

Friends of Whitefish Dunes State Park

Annual Meeting, Saturday September 21, 2019

Present: 22 members, including 8 board members and 2 park representatives (Erin Dembski and Erin Brown Sender. (A list of attendees is at the end of the minutes).

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the 2018 annual meeting were approved. (Susan/Mary)

Susan Cubar, Treasurer, presented a summary of the 2018-19 fiscal income and expenses, plus an explanation of various items in the current (19-20) budget recently approved by the board. During the past year there was an income of \$35,571.74, which was about \$4,000 more than budgeted. Expenses were \$28,917.03. The surplus of income over expenses was \$6,654.

She also announced a recent donation of \$1,000 from the Whitefish Bay Association and a thank you letter from Joan Wilke acknowledging the placement of a bench in the park for her husband's many years of volunteering at the park.

Lynn Zawojski, President, reported that sadly the candlelight ski/hike had to be cancelled this past winter due to weather. She thanked the grooming team for their wonderful efforts over the winter. A successful spring cleanup was held. The Candlelight summer walk also had to be cancelled due to schedule conflicts of DNR staff. The Friends recognized John Craig and Rich Dirks as Volunteers of the Year. Rich led the team that groomed and maintained ski and snowshoe trails during the 2018-9 winter ski season and also maintained the grooming equipment. She acknowledged Dale and Mary Goodner, who have served several terms on the board and declined reappointment to the board to pursue other activities.

The membership report shows 217 members, including 131 households. This represents a slight decrease from last year.

The park report was presented by Erin Dembski, interim manager. Interviews for park manager positions throughout the agency have been held. She felt that the Whitefish position could be filled soon, but cautioned that the process moves forward very slowly. Attendance was similar to 2018, despite the need to close the first beach access. Progress can go forward at replacing the Brachiopod board walk which has been closed for several years. With matching funds from the DNR, the contract has been approved, work should start soon, and should finish during fall, 2019. She described three projects for which the concept has been approved, but no funding has been allocated. The projects, all approved in the master plan include: (1) A new hiking trail connecting Whitefish Dunes State Park to Cave Point County Park (2) A parking area for up to 30 cars which would provide easier access to the 3rd beach access area (3) A small rustic campground on the west end of the park. No electric or water connections would be provided. She explained that she has applied for funding for these three projects that appear in the Whitefish Dunes State Park master plan.

Erin Brown Sender continued the park report. She thanked the volunteers and board members for their work on behalf of the park, especially for coordinating volunteers for the coming work day, (October 19, 2019) and also thanked Susan Cubar for her grant writing efforts. Other topics she remarked about include the pollinator garden, the purchase and maintenance of grooming equipment, brachiopod trail project, funding the LTE interpreter position over the summer (shared 50-50 with Pot Park).

New Business: Two board positions are up for reelection (Adele Douglass and John Swanson). Their reelection was unanimously approved. Lynn announced that she may step down as president in the near future due to her many other commitments. Carl Scholz will also step down after the Brachiopod Trail reconstruction is completed.

Grooming report: Rich Dirks reported that the trails were groomed 18 times during the past ski season with a total of 85.75 hours provided by 4 groomers.

Rich Dirks discussed the agreement between the DNR and Friends groups. He especially wanted clarification of lobbying protocol between government officials

and Friends members. He has learned that Friends members can indeed do lobbying in the interest or promotion of the park.

A plea was presented to the group for new board members to replace those resigning (Mary and Dale Goodner).

The holiday party will be December 5 with the board meeting at 10am followed by a lunch at noon. The next annual meeting will be 19 September, 2020 at 10am. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

Those attending the 2019 annual meeting included: Lynn Zawojci, Susan Cubar, Brian O'Mara, Liz Story, Dave Story, Dale Goodner, Mary Goodner, Don Gustafson, Joh Gustafson, Trudy Chelmecki, Tony Chelmecki, Charlotte Lukes, Tom Jordan, Adele Douglass, Rich Dirks, Wendy Lukes, Dave Burke, Jamie Fiorucci, Joe Suchy, Jim Perry, Erin Dembski, Erin Brown Sender.