

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

**Minutes of Friends Board Meeting: January 18, 2023**

**Present:** John Swanson, Dick Weidman, Julia Stoneman, Susan Cubar, Liz Story, Rich Dirks, Adele Douglass, Jim Perry, Doug Otopalik, Don Gustafson, and Erin Brown Stender. Curtis Dassow also in attendance.

**Absent:** Sarah Stepanik, Max Martin, Lynn Zawojski

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 3:59 p.m.

**Agenda:** Motion to approve the Agenda as amended: Dick; second, Susan. All in favor.

**Election of Officers:**

- President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer are up for election. Motion to elect the 4 incumbent officers (John Swanson, Dick Weidman, Liz Story, and Julia Stoneman): Susan; second, Jim. All in favor.

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the Minutes of 12/9/22: Dick; second, Susan. All in favor.

**Treasurer's Report (Julia):**

- Income: \$248.00
  - Expenses: \$1,520.21
  - Sales are slow, but book sales still doing well. A donation was also received.
  - Expenses included a stump removal and animal mount, as well as supplies.
- Motion to approve December 2022 Treasurer's report: Susan; second, Jim. All in favor.

**Park Report (Sarah/Erin):**

- December saw 3,539 visitors, which is 1,624 more than last December and 1,052 more than average.
- The attendance for 2022 was 200,211 visitors, which is 53,277 less than 2021, and 2,911 more than average.
- 1st Beach was reopened with the warmer weather. May need to close again if conditions become snowy/icy.
- Brynna will not be returning this year, but has taken an LTE Ranger position at Peninsula Park.
- Staffing cuts will be made in order to increase wages.
- Jeanne will return in her part-time VSA position.
- John will continue as PRS at 32 hours/week.
- Curtis will help out one day/week with off-season projects and coverage during busy months.
- We will hire a new part-time PRS to help cover Brynna's vacancy. We may be able to share an LTE from Potawatomi.
- Naturalist interviews will take place in March. New hire will start the week of May 22 and end around August 11.
- Park staff continue to work on cleaning out buildings.
- Sarah continuing to work on establishing a beach safety program. She would like to expand rescue stations to 1st and 3rd Beach.
- Stauber Electric will be in January 25 to get our bathroom ventilation fans working.

**Trail Report (Rich):**

No snow! Trails are icy. Grooming will happen when we have snow.

**Trail Ambassadors (Doug):**

We had a good year, with 391 volunteer hours submitted. Our volunteer pool is larger. Thinking of some type of recognition for volunteers.

**Events:**

- About 175 people turned out for 1st Day Hike.
- Candlelight Event 1/28. John Bagnall will provide heaters for shelter since fireplace is not useable.
- Will find a date for Spring Work Day.

**Project List (Active) 2023:**Brachiopod Trail and ADA Parking Lot:

- Additional vetting needed by DNR before construction. Lily Bay will submit plans to the engineers for approval.
- Jessica is working on trail re-route plan, which should be ready by spring.
- Text for the Brachiopod Trail signs will get final approval on 1/24.
- Final illustration/design approval will happen 2/28. Project deadline is 5/31/23.

Old Baldy Stairs and Rails:

- Engineering plans should be completed by mid-January, at which point we will explore new funding.

Picnic Shelter Repairs:

- Sliding doors will be replaced with picture windows.
- Rotting boards need replacement.
- After the chimney cleaning/inspection was done, the chimney was determined unsafe and the fireplace is unusable. We will consider a few different options for restoring functionality.
- Stauber Electric will replace current receptacles with GFI.

Native American Village:

- Needs fencing upgrade and sign replacement. Accuracy of wording important.

Seasonal Naturalist:

- John will again apply for the Friends of Wisconsin State Parks Incentive Grant to use toward Naturalist position.

**Potential Projects for 2023 and Beyond:**EV Charging Station (Rich):

- Rich has put together a more formal inquiry/proposal to submit to the DNR, which he shared with the Board. He has asked the DNR for more details about the type of charging stations they recommend, and possible locations for these stations. Once we have this information we can proceed with getting costs. Two minor corrections need to be made in this document prior to submitting.

Motion to approve Rich's proposal with amendments: Doug; second, Don. All in favor.

Cave Point Access Trail: Still waiting on trail reroute plan and archaeology sign off.

Nature Center: Would like to update exhibits and video.

**New Business:**

- Received an email from Ryan Meisel, who expressed interest in performing at the Park. His presentation, "World Sound Explorations", would be held on July 27.

Motion to fund \$200 for this event: Susan; second, Julia. All in favor.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn: Dick; second, Susan. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:09.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, February 15 at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Story

Secretary