

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

Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 6-26-24

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

Absent: Rich Dirks, Doug Otopalik, Lynn Zawojski, Corey Meyer

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

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

Minutes: Motion to approve the Minutes of 5-29-24: Jim; second, Dick. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report (Julia):

Julia presented the May Treasurer's Report and the 2024-2025 Budget.

Income:

- Clothing and book sales picking up
- Donations
- Raibrook Grant for fencing project received
- Picnic Shelter closeout

Expenses:

- Work Day lunch
- Welding and paint for snowmobile
- Benches
- Clothing
- Rope for Lodge

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

Motion to approve 2024-2025 Budget: Dick; second, Don. All in favor.

Park Report (Sarah):

- May saw 17,073 visitors, which is about 33% above average, and 2,494 more than 2023.
- Governor Evers visited the Park on 5/24 and took a 30 minute hike. He was interested in the proposed Cave Point Trail, and impressed with the visitation numbers the state parks have every year.

Seasonal Changes:

- Our Naturalist (Jess Poppie) has hit the ground running, and has already reached out to groups in the community and has been involved in a couple of programs. She is currently working on a July program schedule.

Park Manager Projects:

- Renaming of Nature Center/Auditorium: The committee met on 6/11 to discuss sign options. Laser Innovations will make the sign that will be hung above the Auditorium doorway.

Motion to approve a maximum of \$275 for sign purchase and shipping: Susan; second, Adele. All in favor.

- Native Village/Indoor Museum Renovations: Sarah and subcommittee met with Split Rock 6/12 for a progress report. They discussed changes to be made for final concept designs, and will meet again in late June/early July. Bill Quackenbush will return in July to give more detailed feedback.

-First Beach Access: No endangered species have been found, so construction should begin late summer/early fall.

-Kids Don't Float Kiosk: Design and construction is underway, and Sarah is working on signage.

- Nature Center Storage Closet: This is moving along in the approval process.

Knowles-Nelson Projects:

- Brachiopod Trail Signs: Closeout papers submitted 1/5/24.
- Picnic Shelter repairs: Closeout papers submitted 1/5/24, Chimney repairs will take place in 2025/2026 through a larger property-wide building repairs project, which will be covered by the DNR.
- Old Baldy: Original grant project close-out papers will be submitted this month. Final engineering plans have been received from Stantec. When we receive a cost estimate for materials, we will get estimates from both Mike Laaksonen and Piel for the construction portion of the project. We will consider applying for a Door County Community Investment Grant for funding.
- Rope fencing completed by staff in mid-May.

Cave Point Trail:

- The Friends received a \$40,000 grant for this project, which would cover the installation of a gravel path and materials needed for rope fencing to protect delicate/dangerous areas. Sarah recommends applying for a Community Investment Grant to install boardwalks on areas of the trail to encourage visitors to stay on the trail and also make it more accessible.

2023 Enhancement Grant:

- Supplies have been ordered and signs have arrived. The new gate has been partially installed. It should be fully installed by next week.

Beach Warning Flag Pilot Program:

- Sarah is continuing to work on getting an automated beach warning system installed at the Park. In the meantime, the DNR has agreed to a beach warning flag system to use in the interim. There will be continued discussion on the automated warning system to figure out how to get this system to work for all parties involved.

Clothing/Membership (Susan):

Clothing:

- New T-shirts selling well
- Order will be placed for Old Baldy shirts

Membership:

- Susan sent out a renewal email to our annual members, with a QR code linking to our online renewal system. She had 10 renewals through the online process out of 40 emails sent. She also sent out paper renewal forms to anyone who did not use the online system.
- Since Square charges a per transaction fee, perhaps we should consider adding a convenience fee to any online renewals. We will see how things play out with the online system.

Pollinator Garden (Don):

- After a cool, wet start to the season, Don has been sprucing things up, and has added new plants from his own garden.

New Business:

- Addendum to concession agreement with Door County Adventure Center: Tim (of DCAC) would like to establish an eBike concession, but is having trouble with staffing. He would like to subcontract the eBike concession from Peninsula Kayak Company, but needs written permission from both the Friends and the DNR to do so.
Motion to allow Door County Adventure Center to subcontract through Peninsula Kayak Company: Susan; second, Dick. All in favor.
- Treasurer/Grant Writer position: It was suggested that we need a search committee. Dick will take the lead on this. He will contact Amy Phillips to see if she is interested in this position.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Don; second Jim. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, July 24 at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Story, Secretary