

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

Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 7-23-25

Present: John Swanson, Dick Weidman, Julia Stoneman, Susan Cubar, Liz Story, Rich Dirks, Max Martin, Joe Polacheck, Sarah Gehrke, and Erin Brown Stender

Absent: Adele Douglass, Doug Otopalik, Lana Pray, Lynn Zawojski

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:57.

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

Minutes: Motion to approve the Minutes of 6-25-25: Dick; second, Susan. All in favor.

Monthly Financial Report (Lana):

Income: \$6,139.65

- Clothing sales took a big jump
- Book sales continue to do well
- Donations and memberships

Expenses: \$3,834.06

- Accounting fees
- Office Expenses
- Repairs and maintenance

Motion to approve June 2025 Financial Report: Rich; second, Dick. All in favor.

Park Report (Sarah):

June saw 34,528 visitors, which is 7,809 more than 2024, and 8,204 more than average.

Staff Changes:

- We had no success on our VSA hiring, so we will be short a person during Sarah's leave, which begins September 5.
- John Bagnall is reducing his hours to 2 days/week in August and at least through mid-September.
- Jess will be our only full-time employee during Sarah's leave. She will mainly help with VSA duties and office management, and will assist Erin on her days here.
- John Grogan will be here through Labor Day.

Park Manager Projects:

- Native Village/Indoor Museum Renovations: Waiting to hear back from the Potawatomi. The Ho-Chunk have given more ideas on the building process.
- Cave Point Micro Landscape Installation: Local artist Sam Carpenter approached Sarah and offered the Park a long-term loan of his Cave Point micro landscape to be displayed in the Nature Center. If we agree to this, we need to figure out where and how best to display this. He wondered if the Friends would be willing to provide a display stand. As further discussion is needed, we will table this for a future meeting.
- Entrance Road Reroute: As a way to deal more efficiently with incoming traffic, we have a new traffic reroute so that people with passes will be able to bypass the line at the Contact Station. The Contact Station may be dismantled at the end of the season and replaced with an e-kiosk for pass purchases.

Knowles-Nelson Projects:

- Old Baldy Renovations: Waiting to hear from Peil on construction date.

Knowles-Nelson Projects (cont'd):

- Cave Point Trail:

- The rope fence has been installed around the blowhole, but, because the ground there is uneven, the fencing is unstable. We may want to install a more stable guard rail in the future.
- John reached out to Lily Bay to get a cost on top-dressing the trail with a finer gravel.

Membership/Clothing (Susan):

- Susan sent out another round of paper renewal forms, as we are trying to get a better sense of how people are using our new online renewal system.
- Zipper hoodies and crew neck sweatshirts have been replenished. She also got more 125th Anniversary t-shirts.

Events:

- Boys and Girls Club: July 28 and 29, and again August 1.
- Moonlight Walk: August 9
- Summer Candlelight: August 23, 7:00-9:00 pm

Old Business:

- The cost of roll-up beach mats plus roll-up machine (to replace our current beach mats) would be \$40,000. John proposed applying for a Door County Community Investment Grant.
Motion to apply for a Door County Community Investment grant not to exceed \$42,000 for roll-up mats and machine: Dick; second, Susan. All in favor.
- Naturalist: We are looking at how we will fund our Naturalist through June of 2026. We may need to consider moving funds to do this.

New Business:

- Motion to approve moving Don to Emeritus status: Rich; second, Susan. All in favor.
- With Don gone, we are looking to add a board member. John had a few thoughts and will contact those people. We will discuss next month.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Dick; second, Susan. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, August 27 at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Story

Secretary