

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

Minutes of Friends Board Meeting August 16, 2023

Present: John Swanson, Dick Weidman, Julia Stoneman, Susan Cubar, Liz Story, Jim Perry, Doug Otopalik, Lynn Zawojski, Don Gustafson, Max Martin, Corey Meyer, Sarah Stepanik, and Erin Brown Stender. Guest: Dick Baudhuin, per request

Absent: Adele Douglass, Rich Dirks

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:58

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

Mr. Baudhuin introduced himself and presented his position on creating a safe harbor at Whitefish Dunes State Park.

Minutes: Motion to approve the Minutes of 7-19-23 with correction: Susan; second, Dick. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report (Julia):

Julia shared both the monthly Treasurer's Report and the Annual Report.

July Treasurer's Report:

Income:

- We had a strong month in sales, with clothing and book sales doing very well.

Expenses:

- Friends' contributions for funding the Naturalist program and the Enhancement Grant.

- Picnic shelter project

- Brachiopod project signage

- Candlelight Event

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report of 7-19-23: Susan; second, Max. All in favor.

Annual Report:

- Julia gave an overview of the Annual Report. All in all, we are doing well and had a good year.

Park Report (Sarah):

- We had 48,990 visitors in July, which is 282 less than average, and 3,665 more than 2022.

- 4th of July (7/1 - 7/4): 9,429 visitors, which is 3,493 more than 2022.

Park Manager Projects:

- The new Native American lodge is up. Sarah is waiting for a consultation on indoor display with Split Rock.

- No update on 1st Beach ADA ramp.

- The Invasive Species tank is now stocked. Working with Wendy Wagner on some interpretive signs.

Knowles-Nelson Projects:

- Brachiopod Trail: Waiting on signage from Talking Trail and small signs from Vacker. Project should be finished by next week.

- Old Baldy: Mike Laaksonen still waiting on spec confirmation from manufacturer for footings. Once he receives this he can schedule work date. We will look at funding options.

Picnic Shelter:

- Waiting on a work date schedule from Door County Masonry for external repairs to chimney cap.

- Mike Laaksonen is scheduled to start renovations August 22.

2023 Enhancement Grant:

- The grant was approved and the Friends' portion has been submitted to the Park. A new entrance gate and trail signs will be purchased and hopefully be installed this Fall.

Beach Warning Flag Pilot Program:

- Despite our hopes that this program would move forward quickly, it has been temporarily delayed while the DNR is reviewing some of the proposed signs. Sarah will hold off on any purchasing until we receive the okay to proceed.

Destination Door County Funding Projects Ranking:

We voted on our priority ranking for this funding:

1. Completing construction phase of Old Baldy.
2. Creating an official hiking trail between WFD and Cave Point.
 - Sarah spoke to Mike Duke (DNR), who suggested using some boardwalks for the trail reroute project to avoid any ground disturbance in possible archaeological areas. This approach might help to accelerate the project. The DDC Funding could also help move this project forward.
3. Renovating the interpretive displays in the Nature Center.
4. Redoing the outdoor Native American Village displays.
5. Purchase of a track chair.

Events:

- Candlelight Event 8/19
- Mushroom Hike with Charlotte Lukes 8/26 10:00 a.m.
- Wisconsin Mycological Society 9/24 11:00 a.m.
- Charlotte Lukes Mushroom Hike 9/30 10:00 a.m.
- Fall Work Day 10/21 9:00-noon

Membership (Susan):

- Susan sent out volunteer notices for the Candlelight Event.
- She will send information on Mushroom Hike with Charlotte Lukes.

Pollinator Garden:

- The plant markers now have permanent labels.

Old Business:

- Allen Dewey Renaming: Sarah has sent a letter to Vicky Dirst asking her approval, but has not yet heard back.
- Corey set up a new FaceBook page called Photos of Whitefish Dunes. The Friends' page will be used mainly for announcements. We discussed whether to make the photos page public.

New Business:

- Bylaws Update Proposals: We will be looking at updating and revising some current bylaws, including email voting.
- Naturalist Program: At our next meeting we will discuss how to best go forward with our Naturalist program.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Doug; second, Dick. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 27 at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Story

Secretary