

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

Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 5-17-23

Present: John Swanson, Julia Stoneman, Susan Cubar, Liz Story, Rich Dirks, Adele Douglass, Jim Perry, Don Gustafson, Max Martin, Sarah Stepanik, and Erin Brown Stender. Guest: Corey Meyer

Absent: Doug Otopalik, Lynn Zawojski, Dick Weidman

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

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

Minutes: Motion to approve the Minutes of 4-19-23: Max; second, Don. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report (Julia):

Income: \$1,087.50

- Sales still slower due to cooler weather, but clothing sales continue to do well.
- Member dues starting to come in.
- \$80 in donations.

Expenses: \$14,788.78

- Ethology LLC for Brachiopod work
- Lily Bay for ADA Parking Lot
- Wulf Bros. final payment for fireplace.
- Life jacket storage bin

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

Park Report (Sarah):

- April saw 10,798 visitors, which is 500 less than April 2022 and 1,000 less than our April average.

Seasonal Changes:

- All water systems have been opened for the season.
- Beach warning flags have been installed for the season.
- When not reserved, the shelter will remain locked through the end of the season to prevent vandalism.
- We'll switch to summer hours in the Nature Center and Contact Station on May 26.

Park Manager Projects:

- The beach groomer was taken by Kohler-Ander earlier this month.
- The outdoor Native American Village displays have been dismantled per the request of the Ho Chunk and Potawatomi representatives at our last meeting. A modern canvas lodge will be installed, along with a new Oneota interpretive display. Work will begin in July.
- The new orientation sign is being printed and will be back by late June or early July.

Brachiopod Trail Reroute & ADA Parking Lot:

- The ADA parking lot is open for use. All signage and infrastructure has been installed.
- The short trail from the ADA parking lot to the Brachiopod Trail has been completed.
- We are still expecting the trail re-route project to be completed by sometime in summer.

Knowles-Nelson Projects:

- Brachiopod Trail Signs: Wayfinding sign posts and benches have been delivered. Waiting on signs and other items to arrive before some of the installation can take place.
- Old Baldy: We will most likely need to postpone this project until engineering plans are finalized.

- Picnic Shelter: Door County Masonry has agreed do the masonry repairs to chimney and cap. A site visit was made April 20, and we are waiting on estimate.

Hiring and Staffing:

- We have hired 1 LTE Parks and Rec specialist and 1 Natural Resource Educator. They will both start the week of May 22.

Events:

- Trail Ambassador picnic: June 8 at noon at Picnic Shelter.
- World Sound Explorations: July 27
- Summer Candlelight Event: August 19

Project List - Active:

- Signs for Brachiopod Trail are in production and will be installed in June.
- Picnic shelter will be completed by end of June.
- Friends of Wisconsin State Parks Incentive Grant was received for summer Naturalist.

Old Business:

- FaceBook: Access will be given to Julia. Corey and Julia will take over this job.
- ADA Parking Lot: New signage will be ordered.

Motion to approve under \$100 for signs: Adele; second, Susan. All in favor.

- DNR Enhancement Grant: Haven't heard back yet.
- Contributions to the Scholz Memorial Fund: We will hold off on this for the time being.

New Business:

- Allen Dewey Miller Memorial: Allen was the first Park Manager, and was instrumental in planning the Park. He served in this position for 20 years. We would like to honor him with a naming, with the Auditorium being a likely place. This needs DNR approval, and Sarah will pursue.

- Destination Door County State Park Grants: We have a gift of \$50,000 coming from Destination Door County. We will keep a list of possible projects and wait to hear if there are any criteria for using this money. Our intention would be to put it toward projects that would benefit the Park and its visitors. More information will be forthcoming.

- Fireproof fuel storage box for cold shop needed.

Motion to approve less than \$700 for fuel storage box: Rich; second, Max. All in favor.

- Red Pine Lot signage: Motion to approve \$450 for Red Pine signage and storage box: Don; second, Jim. All in favor.

- Extra Brachiopod tiles: Discussed ordering extra tiles to offer for sale. Will put on back burner.

- Clothing: Some stock is low, but we'll wait on reorder. Considering a price increase on some items to help cover costs.

- Funding for mounts: Rich got a quote from Mike Orthober for cost of mounting the fisher and porcupine.

Motion to approve \$3,500 for mounts: Rich; second, Don. All in favor.

- We discussed purchasing a flayl mower for upkeep. This is probably a safer and more efficient option to current mower and would save on wear and tear. John will talk to Dick about applying for a Raibrook Grant.

2023 Future Park Events:

- Fall Work Day will be October 21
- Annual Meeting and Holiday Party: December 8 (Friday)
- First Day Hike: January 1

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Max; second, Don. The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 pm.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, 6/21/23 at 4:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Story, Secretary