

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

Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 8-17-22

Present: John Swanson, Dick Weidman, Julia Stoneman, Liz Story, Rich Dirks, Jim Perry, Doug Otopalik, Lynn Zawojski, Don Gustafson, Max Martin, Sarah Stepanik, and Erin Brown Stender.

Absent: Susan Cubar, Adele Douglass

Prior to the meeting, the kids from “The Lucky Ducks” family presented a donation to the Friends. They had held a lemonade stand/bake sale to raise money for the Friends Group.

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

Agenda: Motion to approve agenda: Don; second, Jim. All in favor.

Minutes: Motion to approve Minutes of 7-20-22: Dick; second, Julia. All in favor.

Treasurer’s Report (Julia):

Income: \$4,334.00

Expenses: \$5,007.94

Book and clothing sales have remained strong.

Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report: Rich; second, Max. All in favor.

Park Report (Sarah):

- There were 45,325 visitors in July, which was 10,996 less than 2021, and 1,173 less than average, but an increase of 17,900 from June.

- Jeanne’s last regular season day will be 8/27, after which she will be working 1 day a month until next summer.

- Beginning October 1 the Contact Station will be closed, and the Nature Center will begin off-season hours.

Park Manager Projects:

- The Friends purchased 8 new road signs and 15 new trail signs which have been installed. The signs installed along the entrance road are to help improve traffic direction. The trail signs installed are for bike users to help enforce trail sharing, E-Bike trail use, and speed limits.

- Wendy Wagner has presented preliminary drawings for the interpretive signs for the Invasive Species Tank. These have been approved by Sarah and Erin.

- John Swanson picked up a 12’ mulch spreader from Rib Mountain. This will be used for ski trail preparation and trail repair. Motion to approve \$121.33 for UHaul rental: Dick; second, Rich. All in favor.

- Temporary railing installed down 1st Beach access and more gravel was added.

- Both the ADA Parking Lot and Brachiopod Trail reroute have been given the okay. We are now waiting on plans for both from Jessica.

- Taxidermy: Will check with Mike Orthober at the end of September to see if he is ready to work on our mounts.

- EV Charging Stations: The DNR is looking seriously at installing EV stations at state properties. Policy is still being worked out. Rich will continue to research and gather information. We would like to submit a proposal for possible consideration as a pilot site.

- Beach Warning Flag System: Instead of using the buoys, flags would instead be installed on the beach to warn of riptides and other dangers. The flags would be more visible and consistent with a national warning system. Flags and flagpoles would need to be purchased.

Motion to approve purchase of flags and flagpoles: Don; second, Doug. All in favor.

Trail Report (Rich):

Mulch is being spread. Rich and others will tour the trails to see where the problem areas are.

Events:

Candlelight Event (August 20): 2 people from the astronomy group will come and set up on the beach. Brynna will do a Naturalist activity. Rain could be an issue.

Project List:

- Wendy Wagner has most of the preliminary designs done for Brachiopod Trail.
- Kiosk still waiting on map.
- Old Baldy stair rails: Sarah has contacted someone through Peninsula Builders. She is hoping to get an estimate soon.
- Cave Point Access: Will wait until next year.
- Native American Village: Will wait until next year.
- Inventory needs to be done of arrow signs for fall/winter trails.
- Trail signs need organizing and updating.

New Business:

- John shared a nice card from Ruth Scholz, who included a check from memorial donations to be used as we see fit. Our vote is for educational signs for the Brachiopod Trail.
- October Work Day will be 10/29.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Jim; second, Don. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55

The next meeting will be on September 21 at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Story

Secretary