

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

### **Minutes of Friends Board Meeting 3-26-25**

**Present:** Dick Weidman, Lana Pray, Liz Story, Doug Otopalik, Don Gustafson, Max Martin, Joe Polacheck, Sarah Gehrke, and Erin Brown Stender

**Absent:** John Swanson, Adele Douglass, Lynn Zawojski, Rich Dirks, Julia Stoneman, and Susan Cubar

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

Motion to approve 3-26-25 Agenda and Minutes of 2-26-25: Max; second, Joe. All in favor.

### **Monthly Financial Report - February (Lana):**

Income: 5,528.00

- Slower sales in books and clothing
- Member dues
- Donation from Tim Wick

Expenses: \$686.47

- Accounting fees
- Office expenses
- Event expenses

Motion to approve February Financial Report: Doug; second, Joe. All in favor.

### **Park Report (Sarah):**

- February saw 4,648 visitors, which is 354 less than 2024, and 1,102 more than average.
- Interviews have been completed for the LTE Park Ranger position, and we hope to make an offer soon .

### Park Manager Projects:

- Ciiporoke Covering: We opted not to use our oversized tarp, but to use the smaller tarps to partially cover the ciiporoke. Sarah will look into options for either cutting our oversized tarp to size or ordering a smaller tarp to complete the covering.

- Native Village/Indoor Museum Renovations: The Ho-Chunk have shared their thoughts on this project, and the Potawatomi will rejoin the project. Sarah will organize an in-person meeting with these Tribal partners to discuss next steps.

- First Beach Access: Construction still scheduled to begin April 1.

- Kids Don't Float Signage: The cost for two 6'x4' signs would be \$712.

- Nature Center Storage Closet: Work was completed in early March.

### Knowles-Nelson Projects:

- Old Baldy:

- We received an estimate of \$256,000 from Peil for stair replacement. We are in the process of applying for partial funding through DCCF Community Investment Grant.
- We have a balance of \$2,016. We are working with Vacker on some informational signage.

- Cave Point Trail: We have a balance of \$12,000, which we will use to install some rope fencing around the blow hole and purchase some safety signs to be placed along the trail. We also plan to add a pedestrian counter.

- Beach Warning Sign Pilot Program: Still expecting installation in June.

- Maple Syrup Event: We will host an historical maple syrup cooking demo at the site of the ciiporoke. A thank you to Max Martin for lending and donating supplies for this event.

**Trail Ambassadors (Doug):**

- Doug will organize and end of May/early June gathering for the volunteers.

**Clothing (Susan):**

- We will use the remaining clothing budget to re-order some caps and also some of the Wisconsin State Parks 125th Anniversary apparel.

**Events:**

- Maple Syrup Event: March 29 from 10-3
- Spring Work Day: April 26 from 9-noon, lunch will be provided
- Summer Candlelight Event: August 23 from 7-9 pm

**Grant Funded Projects:**

- Old Baldy Stairs/Observation Platform: Because of the estimated cost of this project, we've decided to leave the platform as is for the time being and focus on stair replacement.
- Incentive Grant for Naturalist: John has applied for this \$3,500 grant. We will need to figure out funding for next year, and consider some fundraising options.

**New Business:**

- Bylaws changes:
  - Article III, Section 6, c (3): After the previous month's Minutes are approved, the Secretary will save them to the Friend's Google Drive or similar electronic storage.
  - Section 6, d: The Treasurer will prepare a monthly report of income and expenditures with presentation to the monthly Friend's Board meeting. After approval, the report will be saved to the Friend's Google Drive or similar electronic cloud storage.

Motion to change bylaws as stated: Doug; second, Joe. All in favor.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by Dick Weidman at 5:00.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, April 23 at 4:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Story

Secretary