

Friends of Whitefish Dunes State Park

Minutes, 26 February, 2025

Present: Lynn Zawojski, Julia Stoneman, Lana Pray, Dick Weidman, Rich Dirks, Joe Polachek (guest), Max Martin, John Swanson, Don Gustafson, Susan Cubar, Sara Gehrke, Doug Otopalik, Erin Brown Stender.
Absent: Liz Story.

Meeting called to order by President John Swanson at 4:04 pm. He introduced Joe Polacheck, a visitor and potential new addition to the board.

The minutes of the January meeting and the agenda for February were approved. (Rich/Dick).

Treasurer's report: Income the previous month was \$359.74. Expenses were \$32,182.41 (mostly to pay for the Cave Point trail project). Because the new format for the treasurer's report is vastly different from ones prepared previously, discussion was deferred. John, Julia and Lana will convene to develop a vocabulary that will be more understandable. The monthly financial report was approved (Dick/Don).

Park report: There were 3714 visitors during January, close to the average. 284 folks came to the First Day Hike, a larger number than in previous years. A job posting has been prepared for a full-time LTE employee this summer.

Park Projects: Native Village: comments have been received from the Ho Chunk, awaiting reaction from the Potawatomi.

First Beach Access: Projected start date is 1 April.

Kids don't float kiosk: in cold shop until installation in the spring.

Nature Center storage closet: waiting for Mike Laaksonen to finalize a date.

Knowles-Nelson Projects:

Brachiopod Trail Signs: awaiting the final check.

Old Baldy: An estimate has been received from Peil. It will need more discussion and clarification.

Cave Point Trail: working on getting approval for a pedestrian counter, also the interpretative signs.

2023 Enhancement Grant: we need to start work on swapping out trail signs, a main project throughout the 2025 season.

Beach Warning Pilot Program: Signs are ordered and should be ready by May.

Trail Ambassador Program: Doug reported 472 hours during 2024.

Membership: Susan reported one new member. Renewal notices will be part of the spring newsletter.

Trail Report: Rich reported there have been 2 ½ weeks of skiing, snow is now melting.

Social Media: Julia has had contact with Quantum Computing. Their fee was above our budget, she will explore other options.

Events: The winter hike was a success, despite the fact that there was too much wind to use the fire pit.

Grant funded Projects: It was voted (Dick/Susan) to apply for up to \$150K for the Old Baldy project.

New Business: Two by-law changes were approved:

#1 The configuration of the Board should be a minimum of 11, but not greater than 15. (Dick/Susan)

#2 Concerned the keeping of electronic records of minutes and other actions which will be made available in a read only format. (Dick/Julia)

The final action was a vote to add Joe Polacheck to the board for a three year term. (Rich/Dick).

Adjourn at 5:30pm