

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

Minutes of the Friends Board Meeting 11-20-24

Present: John Swanson, Dick Weidman, Susan Cubar, Liz Story, Rich Dirks, Doug Otopalik, Lynn Zawojski, Don Gustafson, Max Martin, Lana Pray, Sarah Gehrke, and Erin Brown Stender

Absent: Adele Douglass, Jim Perry, Julia Stoneman

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00.

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

Minutes: Motion to approve the Minutes of 10-23-24: Doug; second, Don. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report (Lana):

Income: \$10,664.04

- Clothing, book, and miscellaneous sales still doing well.

- Dues

- Wedding Party Donation

Expenses: \$19,102.54

- Quickbooks

- Clothing

- Books

- Event supplies

- Split Rock Studios

- Naturalist/Incentive Grant

Motion to approve October Treasurer's Report: Susan; second, Doug. All in favor

Park Report (Sarah):

Attendance

- October saw 19,121 visitors, which was 969 less than 2023, and 2,295 more than average.

Seasonal Changes

- Hunting and Trapping opened November 15. Gun hunting is allowed in Park November 15 through December 15.

Archery in Park is allowed November 15 through January 5, 2025.

- Ski trail signs will be put out 11-25-24.

Park Manager Projects

- Dedication for renaming of Nature Center/Auditorium will take place at the Annual Meeting. Vicki Dirst will be in attendance.

- Native Village/Indoor Museum Renovations: Final concept drawings have been received and approved by archaeologist. Have not yet heard back from Native partners.

- First Beach Access: Still expecting Spring 2025 construction.

- Kids Don't Float Kiosk: Max Martin dropped off the kiosk, which will be stored until spring when it will be installed.

- Nature Center Storage Closet: Mike Laaksonen is expected to be in sometime over the winter.

Knowles-Nelson Projects

- Old Baldy: Waiting to hear back from Peil with estimate.

- Cave Point Trail: Lily Bay had some delays due to rain. They will start on this project after their pending jobs have been completed.

2023 Enhancement Grant

- New trail signs will be installed over the winter as time and weather permit.

Beach Warning Flag Pilot Program

- We are still expecting a spring 2025 installation. In the meantime details are still being worked out.

WI DNR's 125th Anniversary

- Free giveaway items will be available for events in 2025, beginning with the First Day Hike.

Trail Ambassadors (Doug):

- Winter guidelines will be discussed. Looking for additional ambassadors.

Membership/Clothing (Susan):

- More dues have come in.
- More knit hats have been ordered to get us through winter.
- Possible new design for sweatshirts.

Trail Report (Rich):

- Trails in good shape. Rich talked to Asplundh about getting more wood chips. Connor Gehrke offered to help with grooming going forward.

Events:

- Annual meeting December 6 from 10-noon, followed by lunch. Agenda is on Friends' website. Michaela Kraft will be our guest speaker.
- First Day Hike: January 1 from 10- noon. We will have special stickers to give out. Doug will lead a hike, and Jess will have a program in the Picnic Shelter.
- Candlelight Hike will be January 25 from 6-8 pm. Volunteers will be needed.

Projects:

- We had a meeting with Wendy Wagner and Michaela Kraft about designing interpretive signage for Old Baldy.
- A group met to discuss possible fund raising opportunities for the Native Village project. Will talk with our Native partners to get their input on this project prior to fundraising.

New Business:

- Bylaws Change: Revision to Bylaws Article III. Section 6:

“The Board shall elect new or continuing Officers at the Board meeting immediately following the annual meeting and those elected shall take office at the following Board meeting.”

Motion to approve Bylaws change: Susan; second, Doug. All in favor.

- Website Changes: Our GoDaddy website is getting more cumbersome to use. We have been looking at alternatives, and have decided on WordPress, which is less expensive and more intuitive. Julia will work on this transition.
- There was discussion of how to bring more recognition to all the Friends' projects that have enhanced the Park.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Don; second, Rich. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned by at 5:00.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Story

Secretary