

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

Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 3-15-23

Present: John Swanson, Dick Weidman, Julia Stoneman, Liz Story, Rich Dirks, Adele Douglass, Jim Perry, Doug Otopalik, Lynn Zawojski, Max Martin, Sarah Stepanik, and Erin Brown Stender. Guests: Mike Bergum and Krista Lutzke

Absent: Susan Cubar, Don Gustafson

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by John Swanson at 3:00 pm.

Agenda: Motion to approve the Agenda: Doug; second, Max. All in favor.

Minutes: Motion to approve the Minutes of 2-15-23 with corrections: Rich; second, Jim. All in favor.

Krista Lutzke, our new East Central District Naturalist, introduced herself and described what her role will be in relation to Whitefish Dunes State Park. She will be working with all the naturalists in the region, and she will be based at Peninsula Park.

Treasurer's Report (Julia)

- Income: \$2,492.00
- Sales still slow, as expected for February.
- Donations included a \$1,000 donation from the Tim & Cynthia Wick Fund, and two donations in memory of William Gross.
- Expenses: \$3,895.77
- Expenses included rescue station equipment, some Brachiopod Trail items, and clothing.

Motion to approve the February Treasurer's Report: Dick; second, Jim. All in favor.

Park Report (Sarah):

- February was a busy month with many people out skiing. We had 5,418 visitors, which is 693 more than January, 2,289 more than February 2022, and 1,738 more than our February average.
- 1st Beach access remained open for about 90% of the winter, and will likely remain open.
- Our engineer expects to have the ramp in by Fall of this year. We are considering a float ramp that can be removed in winter.

Park Manager Projects:

- Cleaning of shop buildings, west garage, and Naturalist office has been completed. Items no longer needed will be disposed of, auctioned off, or donated.
- Sights are set on cleaning out the north garage in spring. Eventually this property will be sold.
- Sarah will meet with Bill Quackenbush from the Ho-Chunk on 3/21. Krista Luedke will also be in attendance. They will seek his recommendations for improvements to the Native American Village, and also get his input on how we can upgrade the interpretive display in the Nature Center. Sarah also plans to meet with representatives from the Menominee and Potawatomi in April. The hope is to get the outdoor display finished this year, but, if not, there would be a plan in place for necessary renovations.

Brachiopod Trail and ADA Parking Lot:

- ADA Parking Lot: Plans have been approved, so Lily Bay has the go ahead to start construction.
- The Brachiopod Trail Reroute is scheduled to be completed this spring.

Knowles-Nelson Projects:

- Brachiopod Trail signs have been approved and sent to printer. Other supplies needed to complete this project have

been ordered. All installation must be completed by June 1.

- Old Baldy: Engineering plans have hit a delay, but hopefully these plans will be approved and ready by our deadline at the end of March.

- Picnic Shelter:

- Stauber Electric will be the electrical contractor for this project, and plan to begin on April 11 to do the upgrades.
- Mike Laaksonen will be the construction contractor and will install the windows when they arrive. He will also take care of replacing and painting the compromised siding. We hope for a June completion.
- Wulf Brothers has been asked to install the fireplace insert. Mason still needed to repair chimney.

Seasonal Staffing:

- John Bagnall and Jeanne Schopf will both be returning part-time.
- Interviews have been completed for the Naturalist Internship position and we hope to hire soon.

Trail Report (Rich):

- March has been our best month for snow, but we've probably groomed trails for the last time.

Trail Ambassadors (Doug):

- Ambassadors are on the trails. Doug would like to have another gathering with the Ambassadors to update them on the goings on at the Park. Thank you letters have been sent to the Ambassadors along with a coupon for Nature Center purchases. He is always looking for new volunteers.

Events:

- Spring Work Day will be held 4/22 from 9:00 - noon. Lunch will be provided.
- World Sound Explorations will be held July 27 as an evening concert.

Project List:

- Kiosk will have updated pictures.
- Old Baldy stairs and rails: There is a tourism grant available from the DC Community Foundation. Deadline for this grant is April 1, and Dick will try to get an application in.
- Taxidermy mounts: Rich will let Mike know our preference for mounting and staging to get a cost.
- Seasonal Naturalist pay raised to \$16/hour. John has applied for the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks Incentive Grant to help cover this.
- EV planning going slowly, but moving forward.

Old Business:

- We got a letter and certificate from DNR thanking us for the ADA Parking Lot.

New Business:

- Doug brought up the idea of us designating a percentage of donations to the Carl Scholz Memorial Fund to help increase the fund over time. Another thought was to earmark a certain amount annually from our budget. We will discuss funding options at a future meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Dick; second, Rich. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned by at 4:00

The next meeting is on Wednesday 4/19 at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Story

Secretary