

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

Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 4-23-25

Present: Dick Weidman, Julia Stoneman, Lana Pray, Susan Cubar, Liz Story, Adele Douglass, Doug Otopalik, Don Gustafson, Max Martin, Joe Polacheck, Sarah Gehrke, and Erin Brown Stender. Tim and Cindy Wick were also in attendance.

Absent: John Swanson, Rich Dirks, Lynn Zawojski

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Dick Weidman at 4:02.

Agenda: Doug and Adele both requested additions to the Agenda. Motion to approve the Agenda with additions: Susan; second, Joe. All in favor.

Minutes: Motion to approve the Minutes of 3-26-25: Don; second, Susan. All in favor.

Monthly Financial Report (Lana):

Income: \$716.25

- Book and clothing sales still seasonally lower
- 1 bench sale

Expenses: \$2,011.21

- Nature Center projects (storage closet)
- Office expenses

Motion to approve March Financial Report: Doug; second, Joe. All in favor.

Park Report (Sarah):

- We had 5,030 visitors in March, which is 44 less than 2024, and 1,356 more than average.

Staff Changes:

- The LTE Park Ranger position has been filled. John Grogan will start around Memorial Day and remain for the summer season.

Park Manager Projects:

- Ciiporoke Coverings: A new canvas tarp has been purchased to finish covering the ciiporoke.
- Native Village/Indoor Museum Renovation: Sarah will meet with the Ho-Chunk, Potawatomi, and DNR Archaeologists on May 20 to discuss plans for this project.
- First Beach Access: Construction began April 7 and should be completed (weather cooperating) by Memorial Day.
- Nature Center Storage Closet: Completed.
- Kids Don't Float Kiosk: There has been a slight wrinkle in our plan. Since this is a structure that will be provided by the Friends, it will need to be added to our Land Use Agreement. Since our Land Use Agreement is coming up for renewal, Sarah will add the kiosk to the Agreement as part of our renewal. The signage we had originally voted on will need to be changed in order to get approval from the DNR, which will bring down the cost. Max also suggested that we purchase some new tin for the roof.
- Motion to approve purchase of signage for kiosk and tin for roof of kiosk up to \$550: Max; second, Adele. All in favor.
- Motion to approve renewal of Land Use Agreement: Doug; second, Joe. All in favor.

Membership/Clothing (Susan):

- Membership renewals will be sent out next month.
- Susan has ordered some hats, and we have received 70 125th Anniversary t-shirts.

Social Media (Julia):

- Julia has been working on getting a QR code set up to help facilitate transactions at the Park. There are a number of things that need to be taken into consideration before moving forward with this.

Events:

- Spring Work Day is April 26 from 9-noon. Lunch will be provided.
- Summer Candlelight will be held August 23

New Business:

- Doug brought up the the topic of wakeboard use on Clark Lake. The DNR has taken a neutral stance on this issue as they have no way to enforce it. Any ordinance on wakeboard use would need to be enforced by the municipalities involved. Since the DNR has recommended that the Friends not take action, Doug encouraged us to attend public hearings as residents and to voice our opinion.
- Adele attended a listening session with Andre Jacque, and suggested that we go to his website to state our position on funding for Knowles-Nelson.
- Don Gustafson will be retiring from the Board due to his upcoming move. Sarah presented him with a pin and certificate for his 10 years of volunteer service.
- We will be moving some funds to book budget to purchase books prior to summer season.

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

The next meeting is on Wednesday, May 28 at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Story

Secretary