

Friends of Whitefish Dunes, Inc
3275 Clark Lake Rd, Sturgeon bay, WI 54235

Minutes of Friends' Board Meeting June 16, 2021

Present: John Swanson, Susan Cubar, Julia Stoneman, Don Gustafson, Jim Perry, Doug Otopalik, Dick Weidman, Don Gustafson, Lynn Zawojski, Sarah Stepanik, Erin Brown Stender

Excused: Liz Story, Adele Douglass

Call to Order: In person meeting at the Park picnic shelter was called to order at 4:00 pm by John

Agenda: 2 additions to agenda. Motion to approve Rich, second-Susan. Approved

Minutes of 5/19/21: Motion to approve with correction of Raibrook Grant (under Treasurer's report) instead of Knowles-Nelson grant-Dick; second-Jim. Approved.

Park Report: Sarah

May visitor figures were 19,900, up 2000 from 2020 and up 6000 from 2019

Picnic shelter is now open for visitor reservations

Nature Center is now open. Friends merchandise can be sold

Nature Center hours: 10-3 M-Sat. Contact Station 9-5 F-Sun

Volunteers may return unmasked if vaccinated. May enter all park buildings and use all state equipment if authorized and approved.

Special Events: require an application/permit with fee waived for Friend's groups

Interpretive signage updated by Brynna. Kiosks by amphitheater and Scholz. She is planning nature programs including on the beach. Native Am Village cleaned up.

Construction: Water heater replacements approved, but supply chain issues. Awaiting delivery. Picnic area water fountain pipe burst. Will need to get plumber to replace the whole line. 1st beach access maybe completed by late fall. Plan is to possibly remove undermined cement slab, sink steel pilings and have a steel deck. Stairs/ladder down to cobble beach. If and when sand returns, a handicapped accessible ramp could be installed.

Treasurer's Report: Susan

Income: \$2,090

Expenses: \$3975

NNB Checking balance: \$36,300.14

NNB Savings balance: \$30,566.89

Motion to approve-Dick, Second Jim Approved

2021-20122 Budget: Susan

Susan presented a balanced budget with Receipts of \$34,550 and Disbursements of \$34,550.

Thorough discussion of individual items and expenditures. Susan explained how there are separate funds within the the savings account for various projects such as grooming equipment. Other expenditures are budgeted for annual disbursements. Motion to approve-Don, second Jim, Approved

Trail Report: Rich

Reported on trails committee walk on the yellow green trail. Looking at widening the trail to allow shared use in winter by skiers and hikers returning on the Brachiopod Trail.

Fence along the park entry road will be changed out to a post and rope divider between the trail and road

If beach access #1 is repaired before winter, then we may not need shared use on the Red Trail during ski season.

The green/yellow trail through the old hemlocks will no longer be groomed. It will be available to skiers, hikers, and snowshoers. It has always been difficult to groom because of minimal snow depth under the trees, and narrow choke points on the trail.

Trail Ambassador Program: Doug

Doug reviewed the draft of his letter to potential Ambassadors. Tentative start date of 7/10/21. All Ambassadors need to submit a background check to Sarah and be approved.

Budget of up to \$1,000. Green vests with Friend's patch will be ordered. Laminated folders of natural features will be given to all Ambassadors along with a folder of information from the Park. Videos will be posted to YouTube. Link sent out and available on the Friend's website. Mandatory is informational video produced by Sarah. Educational videos filmed by Doug involving several park experts will be available on the same link.

Instead of a Google calendar, Doug will send out an email calendar with potential "shifts". Main scheduling will be 2 hr shifts on F-Sun. Ambassadors, if available, will be asked to notify Doug on their availability during these times. Ambassadors can also wear their vests anytime they are hiking/walking in the park. Main purpose is to greet visitors, give information if requested, gentle reminders about rules (dogs off leash), pick up trash, and notify park staff by cell phone if any significant issues or infractions. Volunteers should keep track of their hours and submit at the end of the season.

It may be valuable to do a census on the number of visitors encountered and their activities (hiking, beach, dog walking, etc.). A hand clicker maybe helpful. Volunteers should call in to the Nature Center when they start their shift.

Events: Candle Light summer walk: 8/21/21, 7:30-9:30 pm

Lynn will get the popcorn, oil, and materials for smores.

Lynn will make up some posters and distribute them to local hotels and the Nature Center

Will focus on the event more at the July meeting. Volunteers will meet at 3 pm on 8/21 to set up candles, popcorn popper, etc. Route will probably run west on the Red Trail, down the second beach access, and south on the beach.

Treats, popcorn, smores, and lemonade will be available at the picnic shelter.

Fire pit may be available near the picnic shelter.

Project List:

Brachiopod Trail Interpretive Signage: A committee completed an initial questionnaire regarding a vision of the trail. This will be submitted to the potential trail signage designer.

Brachiopod Handicapped Parking: Budget approved up to \$3,000 for construction of the handicapped parking lot off of N. Cave Pt. Rd.

Pollinator Signs: \$25 for plant ID metal labels, \$47 to reimburse Don for replacement plants, mulch, and soil. Rich, second Doug. Approved

Trailer: Dick suggested a heavy capacity dump trailer with a ramp that could carry a skid steer as well as mulch, stone, etc. He will investigate prices and availability.

Nature Center Kiosk: Raibrook Grant application. John proposed, Rich seconded and approved. Dick will apply. Total cost up to \$2,000

Cave Point Trail: Sarah reported that a DNR Trail expert will be up next week to look at a potential route of a trail. She will contact the Door County Park Head to involve them as well. Maybe Native American burial site along the route. Trail would be about 20 feet off the volunteer trail. Volunteer trail will be covered with branches and logs from trail clearing. Friends will begin budgeting \$1,000 per year toward trail. Friends may be involved in trail construction clearing debris.

Computer Storage: Julia has set up a Google Docs account with files for minutes, treasurer reports, grant apps, etc. All Board members will have access along with park managers. We will not scan in old records. The old paper records will be kept at the Nature Center.

EV Charging Station: Rich had sent out information by email of various EV stations that might be available. WPS may offer grants for organizations to install EV charging stations. Even solar charging maybe available. Rich will continue to update the Board on opportunities. Once a proposal is ready, will approach the DNR.

Fire Ring: Menard's has a fire ring and surrounding stones available. Up to \$500 is budgeted for the fire ring. Stone screenings will be placed around the ring. A lockable steel lid will be constructed. Use of the fire ring will be spelled out by park manager.

Native Am. Village: Would be nice to repair and perhaps construct some new structures. Perhaps a Native American Liaison could be contacted to help with some programing. Will contact Mike Madden to see if he would want to lead a work day.

Other Projects: Sarah said that they will get an estimate from an arborist on taking down some trees on steep sections on Old Baldy. Friends maybe able to fund.

The park sign holders that were at the park for educational signs (purchased earlier by the Friends) don't fit the new signs. New ones will need to be purchased at about \$200 a piece. Erin said that there may be some DNR funds that could also be directed toward these sign holders. Will revisit this project next month.

Old Business: Calendar for rest of 2021 was sent earlier by email by Susan. Only correction is the date for the Candlelight event: August 21, 2021.

New Business:

Susan is having a hard time getting hold of our past credit card machine vender. They are now requiring internet connection which is not available at the park. Lynn will check with another company that offers credit card readers that would be dial-up compatible. In the mean time, only check or cash transactions will be available.

Friends will need a new Bookstore Manager. Will discuss next month.

Next Meeting: July 15, 2021 at 4 pm at WFD.

Adjournment: Don, second Jim. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm

Submitted by John Swanson