

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

Minutes of Friends Board Meeting

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

Absent: Susan Cubar

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by John Swanson at 3:57 pm

Agenda: Motion to approve Agenda with additions: Rich; second, Jim. All in favor.

Minutes: Motion to approve October Minutes with corrections: Jim; second, Doug. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report (Julia):

Income: \$2,493.50

Expenses: \$8,382.02

Sales slowing down. We are continuing to receive some donations.

Joanne would like to make one more book order.

Motion to approve \$65.62 above budget for books: Rich; second, Don. All in favor.

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

Park Report (Sarah):

- October saw 21,182 visitors, which was 3,318 less than September.

- Winter hunting season has begun.

- November 15 - December 15: Gun and bow hunting; trapping allowed.

- December 16 - January 8: Bow hunting continues.

- Hunting maps posted.

- Beach flags have been taken down for the season.

- 1st Beach access still open at this time.

- All outdoor water systems have been shut down for the season.

- The shelter building remains locked, but will be left open after gun deer season is over.

- John Craig will put up winter signage after deer gun season over.

Park Manager Projects:

- Curtis has been working 1 day/week this month, which he will continue through the winter season.

- Staff continuing to mulch ski trails, which will go on until grooming begins.

- Cleaning out shops and Naturalist office is a priority.

- Working with Mike Bergum to discuss safety issues on beach and to establish a new beach safety program.

- Lily Bay has been signed as contractor for ADA Parking Lot. Hoping for an early December date. Project completion estimate is about 3 days.

Knowles-Nelson Projects:

- We've decided to wait on a second Knowles-Nelson application for Old Baldy this year as we don't have enough information at this time. We will apply for a Raibrook Grant when we have a true cost estimate.

- A Knowles-Nelson grant application was submitted for work on the Picnic Shelter. We have also received a donation to help cover the cost of the windows.

Miscellaneous Report:

- An 8' piece of the Australasia washed up between 2nd and 3rd Beach. We will store per marine archaeologist.
- Mike Madden told Sarah that the dugout canoe in the Native American Village is real, and came from Whitefish Bay Creek. There is a statewide grant from the State Historic Preservation Office which will do some carbon dating to determine authenticity and age. They will also do wood-typing.
- Naturalist: We will have a new District Naturalist. She will be stationed at Peninsula Park, but will assist with programs around our district during the summer. She would like to ensure similar programs are available at each park to have consistency, and is interested in spending time at our Park.

Trail Report (Rich):

- Doug and Rich toured the trails. In spring mulch will be moved to western side and work schedule will be set up.
- Uphill trails may be widened.
- Considering planting some trees in some old bypasses to close off these small sections. Another possibility is to put brush piles in those areas to redirect people.
- Will mark areas that are problem areas for grooming.

Trail Ambassadors (Doug):

- Doug requesting people's hours
- Communicate with Ambassadors prior to ski season.
- Perhaps talk about trail etiquette when ski season begins.

Events:

- Fall Work Day was successful.
- Annual Meeting:
 - Friday, December 9
 - Volunteer of Year Award
- First Day Hike: January 1, 10-noon
- Candlelight Ski: January 28

Project List:

- ADA Parking: Scheduled for early December.
- Next Brachiopod Trail meeting 11/29.
- Nature Center Map Kiosk: map should be ready by spring 2023.
- EV Charging Station: John got Rich got a copy of the Wisconsin EV Infrastructure Plan. DNR is on the steering committee for this project, and one of their responsibilities is the state parks. In order to pursue pricing, we need to get information on preferred location of charging stations in park. The model of charger might be dictated statewide.
- Old Baldy: Waiting on engineering report and for contractor pricing.
- Taxidermy: Rich will drop off specimens on November 21.

New Business:

- Clothing: Would like to reorder some items, but this would put clothing over budget. Would like approval to purchase additional items. Motion to approve \$1,292 to purchase more clothing: Adele; second, Dick. All in favor.
- Snowshoes: We will loan out. Cannot take off property. Maybe have a donation bucket.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Max; second, Julia. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:40.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Story
Secretary