

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

## **Minutes of Friends Board Meeting**

**Present:** John Swanson, Lana Pray, Susan Cubar, Liz Story, Rich Dirks, Doug Otopalik, Max Martin, and Erin Brown Stender.  
**Guests:** David Rabin, Tim Wick, and Don Gustafson.

**Absent:** Adele Douglass, Dick Weidman, Julia Stoneman, Lynn Zawojski, Joe Polacheck, and Sarah Gehrke

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:03 pm. John introduced our guests Tim Wick and David Rabin, who are prospective Board members.

**Agenda:** Motion to approve the Agenda with correction: Susan; second, Max. All in favor.

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the Minutes of September 24 with correction: Susan; second, Rich. All in favor.

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

Income: \$4,283.75

- Clothing sales
- Donations
- Member dues

Expenses: \$665.32

- Advertising and Marketing
- Office expenses
- Repairs and maintenance

Motion to approve the September Financial Report: Doug; second, Max. All in favor.

### **Park Report (Erin):**

We have an inaccurate September attendance count because the car counter failed. However, it is estimated that attendance was above average. The average attendance in September is 22,810, and 2024 saw 26,884 visitors.

#### Staffing:

John Bagnall and Jess will continue with their regular schedule while Sarah is on leave. Our LTEs are working 1-2 days/month, which will continue over the winter. Erin will work 1 day/week through the end of the year.

#### Park Manager Projects:

- Native American Village/Indoor Museum: Construction of outdoor exhibits will be postponed until spring.
- Entrance Road Reroute: Permanent signage for new traffic pattern has been installed. Vehicles with stickers can now bypass the contact station. Vehicles without stickers will drive ahead to Contact Station/e-kiosk.
- Beach Warning System: A new, stronger antenna will be installed by SwimSmart, and broken antenna at 2nd Beach will be fixed or replaced.

#### Brachiopod Trail Resurfacing/Regrading:

- Project delayed at least until spring. We are still working through wetland and endangered species concerns. Funding may also be an issue.

#### Black Trail Resurfacing:

- This will be part of a multi-property road and trail project. Construction expected to begin either spring or fall 2026.

#### First Beach Toilet Replacement Project:

- This is part of a multi-property vault toilet replacement project. 2027 construction is expected.

Multi-Property Building Renovation Project:

- Customer service area in Nature Center, roof and chimney on Picnic Shelter, and improvements at Maintenance Shop and Cold Shop will all be addressed as part of this project. Renovations expected to begin in 2027.

Knowles-Nelson Projects:

- No updates on either Old Baldy renovations or approved trail counters for Cave Point Trail.

Other:

- Jess is working on an Interpreting Sign Inventory project for the property. This is a state-wide initiative.

**Clothing/Membership** (Susan):

- The woodpecker shirts have been a big success. We've gotten more baseball caps and trucker caps.  
- The president of Quali-T proposed an online store option. We're not sure how this would actually work, and don't expect that it would generate much business, but it could possibly have some benefit for the Friends. The owner would like to meet with us to discuss in more detail.

**Trail Report** (Rich):

- The work day crew got mulch spread on the Yellow Trail. They will return Monday to begin mulching the Red Pine Trail.

**Events:**

- Annual Meeting and Potluck 12/5 at 11:00. Dale Goodner will be speaker.  
- First Day Hike 1/1/26 from 10-noon  
- Winter Candlelight: 1/24/26 6-8 pm

**Old Business:**

- Roll-up beach mats: Destination Door County Community Investment Grant submitted.  
- Naturalist salary: Funding our Naturalist continues to be a challenge. We discussed going to our membership for donations. We will have about \$6,000 from the Door County Adventure concession, and a possible \$3,500 from the FoWSP Incentive Grant, but we would still be short the \$12,000 needed to cover her salary through June 2026. In the hope of encouraging donations, Susan intends to send out a letter to our members describing the important role of the Naturalist and the associated cost of her salary.

**New Business:**

- Board Positions: Tim Wick and David Raben joined us as potential Board members.  
Motion to approve Tim and David to be added to the Board: Rich; second, Susan. All in favor.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by at 5:08 pm

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 19 at 4:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Story

Secretary