

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

Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 11-19-21

Present: John Swanson, Dick Weidman, Susan Cubar, Liz Story, Adele Douglass, Rich Dirks, Don Gustafson, Jim Perry, Doug Otopalik, Sarah Stepanik, and Erin Brown Stender. Guests: Steve Schmelzer (Head of State Parks of Wisconsin) and Mike Bergum (Regional Manager for Parks in our region of Wisconsin)

Absent: Julia Stoneman, Lynn Zawojski

Call to Order: Zoom meeting called to order by John Swanson at 1:00

Agenda: Motion to approve agenda: Susan; second, Don. All in favor.

Announcements:

- Sarah and Erin announced that the DNR awarded the Friends group The Friends Group of the Year award, which is given to only one Friends Group a year to recognize extraordinary service and dedication in enhancing the park property and visitor experience. The Friends will be presented with a plaque, an official writeup, and will be announced at the state wide meeting on December 1.
- Sarah was awarded the Parks and Recreation Management Internal Partnership Award for 2021. This award goes to one full-time employee who exemplifies working with an external partner or partners on providing traditional or non-traditional recreational opportunities on state park properties.

Park Report (Sarah):

Attendance is dropping off. October saw 25,600, which is about 6,000 more than is typical at this time last year.

Project List:

- 1st Beach access has been repaired. This is phase 1 of 2 repairs. The undermined section of sidewalk was removed and backfilled. Riprap installed to prevent further erosion. Because it's riprap it's not very useable for access at this point. Going forward, when there is enough sand again, an ADA component will be installed and that will complete Phase 2 of repairs. Amy Moore will be applying for a Coastal Restoration Grant which would be available in 18 months, and will hopefully coincide with the second phase of repairs.
- Brachiopod Parking Lot: This meets our Master Plan conditions. We need to survey for Dwarf Lake Iris. Sarah working with NHC to identify endangered plants. We currently have two locations in mind for the lot, but in the event that endangered plants are found in these spaces, we will have to choose another location entirely. This will have to wait until May-June when plants can be identified.
- Drinking fountain area by shelter was finally repaired and should be good to go in spring. If everything looks good, construction could begin in early winter of 2022.
- COVID restrictions: DNR no longer allowed to schedule indoor events. Staff may be able to help in limited capacity for DNR co-hosted events. Concessions could be moved outside to allow park staff to help out.

Treasurer's Report:

- Clothing had strong sales September-October. More clothing was ordered selectively to replenish things that are selling well. Motion to approve an increase in clothing budget expenditures by \$540 to cover recent clothing order: Susan; second, Adele. All in favor.
- Knowles-Nelson grant for Old Baldy repairs: We got a cost estimate from the engineer who had been looking at the stair repairs, and we were able to get our grant application in on time. Hopefully we will be able to secure a contractor for

next year to rebuild the stairs. The amount submitted to Knowles-Nelson was \$6,516.00. We would need to match up to that amount. Motion to approve segregation of funds for Knowles-Nelson grant: Susan; second, Jim. All in favor.

- Heavy equipment (Dick): Dick got estimates from a couple different companies, and would like to submit estimates to Raibrook with a 50/50 proposal. Our responsibility would be about \$11,000-\$12,000. Motion to submit proposal to Raibrook: Dick; second, Don. All in favor.

Trail Report (Rich):

- Reopening of Brachiopod Trail has reopened loop for snowshoers and hikers. We will try a shared use trail from Nature Center along rope fence out to WD. Green trail will not be groomed this year but used as a snowshoe/hiking trail. Because of width, trail from WD to 3rd Beach access will allow hikers and snowshoers on one side, and skiers on the other side. Doug and John Craig have been working on installing new signage. Would be interested in a retractable wheel kit to aid with backing snowmobile into the cold shop on bare pavement. Motion to approve \$350 for this purpose: Rich; second, Don. Doug makes simple amendment to raise amount of \$500 in case we need to have someone install this. All in favor.

Annual Meeting:

Meeting will be held Thursday, December 9 at 10:00 at the Sevastopol Town Hall. Volunteers could help set up starting at 9:00. Representative Joel Kitchens will attend, and possibly Mike Bergum.

Other Business:

- First Day Hike: Will keep this simple. We will have having hot chocolate and hot cider, a fire in the shelter, and a fire in fire pit. Event will run from 9:30 to noon. Because this is a Friends run event, we will be able to use the inside of shelter, and a staff member will be available to sell passes.

- Candlelight Event: Will be held January 29. Volunteers will help with setup and concessions. Perhaps a volunteer staff the Nature Center. Staff will be available for contact station, but otherwise have minimal role. We will decide whether we want to rent lighting equipment.

Motion to adjourn: Adele; second, Dick. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned by John Swanson at 1:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Story
Secretary