

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

Minutes of Friends Board Meeting May 19, 2021 - Approved

Present: John Swanson, Susan Cubar, Adele Douglass, Julia Stoneman, Liz Story, Rich Dirks, Don Gustafson, Jim Perry, Doug Otopalik, Dick Weidman, Sarah Stepanik, and Erin Brown Stender

Absent: Don Gustafson, Lynn Zawojski, Carl Scholz

Call to Order: The Zoom meeting was called to order at 4:00 by President John Swanson.

Agenda: Motion to approve agenda: Dick; second: Jim. All in favor

Minutes of 4/21: Motion to approve minutes with corrections: Rich; second: Doug. All in favor

Treasurer's Report (Susan):

- Total income: \$1,050.00
- Expenses: \$41.10
- Transfer from checking to savings (Brachiopod Fund): \$10,772.00 for match on Knowles-Nelson grant

Grant Status:

- Active: Knowles-Nelson for Brachiopod Trail enhancements (April 2021): \$20,000
- Raibrook Foundation grant for Brachiopod Boardwalk: Closed out per letter from Raibrook 5/13/21

Motion to approve the Treasurer's report for 4/21: Adele; second Liz. All in favor

Park Report (Sarah):

- April attendance was 10,742, just over last year's attendance of 10,080
- Self registration and kiosk open 24/7 for vehicle sticker purchases
- Contact station open weekends, but will soon go to regular hours: Monday through Thursday 10:00-4:00; Friday through Sunday 9:00-5:00
- Nature Center will remain closed until further notice
- Waiting on water quality tests, and then water fountains will open
- New COVID policies:
 - Volunteers now approved for indoor and outdoor work
 - Volunteers now allowed entry into state buildings to get tools and do tasks
 - No updates on specific policy regarding volunteer interaction with public
 - No update on volunteers being able to use own power tools; only park owned power tools and equipment can be used. Disinfect before and after use
 - Masks still required when in close proximity. Do not need outdoors if social distancing is maintained. Will still need a mask when near public
 - Special Events can now be co-hosted by Park staff and Friends group

- In person interpretive programs now approved. More clarification needed on protocols for in person meetings

- DPS Updates:

- 2 new stoves have been delivered and were installed last week

- Estimates for water heaters now in. Hoping for installation by end of June

- Amy Moore was out to look at 1st Beach access. She has some interesting ideas for solutions to erosion problem. She will be back to do more extensive survey work.

- Personnel:

- Brynna has started her position as our Parks and Rec Specialist, and is currently part-time. She will transition to full-time at the end of June.

- Samantha began her full-time VSA position 5/24, and is also working to cover need at Potowatami Park.

Trail Ambassador Program (Doug):

Not much new at this point, although some videos have been made. Group will continue to look at ways to encourage volunteers in order to get the program underway.

Project List:

- Brachiopod Trail signage: Wendy Wagner came to walk the Brachiopod Trail and gave some interesting ideas for updated signage and placement of signs along the trail. She will be sending a questionnaire to help us identify our goals for the signs.

- Brachiopod Handicapped Parking: Jessica (DNR engineer) came to look at potential spots for this parking lot. There is convenient spot that will work well along N. Cave Point Rd. Trees would need to be removed (perhaps volunteers could help), and gravel brought in. Project would need to go through the proper approval process. Total cost would be about \$3,000.

- Trailer: A trailer seems to be the best solution to haul skid steer from Potowatami Park, or haul UTVs when necessary. Dick brought up that a state licensed truck would be needed to drive the trailer, which would require a state licensed driver. He suggested an alternate possibility might be a dump trailer. He will check on this option.

- Nature Center map kiosk: John will talk to Max Martin about working on kiosk project.

- EV Charging Station: This idea is in the preliminary stages and there are many details that need to be worked out. Still, the time seems right to be doing our homework and exploring options on how we might set things up. We anticipate that the DNR will be coming up with its own policies and procedures for these charging stations in the future. In the meantime we will keep gathering information and see how things unfold and develop.

- Old Baldy: Jessica hiked up Old Baldy and looked at the handrail and steps. She had recommendations for modifications and enhancements. Because of the cost of lumber, we should postpone this work until 2022. We can do the work in segments.

- Cave Point access trail: Jessica looked at this area and thought this could be done. She agreed the rocks and tree roots present a hazard on current trail. Trail needs to be moved inland 15-20', with "overlooks" installed for lakeshore views. Volunteers could help with prep work. Sarah will contact a trails coordinator to find a

route that will work best for that area. A Federal Trails Fund could be used to help with costs. County Parks Director will also have to approve the route.

- On hold: Laptop computer and printer, cloud storage or external drive. Susan, Julia, and Liz will discuss.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Bench delivery: Benches have been delivered, but not in place yet. 3rd Beach bench will be placed over Memorial Day weekend. Waiting to hear from the Ostrowski family as to when they would like to place their bench.

- Treasurer position: John moved to nominate Julia Stoneman to Treasure position. 2nd by Dick. All in favor.

- August Candlelight event: Saturday, August 21 was the date decided on because of timing with full moon. John will check with astronomy group to see if that date will work for them.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Don would like to add some small plant ID signs in the pollinator garden to help visitors identify our plants. There are about 12 species, so a sign for each cluster was suggested. Type of sign and cost not yet determined. Will return to this next month.

OTHER BUSINESS:

- Brynna is interested in providing daily updates on beach conditions and other items of interest. These would be posted on Friends' FaceBook page.

Next meeting 6/16/21 @ 4:00 pm. We will tentatively plan an in person meeting.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Rich; 2nd: Adele. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned by President John Swanson at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Story

Secretary