

## Whitefish Dunes Friends Meeting

21 February, 2019

Present: Mary and Dale Goodner, Erin Dembski, Jim Perry, Don Gustafson, Susan Cubar, John Swanson, Lynn Zawojski, Adele Douglass, Edee Madson (guest).

The agenda was approved (Don/Susan).

The minutes from January were approved with a few oral corrections (Susan/John).

The treasurer's report was approved (Mary/Don). Income for the month of January was \$192.33; expenses were \$808.22. \$524 of this was our share of the new park informational sign. The balance in the checking account on 1/31/19 was \$39,170.24. The savings account balance was \$43,695.67, which includes restricted funds for various projects: naturalist fund, grooming equipment, brachiopod boardwalk, and a dunes chair.

Erin gave the park report: (1) Four LTE summer positions for the park have been approved. These are full time and will include 2 in the area of visitor services and 2 park and recreation specialists. (2) Jay Vosters is no longer at Dunes Park; he is needed full time at High Cliff Park. (3) The workday on April 27 has been posted on the DNR schedule. (4) The engineering study for the brachiopod trail has been completed; Erin will be following up as to schedule. The engineer (Jessica Peterson) has visited the property, made measurements and taken pictures. (5) With respect to the property orientation sign, the DNR needs content information by summer. We are invited to select topics to show on sign (for example, Old Baldy, Nature Center, candlelight events, map). (6) If we wish to have a snowshoe concession next winter, we will need an agreement if there is a charge. If this is a free option, a driver's license will be retained for those who use the snowshoes. (7) As far as a park manager is concerned, this situation remains in limbo, although she felt confident the park would be open every day during the summer.

Grooming report. February has been a great month. Trails are in fine condition; after the huge snowfall last week four passes over the entire trail system were

required to properly pack the snow. Two days were required to finish the job. Some berms were created by the plow that required hand shoveling to be made ready for skiers. Problems with the snowmobile were encountered (electric wires shorted out requiring \$1,743.33 worth of maintenance, including a new starter). There was a vote (Susan/Don) to take funds from the contingency budget to cover the repair bills up to \$2,000. The snowshoe trails have enjoyed great success. Rich has made a wooden prototype to groom the snowshoe trails and now wants to make an aluminum one which will stand up to serious use. He estimates the cost to be about \$500, for the device which will attach to the groomer. The current snowmobile is about 20 years old and has many miles on it. Rich and John are starting to consider a replacement model. With respect to other equipment, the roller is needed when the snowfall is 4 inches or more; the present one is 18-20 years old. Rich is also researching repair or replacement for this.

New Business: Chuck Birringer has been managing the website. He may have located someone to take over this responsibility and will get back to Susan. Brian Penchoff runs the facebook page; Jim is willing to submit photos to Brian. Lynn has sent a letter to Chuck (president of the Clark Lake Advancement Association) containing information about the Dunes Park Friends; he will include this in the CLAA newsletter. The date for the holiday party was incorrectly announced previously; it will be December 5, 2019 at noon.

Old Business: the projector is very old and frequently experiences bulbs blowing. John continues to explore potential replacement options. Erin was asked to study exactly what the park staff needs to continue the service of providing visual experiences available for visitors. She will also learn where to get a good price. Jim has been studying the post card situation and is researching various sites and seeking prices. He is willing to let us use some of his excellent photos. A park bench has been ordered for Steve Wilke and will be ready by spring. The firepit topic has been tabled for another meeting.

The meeting was adjourned (Mary/Don).