

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

### **Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 4-19-23**

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

**Absent:** Lynn Zawojski

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm

**Agenda:** Motion to approve the Agenda with additions: Susan; second, Rich. All in favor.

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the Minutes of 3-15-23: Dick; second, Susan. All in favor.

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

Income: \$3,145

- Sales still slow, but clothing still doing well.

Expenses: \$15,609.68

- Deposit put down with Wulf Brothers for the shelter's wood-burning insert

- Brachiopod Trail supplies

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

#### **Park Report (Sarah):**

- We had 4,690 visitors in March, which is 728 less than February, and 1,991 more than March 2022, and 882 more than the March average.

#### Seasonal Changes:

- Winter signage has been taken down and replaced with summer signs.

- Housing has been opened up for the season, and LTEs are moving in. We expect 10 LTEs in housing for the season.

- Drinking fountains will remain closed until mid-May.

- Beach warning flags will go up sometime mid-May.

- Unless reserved, shelter will be locked until the end of the season to reduce vandalism.

- We will switch to summer hours in the Nature Center and Contact Station on May 26. Hours will be different than previous summers due to staffing arrangements.

#### Park Manager Projects:

- All surplus equipment has been submitted for auction.

- New beach safety stations have been installed at each beach access. All stations are equipped with life jackets and kick boards. New signs are being made to label each station.

- Some large rocks have been removed from the 1st Beach access walkway. We hope this will help make the access more wheelchair accessible.

- The flag light has been replaced with a less bright and more efficient solar light.

- A new pollinator garden will be installed near the 1st Beach access.

- Native American Village: Sarah and others from the DNR have an upcoming meeting on May 8 with representatives from the Ho-Chunk, Menominee, and Potawatomi to talk about redoing the outdoor display. Sarah met earlier with Bill Quackenbush from the Ho-Chunk, who suggested replacing the historic outdoor displays with a more modern lodge and outdoor fire ring. If the Potawatomi and Menominee representatives agree with this idea, that is how we'll proceed.

#### Brachiopod Trail Reroute & ADA Parking Lot:

- The ADA parking lot is finished! Signage and pay stations are being prepared to go up in mid-May.
- The DNR engineer has the trail reroute project scheduled for late spring or early summer completion.

#### Knowles-Nelson Projects:

- Brachiopod Trail Signs: Approved illustrations for the Brachiopod Trail signs have been sent to the printer. Additional supplies needed for project completion have been ordered. All signs and science stations will be installed by June 1.
- Old Baldy: Engineering plans have been received from Stantec. A DNR engineer has provided feedback to Stantec, and plans are now under revision. This project will most likely be postponed until later in the season to make sure the engineering plans agree with our needs before we begin construction.
- Picnic Shelter Repairs:
  - Wulf Brothers installed the fireplace insert on April 11.
  - Electric upgrades have been made, including wiring for fireplace and GFI outlets with tamper-proof outlet plates.
  - Door County Masonry will address the external masonry repairs to chimney. They will look at this April 20 and submit an estimate.
  - Mike Laaksonen is aiming to repair the rotted siding and wood paneling in late May. The windows are expected to arrive in mid-June, at which time he will complete the work.

#### Hiring & Staffing:

- Max Funnell has been hired as the LTE Parks and Rec specialist for this season. He will start the week of May 22.
- Although we had previously hired for the LTE Naturalist position, the candidate ended up rescinding their acceptance. The job has been reposted.
- John Bagnall and Jeanne Schopf will continue in their current positions.

#### **Trail Report (Rich):**

The season is over! Rich's final report can be found at the end of the Minutes.

#### **Trail Ambassadors (Doug):**

- Doug plans to set a date sometime in May or June for an Ambassadors get-together to prepare for the upcoming season. Lunch will be provided.

#### **Membership (Susan):**

- Work Day email has been sent out. About 14 people have signed up to volunteer.
- A "Contact Your Legislators" email was sent out to members who are residents.
- She's currently working on annual membership mailing.

#### **Legislative Report:**

- Adele and Rich attended Andre Jacque's listening session. Attendees at the session brought up increasing park staff salaries, as well as the need for ongoing funding for the state parks and restoring GPR funding to the budget.

#### **Events:**

- Spring Work Day: Saturday, April 22 from 9-noon.
- World Sound Explorations: July 27.
- Summer Candlelight: Tentative date is August 19.

#### **DNR Enhancement Grant Projects:**

- Sarah would like to apply for a DNR Enhancement Grant to help fund the purchase of new trail signs and to replace the rotting entrance gate with a metal gate. She would apply for the maximum amount of \$5,000, which would be a 50/50 match grant.

Motion to approve expenditure for these projects: Don; second, Rich. All in favor.

**EV Charging Station:**

- Sarah gave us an update on the DNR EV charging plan. Because of the size and complexity of this project, they would like to approach it by deciding on a standard charging system and doing all parks at once vs. one at a time. This will be happening a few years down the road.

**Old Business:**

- Annual contributions to the Carl Scholz Memorial Fund: will be tabled for discussion at a later date.

**New Business:**

- The trail group have discussed getting a new shed in the Red Pine lot to store tools. It would need to be added to the building inventory system. We will revisit.

- We would like to update our FaceBook page and find someone to take over this job. Julia recommended a friend who might be interested. We will discuss this with him at a future date.

**Taxidermy:**

- We have enough space for the mounts in the preferred location. We will give Mike our staging/mounting preferences and get a cost estimate.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn: Don; second, Rich. The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, May 17 at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Story

Secretary