

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

Minutes of Friends Board Meeting

Present: Dick Weidman, Julia Stoneman, Susan Cubar, Liz Story, Rich Dirks, Adele Douglass, Jim Perry, Doug Otopalik, Don Gustafson, Max Martin, Sarah Stepanik, and Erin Brown Stender. Guest: Lana Pray

Absent: John Swanson, Lynn Zawojski

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

A vote was made by the Board on Corey Meyer's resignation. Motion to accept the resignation of Corey Meyer: Don; second, Rich. All in favor.

Our guest, Lana Pray, was introduced. Motion to approve Lana as new Board member: Don; second, Adele. All in favor.

Minutes: Motion to approve the Minutes of 7-24-24: Jim; second, Dick. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report (Julia):

Julia presented the July Treasurer's Report and the 2023-2024 Year End Financial Report.

Income: \$6,122.95

- There was an uptick in sales during July, especially in books and clothing
- We have seen more dues coming in
- Donations for the Naturalist

Expenses: \$4,994.94

- Clothing and book orders
- Life vests for Kids Don't Float
- Snacks and soda

Year End Budget:

Although we were above or below budget in a couple areas, overall we had a profitable year and ended the 2023-2024 year in the green.

Motion to approve the July Treasurer's Report and Year End Report: Don; second, Rich. All in favor.

Park Report (Sarah):

- July saw 45,329 visitors, which was 3,661 less than 2023, and 1,173 below average. 4th of July weekend was exceptionally busy.

Seasonal Changes:

- Noah's last day will be September 6, and Macy's last day will be September 2.
- Kristi, John, and Jeanne will remain part-time through winter and return to full-time next season.
- Jess will stay on part-time through the winter, and return to full-time next summer.

Park Manager Projects:

- Renaming of Nature Center/Auditorium: Sign has been ordered. Sarah has talked to Vicky about different options for a dedication ceremony.
- Native Village/Indoor Museum Renovations: Sarah had a final meeting with Split Rock Studios and expects the final concept drawings in the next few weeks.
- First Beach Access: This project has gone through additional screenings by the DOA with additional questions for the engineer. This may lead to a design change and a delay in construction, although Fall 2024 construction is still possible.
- Kids Don't Float Kiosk: No change. Still waiting on approval of signage.
- Nature Center Storage Closet: Sarah is waiting to hear from Mike Laaksonen about scheduling a construction date.

Knowles Nelson Projects:

- The closeout paperwork submitted for the Brachiopod signage on 1/5/24 and for Old Baldy on 7/25/24 will be processed soon.
- Old Baldy: Mike Laaksonen said he was unable to get some of the necessary supplies for this project, and John decided we may have to move on to another contractor. Eric Peil looked at the Old Baldy staircases on 7/26 and is confident about taking on the project. We're waiting on an estimate from him.
- Cave Point Trail: Still waiting on estimate for tree removal. Original estimate from Lily Bay for trail work should hold.

2023 Enhancement Grant:

- The new gate is in. The new trail sign changeover will begin after our summer season ends.

Beach Warning Flag Pilot Program: Sarah said headway is being made on an automated beach warning system for Whitefish Dunes. Our goal would be to have signs for both water quality and beach hazard warnings, which is where the details need to be worked out. Since we're nearing off-season, we will hold off on the beach flag warning system.

Membership/Clothing (Susan):

- Mail-in dues are still coming in
- Clothing sales went up when the temperature went down!

Pollinator Garden (Don):

- Don has been filling in the garden with plants from his own garden.

Events:

- Candlelight recap: The event went well. Smokey Bear was a huge hit. Attendance was light due to date conflict with 3 other events. We will look at a new date for next year.
- Fall Work Day will be October 26 from 9:00 - noon.

Old Business:

- Treasurer position: Because the Treasurer's position has become more complex, we had previously discussed restructuring this to be a paid position and hiring an accountant to set up and work with Quickbooks. Dick spoke to Amy Phillips about this and asked if she would be interested. He suggested \$50/hour to be billed monthly. Motion to hire Amy Phillips as accountant for \$50/hour beginning October 1: Adele; second, Susan. All in favor.

New Business:

- Naturalist position: Our Naturalist is doing a wonderful job and we would like to retain her. Jess's current position is Assistant Natural Guide, and we would like to reclassify her as a Natural Resource Educator, at which time a new wage could be designated. We would like to offer her a more competitive wage of \$20/hour. Motion to approve Jess's position upgrade and pay beginning 9/1/24: Julia; second, Susan. All in favor.
- During the discussion of the Naturalist position, Dick suggested that we might consider changing the name of the Carl Scholz Memorial Fund to something that reflects more on the Naturalist's role. We will table this for future discussion.
- ADA Grant Opportunity: Sarah brought up a grant opportunity for \$2,500 if we'd like to utilize it. She thought this could be an opportunity to purchase a Grit Freedom Chair. The cost of the chair is \$3,995, which would leave our contribution at \$1,495. The Board expressed interest. She wasn't sure of the timeline of the grant, but will contact the organization to let them know we're interested in applying.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Dick Weidman at 5:12.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, September 25 at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Story
Secretary