

Friends of Whitefish Dunes Park

Minutes 21 March, 2019

Present: Susan Cubar (Treas), Rich Dirks, Carl Scholz, Jim Perry, John Swanson, Erin Dembski, Erin Brown Stender, Mike Bergum, Lynn Zawojski (Pres), Adele Douglass (Sec).

The agenda was approved (Susan/Don).

The minutes from February were approved with one small correction (Susan/Rich).

The Treasurer's report was approved (Jim/John). Susan reports that she is in the process of submitting the necessary paperwork to the DNR. These include: inventory of assets, board membership, financial information, calendar, first page of liability insurance, budget, accomplishments, a current certificate from the WI Department of Financial Institutions, and any documents of filings with the IRS. She has also prepared the application for an incentive grant to the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks.

The income for February was \$581.61. Expenses were \$6,565.42, much of which was our share of the WI-DNR 2019 naturalist salary. Total funds in savings and checking accounts are \$76,882.10. This includes various restricted funds for 2020 naturalist, grooming equipment, dunes chair, and brachiopod boardwalk replacement.

Erin D. provided the park report. We will need to submit ideas to her by summer for the new park orientation sign. Jim is willing to share his photos, which need to be of high resolution. With respect to the Cave Point Trail protection, Erin has been told by a former trail specialist that mulch is not the best option because it retains moisture. She will meet with the Door County Park staff and a forester to see how best to deter walkers from making new trails. For the moment she is gathering information, and will bring an update to a future meeting.

Rich provided a detailed grooming report. This is the first season for the new snowshoe trail which has resulted in less conflict between hikers and skiers – a big

contrast from previous years. Rich has made a prototype of a snowshoe grooming device made of wood. For next year he wants to make a more durable device of aluminum which will hold up to long-term use. It's 36 inches wide, and is pulled by the snowmachine. Trails were groomed 18 times thus far during the 2018-19 winter period; total volunteer hours for this effort were 85.75, among 4 groomers. This is the second highest since Rich started keeping records. For next year, he is requesting a flashing amber light on the snowmachine, since most grooming occurs in the evening. Rich also pointed out that our snowmachine is aging and thus needing more frequent repair. He is proposing the purchase of a new model, the Ski-doo Skandic. With a trade-in and along with some accessories, the cost is about \$14,4000. A motion was made (John/Susan) to make an application to the Raibrook Foundation for 50% funding. Rich will prepare the necessary paperwork for this. This estimated cost includes the materials necessary to construct the snowshoe trail groomer from Rich's prototype.

Mike Bergum, Northeast District Parks Supervisor, attended the meeting and brought us up to date on various issues. There is still much discussion in Madison regarding the re-transition to law enforcement in the parks. He felt the low speed of this transition is impacting hiring as well as staff morale. The secretary appointed by Governor Evers has not yet been confirmed. He has no idea as to when manager positions will be filled.

More brachiopod trail replacement news. The funding will be shared between the Friends and the DNR. Since the monies are all in hand, the project can now go forward. The engineer has made one visit to the park and will come again when snow has melted more. Erin (BS) is hopeful the final cost will come in under \$50,000. If not, the project will require a higher level of approval. The state intends to begin construction before the end of the current fiscal year (6/30/19). Expenditures of up to \$27,948 were approved (Susan/John) to get this project underway. Remaining funds to come from the state.

Next meeting will be April 18.