

Friends of Whitefish Dunes Park

Minutes January 21, 2016

Present: Brian Penchoff, John Swanson, Rich Dirks, Carl Scholz, Don Gustafson, John Rock, Chuck Birringer, Lynn Zawojski, Adele Douglass, Fred Viste (Park Manager), Mike and Cathy Quinlan (visitors), Erin Brown (Park Superintendent, Pot Park)

Approval of agenda: (Rich/Brian) Added: discussion of web site and position of event coordinator.

Minutes from December approved with one small correction (Don, John R)

The treasurer's report was approved, (John R. Brian). The total available balance is \$26,696.71 and the reserved balance is \$10,028.24. During December, the income was \$2,307.74, expenses were \$2,089.92.

Fred gave the park report: 1. Visitors during December were about 900 over same month in 2014. During all of 2015 there were about 14,000 more visitors than 2014 which is an increase of about 22%. 2. He introduced Erin Brown, the recently-appointed superintendent at Pot Park. The position had been vacant for about 18 months. 3. The hunting season ended January 3 and will resume in April for trapping and turkey shooting. 4. The deer enclosure has been completed with fencing installed. Signage will be created and will be similar to what is in place in Pot Park's enclosure. 5. Volunteers are needed for the candlelight hike/ski event scheduled for January 30. The event will run from 5 to 8 pm with candles set out at 4pm. Snowshoe/hikers will use the black trail. All volunteers need to sign it at the office. 6. Fred attended a Leadership Academy in West Virginia which provided a good opportunity to learn about other state parks and their activities and challenges. He will be attending the same event in early 2017. 7. Funding has been provided for improved and more energy-efficient indoor lighting. 8. Toilets will be replaced in the women's bathroom and the drywall repaired. 8. Work to begin soon on the DNR master plan for Door County Parks.

Grooming Report (Rich). Finally some snow. Tracks made, trails are good, but as always, could use more snow. He plans to freshen up the trails prior to the Candlelight event. Grooming has been done 4 times thus far. There is a chronic problem with hikers and snowshoe folks using the ski trails.

Old Business: 1. Raibrook update. Lynn reported that in addition to the \$5000 already in hand towards the purchase of a new tractor, a donation for equipment of \$4,800 has been pledged. Thus, we need to raise about \$6,200 more. There was some discussion as to whether a machine the Friends donated to the park (and then technically belonged to the state) could be sent to another park. Erin and Fred both felt it would stay at the park until no longer needed. With respect to financing the purchase, Carl felt we should also make an application to the Door County Community Foundation. Carl will follow up on this suggestion. 2. Newsletter: Susan Cubar will spearhead this subject. Dale and Mary will also be part of the discussion. 3. Membership: the application form is being revised. 4. Website: Chuck will assist Brian with this. It was approved (Brian, John S) to use a WebMarketing program to handle more aspects of the website at a 3-year cost of \$180. With this new feature, it could be used to send out notifications, provide a newsletter, and advertise events. 5. Event coordinator: 1-2 persons are needed to assume this responsibility. Lynn and Chuck will write a position description, since they have been doing this for some time.

New Business: The Raibrook Foundation may be interested in funding an interpreter position, but Fred thinks it is probably too late for 2016. We will think ahead to 2017, Fred is very open to idea.

Next meeting to be Feb. 18. Items for the agenda should be sent to Lynn.
Already needed for discussion: Event Coordinator.