

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

Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 1-19-22

Present: John Swanson, Dick Weidman, Susan Cubar, Julia Stoneman, Liz Story, Adele Douglass, Rich Dirks, Don Gustafson, Jim Perry, Lynn Zawojski, Sarah Stepanik, and Erin Brown Stender. Guest: Max Martin

Absent: Doug Otopalik

Call to Order: The Zoom meeting was called to order at 4:02 by President John Swanson

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

Minutes of 10-20-21: Motion to approve Minutes of 10-20-21: Susan; second, Adele. All in favor

Minutes of 11-19-21: Motion to approve Minutes of 11-19-21: Don; second, Jim. All in favor

Treasurer's Reports: Julia presented the October, November, and December reports.

October:

- Income: \$18,093.03. Sales were still strong, with clothing sales high. We received a deposit from The Door County Adventure Center. There was also a donation for the Brachiopod Trail project.

- Expenses: \$6,215.51, of which \$4,300.00 was paid to Ethologys LLC for preliminary work on the Brachiopod signage.

Motion to approve October Treasurer's Report: Susan; second, Rich. All in favor

November (no meeting scheduled):

- Income was \$1,147.50. Sales were lower as attendance decreased. There was another donation made for the Brachiopod Trail.

- Expenses: \$2,440.15

Motion to approve November Treasurer's Report: Susan; second, Don. All in favor

December:

- Income: \$1,837.00. There was a bench donation from Susan Cubar and Tom Jordan, and a \$1,000 anonymous donation for the tractor. Dick has put 10% down toward tractor purchase.

- Expenses: \$157.14

Motion to approve December report: Dick; second, Susan. All in favor.

- Motion to amend the books budget to \$2000, and motion to amend the misc. budget to \$1100: Julia; second, Susan.

Park Report (Sarah):

- December attendance: 1,915 visitors. We think the counter wasn't working properly, which accounted for the low number (about 1,000 less than average).

- 2021 Yearly Attendance: 251,917 visitors (~5,400 less than 2020, still up 29% from average).

- 2020 Attendance: 257,345 (highest year on record). This was a 43% increase from 2019, and a 33% increase from average non-COVID visitation.

- Average annual non-COVID visitation: 195,034 (from 2008-2019)

- First Day Hike: Approximately 150 people attended, and \$750 in Park pass sales were made. A successful event overall, and will plan again for next year.

COVID Updates:

- Masks for Park staff and volunteers are required indoors when interacting with other people. Masks are not required outside as long as social distancing can be maintained.

- Indoor meetings may not be hosted on DNR property until further notice.

- DNR staff not allowed to attend any in-person meetings.

Trail Report (Rich):

The shared use trails have been working well. Continued problems with people hiking trails they shouldn't. Signage on ski trails may be confusing to some. Signs will be modified to say, "ski trail only". Sarah may also redo some of the trail marker signs so

people have a clearer idea of where they are and what they are and aren't allowed to do. General comments from regular visitors to the Park say they like the new arrangement and signage.

Trail Ambassadors:

Doug has recruited 18 ambassadors and continues the training. He will have another training in March.

Park Manager Projects:

- Dune Etiquette Sign Holders: These were approved in August and Sarah will purchase.
- Nature Center Shelving: Shelving will be added to the locked room in back to optimize storage for both The Friends and Park. Sarah priced some ready-made shelves at \$353.98. Motion to spend \$375 for shelving in locked storage room: Susan; second, Rich. All in favor.
- Some bird mounts were discovered in the Naturalist's office that would be nice to display. A couple of them would need a display made in order to put them up. All would need labels. Sarah will get a cost from Mike Orthober and let us know at the next meeting.

Projects for 2022-2023:

- Waiting on Cave Point trail re-route plan and the archaeologist to sign off on this.
 - Would like to proceed with restoration of the Native American Village this year. Even though some cleanup was done, some of the structures are falling down.
 - There was discussion about putting handrails on the path from the 2nd parking lot to picnic shelter. The path is very uneven and hard to walk on, especially when carrying things. Handrails, or resurfacing/regrading path would be worth considering.
- Summer Naturalist: The question came up about sharing the Naturalist with Potawatomi so that both parks would have the benefit of at least a half-time Naturalist. There will be more forthcoming on this as interviews progress. The Friends are in agreement with this proposal.

Old Business:

- New Bookstore Manager: We welcome Joanne Suchy who has volunteered to take on the role of bookstore manager.

New Business:

- John was interviewed by The Friends of Wisconsin State Parks about our award from the DNR. A YouTube video will be posted on their website.
- Looking for Visitor Service volunteers.
- Brachiopod Trail Dedication: Discussion as to when we should have the dedication for the Brachiopod Trail. We could do it this summer, or wait until the project is complete (with parking lot and signage installed). Parking area waiting on biologist's sign off, as well as Lily Bay's schedule. It's possible that this could be completed this summer, but at the moment it's wait and see. No final decision on timing for dedication.

2022 Events Schedule:

- A late April work day event is planned, perhaps coinciding with Earth Day.
- Summer Candlelight Event: To be determined
- Discussed changing the annual meeting date from September to December and combine with our holiday potluck. We will check the bylaws before making a decision on this change.
- Fall work day will be sometime in October.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 16 at 4:00.

Motion to adjourn: Dick; second, Jim.

The meeting was adjourned by John Swanson at 5:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Story, Secretary