

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

Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 12-8-23

Present: John Swanson, Dick Weidman, Julia Stoneman, Liz Story, Rich Dirks, Jim Perry, Doug Otopalik, Don Gustafson, Max Martin, Corey Meyer, Sarah Stepanik, and Erin Brown Stender. Guest: Curtis

Absent: Susan Cubar, Lynn Zawojski, and Adele Douglass

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:57 a.m.

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

Minutes: Motion to approve the Minutes of 10-25-23: Julia; second, Dick. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report October 2023 (Julia):

Income: \$8,336.07

- Books, clothing, and miscellaneous items still doing well despite seasonal slowdown in sales.
- Check from kayak concession
- Donations for Picnic Shelter

Expenses: \$786.01

- Picnic Shelter
- Fall Work Day
- Book order

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report of October 2023: Doug; second, Jim. All in favor.

Julia announced that she will not be seeking a second term as Treasurer. She will finish out her current term, and expressed interest in remaining on the board if possible. With the Treasurer's position becoming more complex, we talked about needing a Treasurer with some financial experience. Because we are utilizing more grants, Sarah suggested appointing a grant manager to the board to help keep track of the grant monies.

Park Report (Sarah):

- November saw 5,289 visitors, which is about 2,500 above average.
- 2023 is trending toward our average pre-COVID numbers.
- Outdoor water systems are shut down.
- Barricades and signs are going up on ski trails.
- 2nd Beach access will be closed off when we get snow.

Events:

- 1st Day Hike will be January 1 from 10 - noon. Nature Center will be open during that time. Doug and Jim will lead a guided hike.
- Candlelight Ski - January 27. Volunteers needed.

Old Business:

- Allen Dewey Miller renaming: Sarah heard back from Vicki Dirst, and the family's naming preference would be The Allen Dewey Miller Nature Center. This will likely need approval from the DNR, and Sarah has submitted the necessary forms.

- Snowmobile: Rich found out that we will be able to manage the overheating issue ourselves without having to purchase a new radiator. He did get a cost for a removable rack that would help with transporting equipment. The cost of the rack would be about \$400. He also got an estimate for the roller protection, which would likely be less than \$400.
- Picnic Shelter is done except for masonry repairs.
- We will table the discussion of a donation of Park Passes to the Door County Library until spring.
- Dick has researched a box scraper for the tractor, but we won't need until spring so will discuss at a later date.
- Sarah has talked with the county about our plans for the Cave Point Trail reroute, and they are in general agreement with our plans. Because of shoreline zoning, we are not allowed to put gravel down within 75 ft of shoreline. We may try applying for an exemption. Another option looked into was installing 200 ft of boardwalk over the bedrock, along with a 55 ft staircase, but the estimate for that was cost prohibitive. We will continue to look at options.
- Taxidermy: Progress is slow because Mike has such a backlog, but we are in the queue.

New Business:

- Renewal of our State of Wisconsin Concessionaire agreement: We need to extend our agreement with the DNR before renewing our contract with the Door County Adventure Center. We talked about adding a subcontract with DCAC to include bike tours. A question was raised about a clause in the contract of an audit requirement. Since this is not something that's done on a regular basis, we thought we could remove the audit requirement by changing the wording in the contract to "audit by request".

Motion to approve our 3 year contract extension with the DNR and rewording our DCAC contract: Rich; second, Dick. All in favor.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 am.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, January 24 at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Story
Secretary