

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

Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 3/27/24

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

Absent: Don Gustafson, Max Martin, Adele Douglass

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm.

Agenda: Motion to approve the Agenda: Dick; second, Julia. All in favor.

Minutes: Motion to approve the Minutes of 2/28/24 with corrections: Susan; second, Julia. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report (Julia):

Income: \$399.00

- Sales continue to be lower, per expectations at this time of year.
- We received some more membership dues and unspecified donations.

Expenses: \$15,450.58

- Talking Trail renewal
- Stantec engineering plans
- Non-stock filing

The Whitefish Dunes Carl Scholz Memorial Fund is currently \$14,833.94.

The Whitefish Dunes DDC Challenge Fund is currently \$2,531.22

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

Park Report (Sarah):

- February saw 5,002 visitors, which is 1,486 above average, and 416 less than 2023.

Seasonal Changes:

- LTE interviews have been completed. We hope to make offers to candidates by the end of the week.

Park Manager Projects:

- In lieu of renaming the Nature Center/Auditorium for Allen Dewey Miller, we discussed an honorary plaque and/or some type of exhibit inside the auditorium to commemorate him. Another option might be to hold an annual event in his name.
- Native Village/Indoor Museum Renovations: The Friends were awarded \$10,000 of the \$50,000 DDC grant for concept drawings for the indoor and outdoor renovations. Split Rock is currently drawing up a contract for this work.
- Canvas coverings for Pole Lodge: These coverings have been ordered, and we hope to receive them in early April so they can be put up during our Spring Work Day.
- First Beach Access: Permits have been issued for this project. Further plant surveys are in order after project was reviewed by biologists. This will push back construction until late summer/early fall 2024.
- Kids Don't Float Kiosk: A life jacket loaner station can be installed on 1st Beach Access to encourage people to put life jackets on their children. The Friends included a cost estimate for the kiosk in the Incentive Grant application for 2024. Sarah will get a quote for materials from WI Builder Supply.
- Nature Center Storage Closet: Since this involves renovation to a Park building, it needs to go through a donation acceptance process which Sarah has begun. She will schedule Mike Laaksonen when the process is complete.

Knowles-Nelson Projects:

- Brachiopod Trail Sign and Picnic Shelter repairs closeout paperwork submitted 1//5/24.

- Have not heard back from Door County Masonry, so repair to the chimney will be funded separately.
- Old Baldy: Stantec has completed the final plans. Mike Laaksonen is finalizing his materials list with his supplier. When that is complete we can get a cost estimate for construction. Sarah has also contacted Piel as a backup option, and expects to receive a construction estimate from them soon.
- Cave Point Trail: The Friends were awarded a \$40,000 Knowles-Nelson grant for this project. This will cover the cost of laying a gravel trail and the materials for rope fencing to be installed in more dangerous or delicate areas. Sarah also suggested considering a Community Investment Grant to fund installation of boardwalks, which would help keep people from straying off trail.

2023 Enhancement Grant:

- Sarah submitted a PO request for a new entrance gate and trail directional signs on 1/23/24. Once she receives approval, she will place the order. She expects the gate to arrive this summer.

Beach Warning Flag Pilot Program:

- Sarah has no update at this time, but she will continue to work with DNR to get the pilot program in place for the 2024 season.

Trail Ambassadors (Doug):

- Not much going on at this point, but Doug expects things to be starting up soon. He currently has about 21 volunteers. A few more people have expressed interest in becoming Ambassadors.

Membership (Susan):

- Susan got in touch with Linda Wait, who is a representative with Nicolet Welcome Services (formerly Welcome Wagon), and asked about including information on the Park and the Friends in the welcome package. Susan learned that there is a cost for sponsorship of \$2.75 per Welcome Services visit. We will continue this discussion at a future meeting.

Events:

- Spring Workday is April 20 from 9-noon. Lunch will be provided.
- The picnic shelter has been reserved on August 17, which is the date we have scheduled for our Summer Candlelight. Sarah will check on the timing of the reservation to see if it will conflict with our event.

Old Business:

- Allen Dewey Miller: Committee will make decisions on the plaque and get back to us.
- We need to start advertising for the Treasurer position. Susan will add to her eNews.
- Corey has set up the online payment option for dues and donations. He will include QR codes and links. There is also an option for automatic membership renewal, which would include notification prior to renewal. The site will provide monthly updates on donation and membership activity.
- Great Lakes Mobile Exhibit: This will be in place from May 20-June 17. Susan will put this event in her eNews. Rental is \$100 and we will be responsible for shipping. There is a possibility that we could pick up to save on shipping costs.
- Kids Don't Float Kiosk: Once we have material prices we can build this, as well as design our own signage. We need to figure out how many PFDs we want to supply. We will discuss this next month.

New Business:

- We had previously discussed making a donation of Park passes to the Door County Library. These would be single use passes. Motion to approve \$100 for pass donation: Doug; second, Dick. All in favor.
- We had talked about providing support to bring youth groups to the Park. John reached out to the Boys & Girls Clubs, and they were very interested. The cost for bus transportation is \$460/day. The YMCA and Sunshine House were other suggestions. Motion to allocate \$460 to sponsor bus trip for the Boys and Girls Club to the Park: Dick; second, Susan. All in favor. There are details to iron out, so we will table this discussion until next month.
- Susan has gotten quotes from our supplier. Clothing budget needs to be worked out before order placed.

- The Carl Scholz Memorial Fund with DCCF is currently in their Common Fund. We have an opportunity to switch over to an ESG Fund, which is actually performing a bit better. Motion to approve switching from the Common Fund to the ESG Fund: Doug; second, Rich. All in favor.
- We would like to replace the heavy metal tables in the auditorium with lighter weight, more portable plastic tables. Because there are price, size, and quality decisions to consider, we will table this discussion until we collect more information and test out some options.
- Letter to Rep. Kitchens: Susan drafted a letter to Rep. Kitchens after our February meeting with him. After edits were made, copies were sent to Rep. Kitchens' office, all of the Door County Parks, and the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks. We have not yet heard back from Rep. Kitchens' office, but have gotten positive feedback from others.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Rich; second, Dick. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned by at 4:45.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, April 24 at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Story
Secretary