

Friends of Whitefish Dunes Park

Minutes 18 October 2018

Present: Lynn Zawojski, Jim Perry, John Swanson, Rich Dirks, Susan Cubar, Erin Demski (park management), Curtis Dasson (Ranger), Adele Douglass

Meeting called to order at 4:40 pm

Park Report: Snow shoe trail discussed. Needs to be brushed out and signs set up. Rich urged that signage regarding trail usage be arranged on both sides of the ski trails. There has been some decline in visitors between August 2017 and August 2018, also some decline in visitors for the entire year. Timber harvest closures are marked and cutting is underway. Logging occurs during the week only. With respect to the brachiopod trail, the state needs to fill two engineering positions before the project can start. The time frame for this is unclear.

Work day is scheduled for Sat. October 20 between 9 am and 3. Susan will coordinate lunch. 11 have signed up. Tasks include branch removal on the snowshoe trail and cleanup at the nature center.

The self registration is working better. There will be some ranger realignment but it is unclear what it means for this park; the manager situation also remains unclear. The Nature Center will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday starting in November and lasting through the winter.

The minutes for September were approved, with corrections. (Susan/Rich)

The treasurer's reports for August and September were approved. (John/Rich and Jim/John). August was a good month for sales. The balance of Friend's funds at the end of September was \$76,748.16, of which \$43,651.92 is held in restricted funds (grooming equipment, naturalist fund, dunes chair, and brachiopod trail)

New Business: The success of a fire pit at the summer candlelight walk has led to discussion about a permanent fire pit near the pavilion. Erin reminded us we need to go through proper state channels for this, she will gather more information.

Old Business. John will contact a wood worker to get a price for finished benches plus carving which some people have inquired about. The proposal is for the next few benches to be arranged around a future fire pit. John also reported that books are selling well, including the one about the Death and Life of the Great Lakes. Winter clothing, including knitted hats and sweatshirts are now available. A card from the Sevastopol 5th grade was received, thanking for the donation to the Trees for Tomorrow field trip.

Susan is preparing a newsletter to be sent soon. Some topics include recent personnel changes plus information about the holiday party, scheduled for December 6 following the monthly board meeting at 10:30 am.

Next meeting November 15 at 4:30 in the Nature Center.