

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

Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 9-15-21

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

Absent: Rich Dirks, Adele Douglass, Doug Otopalik, Lynn Zawojski

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 3:57 by President John Swanson.

Agenda: Motion to approve agenda: Julia; second, Dick. All in favor.

Minutes: Motion to approve the July 21 minutes with correction: Dick; second, Susan.

Motion to approve the August 18 minutes with correction: Susan; second Dick. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report (Julia):

- Total income: \$4,100.25
 - Total expenses: \$297.52
 - NNB checking balance: \$40,860.32; NNB savings balance: \$46,172.32
 - Clothing sales doing well, as are book sales.
 - Active Grants: Knowles-Nelson for Brachiopod Trail enhancements.
- Motion to approve Treasurer's report: Susan; second Dick. All in favor.

Park Report (Sarah):

- There were 52,910 visitors in August. This number was down from August of 2020, which saw 56,950 visitors, but up significantly from 2019.
- New hours for the Nature Center are:
 - September: Mon, Weds-Saturday 10:00-3:00; closed Tuesdays and Sundays
 - October: Mon, Thurs, Fri 10-3; Sat-Sun 9-4 . Closed Tues. and Weds. These hours will hold through winter.
 - Contact Station: Open weekends in September 9:00-5:00; will be closed starting October 1.
- Candlelight Event: 63 vehicles, approximately 221 visitors; \$194 in Park passes sold
- COVID vaccine update: Going forward any volunteers working indoors will have to provide proof of vaccination or submit a weekly COVID test result. This does not apply to scheduled Friends' volunteer days.
- Brynna's last work day will be October 17, but she will remain on one day/month. No interpretive programs for rest of year.
- John Bagnall will be working about 25 hours/week in winter

Project Updates:

- Water heaters will be installed Tuesday September 21.
- 1st Beach access is in contracting phase. The work to be done would be to remove weakened areas under sidewalk, and then shore up with rip rap to stabilize and slow erosion. This will help protect the access point. Amy thinks this work will be completed by the end of November.
- No word yet from WBA on any funding for South Cave Point Drive turnaround
- Cave Point Trail: Sarah, John and Dick met with Mike Duke and walked the trail and discussed what we would like to do with trail. Mike needs to research and have designs drawn up, then will flag the proposed trail. Need to make sure route will work with any archaeological remains.
- Brachiopod Handicapped Parking: Environmental and archaeological review will need to be done before proceeding.

Review of Candlelight Event:

A popular event. Overall things went well. Some things we need to consider for future events:

- Susan suggested that someone be in charge of future events.

- Needed a few more volunteers, so maybe a better way for sign ups
- Susan will take the lead on work days. A list of jobs for volunteers will be created. A suggestion was made to possibly involve the Boy Scouts, which has been done in the past. John will contact the Boy Scout Council to see if there is interest. Another possibility would be to recruit high school students needing service hours.

Project List:

- Interpretive signage for Brachiopod Trail: John, Dick, Liz, and Sarah met with Wendy Wagner. She was very well prepared. She showed us a variety of design options and explained each step of the process clearly. She would take charge of the entire process. Her proposal for the design work and project management was \$11,100, in addition to \$600 for work done. This would not include cost of sign fabrication. She estimated the cost for the entire project would be around \$20,000. Sarah and Erin both have copies of the contract to review. Motion to pursue and approve \$11,700 for design process: Susan; second, Jim. All in favor.
- Handicapped parking for Brachiopod Trail: John applied for Raibrook Grant, and we should hear on that by end of month.
- Dump Trailer: Discussion on this postponed until October.
- Kiosk: Materials have been purchased. Hopefully this will be completed in the next few weeks. Motion to have Friends fund up to \$1,500 for project: John; second, Dick. All in favor.
- Old Baldy: Curtis finished clearing trees and view is now much more open.

Wish List - Projects for 2022-2023:

- Native American Village: Should be prioritized. Sarah would like to get people from the Menominee Nation to come and share their thoughts of what the village should be from an interpretive and educational aspect.
- Old Baldy stair rails/improvements: A potential project for a Knowles-Nelson grant to help fund a number of repairs and improvements. Majority sentiment is to have a contractor take care of this rather than volunteers and staff. Sarah will check with Peil about options and cost. Motion to authorize John applying for Knowles-Nelson grant: Julia; second, Susan. All in favor.

Trail repairs for 2022:

- The Yellow/Green trail is very wet close to road. A boardwalk system would allow people to use trail when wet. Difficult for maintenance to get done because of wet conditions. Peil did work at Sevastopol Ecological Reserve where they put small bridges over the wet areas, which is a lower cost than a boardwalk. Sarah will talk with Peil.
- Black Trail is very rocky and not in great condition. Maybe trail widening and/or mulching rocky area would help. Keep on radar.

John has to leave and Dick will take over.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Don would like to have stump near Nature Center ground. Sarah will explore options for doing this.
- Heavy equipment: Question was raised about Friends' groups contributing to DNR for purchase. Erin not aware of any partnership funding. No push by DNR to purchase new heavy equipment. Equipment like this needs to meet operator requirements. Will revisit options next meeting.
- Clothing Committee: Sold about half of what was in end of season sale. Ordered new clothing, but supply chain issues may cause delays.

NEW BUSINESS:

- We would like to elect Carl Scholz and Joe Jarosh as Emeritus Board members. Motion to approve election of Carl and Joe as Emeritus Board members: Dick; second, Susan. All in favor.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn meeting: Don; second, Susan. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned by Dick Weidman at 5:12 pm.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, October 20, 2021 at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Story, Secretary