

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

**Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 5-28-25**

**Present:** John Swanson, Dick Weidman, Julia Stoneman, Lana Pray, Susan Cubar, Liz Story, Adele Douglass, Don Gustafson, Max Martin, Joe Polacheck, Sarah Gehrke, and Erin Brown Stender. Also in attendance: April Durkin.

**Absent:** Lynn Zawojski, Rich Dirks, Doug Otopalik

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

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

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the Minutes of 4-23-25: Susan; second, Joe. All in favor.

**Monthly Financial Report - April (Lana):**

Income: \$4,451.10

- Sales still a bit sluggish but picking up.
- Donations
- Restricted grants

Expenses: \$185.23

- Office Expenses
- Bird seed

Motion to approve April Financial Report: Susan; second, Dick. All in favor.

**Park Report (Sarah):**

- There were 5,947 visitors in April, which is 182 more than 2024, and 681 more than average.

Staff Changes:

- John Grogan, our new full-time maintenance person, started in early May.
- We will be light on VSA coverage and will need more volunteer help on weekends during the summer months.

Park Manager Projects:

- Ciiporoke covering has been completed.
- Native Village/Indoor Museum Renovations: John and Sarah met with the Tribes and DNR archaeologist. There was agreement among all tribes as to their preference for using natural materials for outdoor structures. This will lower our costs. They will meet again on June 4 to develop a site plan. Once site and buildings have been determined, Sarah will discuss plans for interpretive signage with Split Rock. There was a suggestion to add a Talking Trail component.
- First Beach Access: Construction completed May 22. Beach mats need to be installed and some Marram grass will need to be transplanted on the exposed duneface. Foldable bollard will be installed to prevent people from driving down ramp.

Kids Don't Float Kiosk: Sign has been ordered, and kiosk will be installed at 2nd Beach access after sign arrives.

Knowles-Nelson Projects:

- Old Baldy Renovations:
  - The Friends were awarded a \$100,000 DDC Community Investment Grant. This will cover the observation platform and stair replacement. Sarah has reached out to Peil Construction to schedule a start date.
  - We would like to purchase two interpretive signs with money left in our Raibrook grant. We would need to cover about \$2,000.

Motion to proceed with two signs for Old Baldy: Adele; second, Joe. All in favor.

- Cave Point Trail:

- We are waiting on DNR for decision on approved pedestrian counter. We are also working on some safety signs to be installed along trail. Friends will purchase rope fencing to go around blow hole, which will be installed this spring.
- We would like to install four interpretive signs along the trail, using money we have from Knowles-Nelson. The total cost for the signs would be \$8,000. We would need to provide the mounting posts.

Motion to move forward with four Cave Point Trail signs: Dick; second, Max. All in favor.

Beach Warning System Pilot Program:

- Signs and the mounting stands are ready. We're waiting for the SIM cards to arrive, which operate the automatic update system. Expecting early or mid-June installation.

**Trail Ambassadors (Doug):**

- There will be an Ambassador meeting on June 3 at 10:00.

**Membership/Clothing (Susan):**

- Renewals sent out to members. We have 42 annual members, 98 life members, and 4 corporate members.
- 60 125th Anniversary t-shirts were ordered.

**Pollinator Garden (Don):**

- Not much happening because of the cooler weather. Don added more plants from his garden.

**Taxidermy Update:**

- Mike has not started working on this, but does have a mount. This will be a more tedious process due to the condition of the animals.

**Events:**

- June 9 beach mats install
- Summer Candlelight: August 23

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn: Don; second, Joe. The meeting was adjourned by at 4:54.

The next meeting is on Wednesday June 26 at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Story

Secretary