

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

**Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 4/24/24**

**Present:** John Swanson, Dick Weidman, Julia Stoneman, Susan Cubar, Liz Story, Rich Dirks, Adele Douglass, Jim Perry, Lynn Zawojski, Don Gustafson, Max Martin, Corey Meyer, Sarah Stepanik

**Absent:** Doug Otopalik, Erin Brown Stender

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

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

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the Minutes of 3/27/24: Dick; second, Don. All in favor.

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

Income: \$357.50

- Book and clothing sales still seasonally slow.

Expenses: \$2,302.24

- Canvas tarp for pole lodge

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

**Park Report (Sarah):**

- There were 5,079 visitors in March, which is about average for the month.

Seasonal Changes:

- A part-time LTE was hired and will start May 20.

- We hired for a part-time PRS/part-time Naturalist position. Start date is estimated to be around Memorial Day. We hope to fill the PRS position so our hire can transition to full-time Naturalist.

- VSA position has been filled.

- Outdoor water systems and housing are scheduled to reopen around mid-May.

- The Nature Center's current hours will continue until May 24, at which time hours will be 10:00-4:00 every day.

- The Contact Station will officially open for the season on May 24. Hours will be 10-3 Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Park Manager Projects:

- Native Village/Indoor Museum: Sarah and subcommittee will meet with Split Rock April 30 to discuss project design.

- Canvas covering on Pole Lodge is complete.

- 1st Beach Access: No update. Construction still expected to start in late summer/early fall 2024.

- Kids Don't Float Kiosk: Max Martin is working on a kiosk design. Hopefully this will be installed by Memorial Day.

- Nature Center Storage Closet: Sarah will schedule Mike Laaksonen as soon as she receives approval for project.

- New carpeting will be installed in one of the houses.

Knowles-Nelson Projects:

- Brachiopod Trail Signage: Close-out paperwork submitted 1/5/24.

- Picnic Shelter repairs: Close-out paperwork submitted 1/5/24.

- Old Baldy: Close-out paperwork for original project will be sent soon. Currently waiting for cost estimate from Mike Laaksonen for construction portion of project.

- Cave Point Trail: No changes from last month.

2023 Enhancement Grant:

- All new signs have arrived. Still waiting on gate.

#### Beach Warning Flag Pilot Program:

- Sarah will have a follow-up meeting with the DNR on April 26 to try to get approval for this pilot program and move things forward.

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

There will be a luncheon for the Ambassadors May 23 at noon.

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

Susan and Corey met to figure out how online renewals will be handled. Susan sent out her eNews and membership renewals this week.

#### **Events:**

- Universe in the Park: Astronomy students from UW Madison will give a lecture on constellations in the night sky. Afterwards, people will have the opportunity to look at the stars through a telescope. Event will be held August 10 from 8-10 pm.
- Summer Candlelight Event: Event will be held 8/17 from 6-9 pm. We will also be celebrating Smokey the Bear's 80th birthday.

#### **Grant Funded Projects:**

- We received a Raibrook Grant (50/50 match) for fencing on upper dune of Old Baldy, as well as some educational signage.
- Incentive Grant will cover cost of the kiosk and part of the Naturalist salary.

#### **Old Business:**

##### Group Visits:

- School group May 21, 9:30-1:30.
- YMCA will arrange with Sarah.
- ARDC
- Sunshine House May 23, 10:30-1:00.
- Youth group visits: Boys & Girls Club - bus cost is \$285 per group (3 groups), which is \$855 total. We have \$455 available to contribute for the buses. We will try to get donations to cover the remaining cost.
- The "Great Lakes/Great Waters" exhibit will begin May 17 in the Auditorium and run for 30 days.
- No news on the Picnic Shelter chimney.
- We are still looking for a Treasurer.

#### **New Business:**

- John will reach out to Bill Pennoyer at Peninsula State Park to see if we might coordinate efforts to continue advocating for our Parks with Representative Kitchens.

##### Wish List:

- New beach mats
- 8' lightweight plastic tables for Auditorium, plus one folding one
- Beach warning flags
- Box scraper
- Grit Freedom Trail Chair
- Flail mower
- Updated video in Nature Center
- EV charging station
- WiFi access

- Replacing Nature Center door handles with ADA compliant handles.
- Repair low spots on Yellow/Green Trail and Clark Lake spur.
- New garage door in cold shop. (Sarah mentioned that this request has been submitted for consideration along with other improvement projects, and estimated delivery for door and new openers would be 2026.)

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn: Julia; second, Adele. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00.

The next meeting will be on the 5th Wednesday, 5/29, at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Story

Secretary