

Friends of Whitefish Dunes Park

Minutes 27 August, 2020

The zoom meeting, hosted by John Swanson, was called to order at 4:30pm.

Present: John Swanson, Susan Cubar, Carl Scholz, Rich Dirks, Jim Perry, Erin Brown Stender, Liz Story, Sarah Stepanik, Don Gustafson, Joe Jarosh, Adele Douglass

The agenda was approved: Susan/Jim.

Minutes from 16 July were approved, with corrections: Don/Susan.

Treasurer's report: The income for the past month was \$1,109; expenses were \$132. The checking account balance is \$40,164.02, which includes \$310 in donations in memory of Rich Ostrowski, a former park manager. The balance in the checking account is \$20,606.85, in several restricted accounts. Treasurer Susan commented, "we're not broke yet, but income is limited." Her report was approved (Don/Carl).

The treasurer also presented a final report covering the 2019-2020 fiscal year, which ended on 30 June. The report shows income of about \$7,000 less than budgeted and expenditures of roughly \$9,500 less than budgeted. Due to the COVID-19 closure we couldn't sell, therefore we didn't buy new product, explained Susan. In fact once the Nature Center reopens, we'll sell stock on hand before purchasing new items.

A message from Janet Hutchens, the DNR coordinator, was described in which it was announced that there would be some upcoming grant opportunities. Erin reported that the preliminary estimate to build two handicapped parking spaces was \$49,500. This includes upgrading and re-grading the trail. She felt this might be an excellent grant-application opportunity for the Friends.

Park report: Sarah reported that visitation during July was 61,500, well above the previous year. In fact the large numbers caused several parking lot closures. She reported that there continues to be problems with visitors entering closed areas, especially the dunes. Additional signage has been posted. Kayak customers are

also climbing on the dunes, but the concession staff is doing its best to discourage this behavior. Steve Umentum's last day was this past Sunday. He will probably not be available in 2021 since he has taken a full time position in the Sturgeon Bay school system. Sarah explained that on 7 September the closure on enclosed shelters and other facilities expires, it remains uncertain as to what will happen after that date. She reminded us we'll need to renew the concession agreement between the Friends and the DNR in the future. Gus thanked her for the tree removal near the pollinator garden; more sunlight is reaching the plants.

Old Business: 1. Soda machine: John reports that we're getting low on product. He plans to change to aluminum cans next summer. 2. Newsletter: Susan sent out an e-newsletter on 15 August to those for whom she had an email address. On 17 August a print newsletter was sent to those for whom she had only a snail mail address. 3. Brachiopod Trail: Erin explained that the DNR had covered the additional costs for railing. 4. Interpretative signage: Some of the existing signs are outdated, damaged or no longer readable. Since the Friends are planning some signage for the pollinator garden and the brachiopod trail, perhaps they might also update other signs in the park. 5. Knowles-Nelson Grants: The deadline for these funds, which are matched 50/50, is 15 October. Up to \$20,000 can be requested. 6. Snowblower: It was voted (Adele/Susan) to spend up to \$700 for a new machine for the park. A request to the Raibrook Fund to match our contribution has been made. The machine would then be given to the park which would be responsible for insurance and maintenance.

New Business: 1. Kiosk. When the kiosk is ready (and after covid-19) we can plan a dedication ceremony. 2. Groomer machine: Crossroads has our old groomer machine. We need to contact them to see if they wish to purchase it. Otherwise it should be returned to us so that we might sell it.

Move to adjourn at 5:19 (Carl/Susan).