

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

**Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 5-29-24**

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

**Absent:** Lynn Zawojski, Corey Meyer, and Erin Brown Stender

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

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

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the Minutes of 4-24-24: Don; second, Adele. All in favor.

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

- Julia presented both the April Treasurer's Report and the Quarter 3 Report.

Income: \$2,382.20

- Clothing and book sales are picking up.

- Miscellaneous sales have grown.

- More dues have been received.

Expenses: \$18,512.83

- Event banners

- Old Baldy fence project supplies

- Kids Don't Float supplies

- Trailer tires

Motion to approve April Treasurer's Report: Dick; second, Susan. All in favor.

**Park Report (Sarah):**

- April saw 5,765 visitors, which is 389 more than 2023, and 154 below average.

Seasonal Changes:

- A part-time VSA (Kristi) and full-time PRS (Noah) started May 20.

- A full-time Naturalist (Jess) will be starting June 8. Her full-time hours will begin June 13.

- Outdoor water systems and housing reopened May 14.

- Nature Center hours are now 10 am-3 pm every day.

- Contact Station opened May 24. Hours are 10 am-3 pm Friday through Monday.

Park Manager Projects:

- Native Village/Indoor Museum Renovations

- Sarah and subcommittee met April 30 with Split Rock to discuss the project and get design process started. A progress report meeting will take place on June 12. Final concept drawings expected late June/early July.

- First Beach Access Reconstruction - No update at this time.

- Kids Don't Float kiosk: The design for this project is in process.

- Nature Center Storage Closet: Still waiting on approval.

Knowles-Nelson Projects:

- Closeout paperwork for Brachiopod Trails signs and Picnic Shelter repairs submitted 1/5/24.

- Chimney repairs on Picnic Shelter will take place as part of a larger property-wide building repair project in 2025/2026. Costs will be covered by the Wisconsin DNR.

**- Old Baldy:**

- Paperwork for original Knowles-Nelson grant project will be submitted prior to June 1.
- Final plans from Stantec have been received. When we have the material cost from Mike Laaksonen, we will get a cost estimate for the construction piece of the project.
- New rope fence at top was finished by staff last week.

- Cave Point Trail: The Friends were awarded a Knowles-Nelson grant for this project. This will cover the cost of a gravel trail and materials for a rope fence to be installed in delicate or dangerous areas. A endangered plant survey was done and no Dwarf Lake Iris was found growing in the proposed path. One more plant survey will be done in August for a final determination. Sarah suggested that consideration be given to applying for a Community Investment Grant to fund installation of boardwalks along the trail to make it more accessible.

2023 Enhancement Grant:

- New signs and entrance gate have arrived. We will try to get the gate installed before July 4.

Beach Flag Warning Pilot Program:

- Sarah is currently working to get an automated beach warning system installed at Whitefish Dunes, which would align with a Door County initiative and would be a good long term solution. While that process is being worked through, the DNR has agreed to move forward with a beach flag warning system to use in the meantime.

**Trail Ambassadors (Doug):**

- The Ambassador Annual Picnic had a good turnout. Sarah reviewed policies and gave updates about what's been going on in the Park. There are two new members.

**Membership (Susan):**

- Susan will send out an email next week with an online link that can be used to renew membership. A printout of online renewals will be available to Susan and Corey. Members will have the choice of using the online process or sending a check. The link is not yet on our website.

**Pollinator Garden (Don):**

- With the cooler, rainy weather, we have more cool season grasses growing, but the other plants are currently lagging.

**Events:**

- Universe in the Park: 8/10/24 from 8-10 pm
- Summer Candlelight (Smokey the Bear 80th Anniversary): 8/17/24

**Old Business:**

- Group visits:
  - School field trip - 5/21
  - Sunshine House - 5/23
  - YMCA - mid-summer
  - Boys and Girls Club - mid-summer. This trip will require 3 buses @ \$285/bus, totaling \$855.

Motion to approve \$855 for bus transport: Adele; second, Don. All in favor.

- Board positions needed: Treasurer and Grant Writer
- Great Lakes Mobile Exhibit will be here through June.

**New Business:**

- John talked to Bill Pennoyer about arranging a time for all the Friends Groups to meet and plan how to follow up with Rep. Kitchens and other legislators.
- We discussed pursuing a contract with Lily Bay to install the Cave Point Trail.

Motion to enter a contract with Lily Bay not to exceed \$25,000: Dick; second, Adele. All in favor.

- Updated Concession Agreement with DNR: Rich brought up a clause from our 2019 agreement that was missing from this updated version, specifying the Friends Group as a 503-c organization. We would like to have this added back in.

**Wish List:**

- One of the items on our wish list is a folding plastic table, which would come in handy for our Naturalist. These are currently on sale.

Motion to approve the purchase of 2 tables: Dick; second, Susan. All in favor.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn: Don; second, Rich. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, 6/26/24 at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Story

Secretary