistance.

Seasonal Naturalist: John will apply for a \$3,500 grant (Friends of Wisconsin State Parks Incentive) which we will need to match.

Beach Rescue Station: It was approved to spend \$1,630.77 (Dick/Lynn) for equipment.

Taxidermy mounts: Rich will coordinate with Mike Orthober regarding the position of the porcupine and fisher and obtain estimate.

Long-term projects:

Charging station: Sara will submit proposal to PRMT.

Cave Point access trail. Erin relayed that DNR Rec Liaison Mike Duke mentioned at a recent meeting that this project is on his list. Mike would assist with trail layout, still no funds allocated to this project.

Old Business: none

New Business: The deer exclosures have been damaged. Dick Baudhuin will provide posts to make repairs. Max suggested nearby signage to explain the purpose of the exclosures and the comparison they offer.

Adjourn at 5:19 (Dick/Jim). Next meeting: 3/15/23 at 4p.m. (Time later changed to 3pm)