

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

Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 4-20-22

Present: Dick Weidman, Julia Stoneman, Susan Cubar, Liz Story, Rich Dirks, Adele Douglass, Jim Perry, Doug Otopalik, Lynn Zawojski, Don Gustafson, Max Martin, Sarah Stepanik, and Erin Brown Stender. Guest: Bret Bicoy

Absent: John Swanson

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 by Dick Weidman

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

Guest Speaker: After discussion about starting an Endowment Fund at a previous meeting, we invited Bret Bicoy from the Door County Community Foundation to attend a meeting to answer our questions about this type of fund. He was very informative, and spoke about the benefits of creating such a fund to help facilitate charitable giving.

Minutes: Motion to approve the Minutes of 3-16-22: Rich; second, Susan. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report, March 2022 (Julia):

- Income: \$475.24
- Expenses: \$21,812.59
- March sales low, not unexpectedly
- Finalized payment of tractor
- We received approval for the Knowles-Nelson grant for Old Baldy upgrades, but haven't received check yet.
- We received a \$1,000 grant from the Timothy John Wick Charitable Fund.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report: Doug; second, Max. All in favor.

Park Report (Sarah):

- March saw 2,699 visitors, which was 7,175 less than 2021, and 3,671 less than average. The malfunctioning car counter could still be the reason for the lower numbers. We will ask for it to be replaced if we can't get a fix to work.
- No COVID updates at this time.
- Housing will be opening on April 27.
- Drinking fountains will open 1st or 2nd week of May, when night temperatures become more agreeable.
- Nature Center and Contact Station will resume summer hours in mid to late May.

Park Hiring:

- 1 full-time LTE Visitor Services Associate was hired for the season. She will begin May 16.
- Brynna was offered the part-time Naturalist position again this year. She will be splitting her duties between Naturalist and park maintenance this season. She will be back full-time May 18.

Park Manager Projects:

- Dune Etiquette sign holders arrived, and signs will be installed sometime in May prior to the busy season.
- Newport State Park has expressed interest in our beach rake. If they decide not to take it, it will be moved to Devil's Lake State Park.
- The Park's radial arm saw is broken and is not repairable. Sarah asked the Friends if they would be willing to fund a replacement if necessary.

- We recently received an aquarium from Mosquito Hill Nature Center. Zebra and Quagga mussels, Rusty crayfish, and White Perch will be on view, and information about these invasive species will be displayed by the aquarium. We hope to have this up and running sometime during the first week of May.
- No word from any contractors yet on the Old Baldy project.
- Tractor training: As long as the Friends have ownership of the tractor, training can be decided on. However, once it's turned over to the DNR, state guidelines would need to be followed.

Trail Report (Rich):

- Winter trail signs to be reduced next year.
- Would like to widen section of Brachiopod Trail between Nature Center and WD to create multi-use trail.
- Rich kindly submitted his Annual Grooming Report. Please look for it at the end of the Minutes.

Trail Ambassador (Doug):

- To create more awareness of the program, Doug will post informational signage on kiosk and post details on FaceBook. He will also keep contact with nearby neighborhood associations and encourage them add information on the Trail Ambassadors to their newsletters
- Doug is hoping to organize a meet-and-greet event for all Trail Ambassadors in early June.
- We currently have 19 Ambassadors in the program.

Endowment Fund: We decided it would be beneficial to form an ad-hoc committee for the Endowment Fund. Susan, Adele, and John will be on this committee. We would like to create the fund in Carl Scholz's name.

Naturalist Fund: Currently there is \$8,832 in Naturalist account with the DNR. Motion to approve \$1,000 to the DNR wage package for the summer Naturalist to cover additional expenses: Susan; second, Dick. All in favor.

Old Business:

- Handicapped parking still waiting for information on endangered species survey.
- ADA trail revision waiting on DNR.
- EV Charging Station: Rich and John met with John Hippensteel. John H. determined that there is sufficient power to run 3 2-station chargers. Looking at optimal placement for charging stations.
- Cave Point Access Trail: Still waiting on trail coordinator.
- Native American Village: Needs repair and new birch bark.
- Tractor: If tractor is donated to DNR, park would be liable for insurance and maintenance on tractor. There would be recognition of the donation, but no formal agreement. It would be in the highest tier of donations and would require a submission to DNR a month ahead, so it would be August before the Park could take ownership if we decide to do this at May meeting.

New Business:

- Clothing: We have enough to take us through early part of summer. Working with supplier to create a new T-shirt that says "I hiked Old Baldy".
- Membership: Susan mailed annual renewals to 50 members, and emailed members about Dunes Day (4/30/22).

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

The meeting was adjourned by Dick Weidman at 5:50.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 18 at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Story
Secretary

**Whitefish Dunes State Park
Cross Country Ski Trail
Grooming Report 2021-22**

The 2021-22 ski season started in early December with marginal snowfall that allowed getting a base packed but not enough to set a track. Then much of the base melted away before a period of cold weather set in. Through much of January if it did snow it was only a few inches at a time and dry snow from a number of Alberta Clippers.

After experimenting with sharing a portion of the Red trail with hikers & snowshoers last year, it was decided to expand it allowing hikers & snowshoers access to the Brachiopod trail and the Green trail In the old growth area. The Connector trail was also designated a shared trail from WD to the 3rd beach access. This has been moderately successful but a few hikers still insist in hiking on the groomed ski trails which is prohibited.

February brought enough snow to set tracks but the base in many areas still was minimal. By the end of the month temps were warming and maintaining a base was getting more difficult.

Date of first grooming: December 7, 2021

Date of last grooming: February 20, 2022

Number of times trails were groomed: 16

Dick Wideman	4.75 hrs
John Swanson	19.75
Doug Otopalik	8.0
Rich Dirks	<u>17.5</u>
Total Grooming hrs	50

Snowmobile miles: 165 miles

Recent years

	<u>Times Groomed</u>	<u>Volunteer Hrs</u>
2020-21	7	19.75
2019-20	20	59.25
2018-19	17	60
2017-18	14	42
2016-17	9	24.50
2015-16	14	45
2014-15	11	26.25
2013-14	31	95.75

Rich Dirks